

In the Matter Of:

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD MEETING

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November 05, 2021

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MEETING OF THE ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

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Friday, November 5, 2021

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3901 Old Seward Highway, Suite 141

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Anchorage, Alaska

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Page 2

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
 2 -o0o-
 3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. We're going to
 4 call the work session back to order. It's Friday
 5 morning, a little after 9:00. All members are present,
 6 as well as staff, legal counsel, and we have good
 7 participation from the public here as well, and
 8 hopefully others online via Zoom.
 9 We will be continuing to do mapping and work
 10 on the plan, and then we anticipate that at some point
 11 today, before we adopt a final plan, that we will be
 12 inviting public testimony. It would depend -- the
 13 time, it just depends on how far we get and how
 14 quickly we get this morning.
 15 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Mr. Chair?
 16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Budd, go ahead.
 17 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: If it's an
 18 appropriate time, at the end of the day yesterday, we
 19 asked legal counsel to look into a Voting Rights issue,
 20 and I'd like to have an Executive Session to receive
 21 that advice and kind of see where we are with that
 22 question.
 23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
 24 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: So if members agree
 25 with that, I'll make a motion.

Page 3

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Go ahead, Budd.
 2 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: So, Mr. Chair, for
 3 the purpose of receiving legal advice, I would like to
 4 move that the Board go into Executive Session under AS
 5 44.62.310, involving matters which by law or ordinance
 6 are required to be confidential, and matters involving
 7 consideration of government records that by law are not
 8 subject to public disclosure.
 9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Is there a second to the
 10 motion?
 11 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I second that
 12 motion.
 13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Is there discussion on
 14 the motion? Is there any objection to the motion?
 15 Hearing none. We're going to move into
 16 Executive Session.
 17 And we'll take just a few minutes to -- I'll
 18 kindly ask that the audience, who just walked in --
 19 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: And made
 20 themselves comfortable.
 21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- to excuse
 22 themselves, and we'll make the adjustments online as
 23 well, and we'll give you as much of a heads up and
 24 keep you posted on how we're doing in Executive
 25 Session.

Page 4

1 (Executive Session in progress.)
 2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: We are back on.
 3 No, we're good. I'm monitoring the mute button.
 4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. We're back
 5 online, and we have members of the public who are
 6 present as well. All board members are here, so we're
 7 going to get back in.
 8 I see something on the screen. We're going to
 9 get rid of that. Just a moment.
 10 Okay. So we're going to come back into our
 11 work session out of Executive Session, and we had an
 12 opportunity to have a discussion on some legal aspects
 13 that we were inquiring of legal counsel.
 14 And we would like, now, to go to mapping.
 15 There were some questions on v.4 Best, and there's
 16 some alternatives to that.
 17 And, Bethany, if you would like to make a
 18 presentation on the Anchorage area --
 19 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah.
 20 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- an alteration to v.4
 21 Best.
 22 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah. We agreed
 23 that --
 24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Oh, v.3 Best. Excuse
 25 me. Sorry.

Page 5

1 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Some background:
 2 So as you all heard, I -- I have concerns about Valdez,
 3 and, you know, so I had offered yesterday to -- to try
 4 to find another solution to Valdez. They've been really
 5 clear about their desire to be with Richardson Highway,
 6 and that was taken off the table yesterday. There are
 7 other solutions that they proposed for coastal, and that
 8 was also not a possibility. It was taken off the table.
 9 And so what -- you know, that kind of left
 10 them with Anchorage or the Mat-Su. They've testified
 11 that they do not want to be with the Mat-Su --
 12 official resolutions and such -- the Mat-Su has
 13 testified they don't want Valdez with them, so I
 14 wanted to -- to look at really the only other
 15 opportunity to pair them with another area, and that
 16 would be with Anchorage. And so I volunteered to try
 17 to -- to do that, and I spent a lot of time on that
 18 last night.
 19 However, based upon some of the parameters
 20 that we now understand from our legal counsel, I was
 21 not able to find a reasonable solution for putting
 22 Valdez with Anchorage. Knowing that, I also, then,
 23 realize -- we realized those same legal parameters
 24 affected the previous version of the map that I
 25 presented for Anchorage, which is "Version 3 Best," I

Page 6

1 think is what it was being called; right?
2 So -- so I took those legal -- legally
3 discovered -- legal -- legally understood legal
4 parameters and applied them to the -- the map that I
5 presented a couple of days ago. It's not huge
6 differences, mostly in the northern parts of the -- of
7 the city; was able to -- to make some changes there to
8 adjust to those legal parameters that are now applied,
9 and therefore, this is the map that I came up with
10 this morning.
11 So the -- so I -- I don't think there's going
12 to be a point in necessarily walking through the
13 different districts, because I walked through those
14 with you previously and some of the changes. Like I
15 said, there's -- there's really not a huge number of
16 changes, but certainly some of the shapes changed.
17 The primary change is that the northeast part
18 of Anchorage is no longer a district of Eagle River.
19 There's a boundary there, so -- you can scroll up to
20 show Eagle River there.
21 So this is taking the Fort Rich population and
22 pairing that with Northeast Anchorage instead, and
23 Eagle River remains separate. So you have similar to
24 what maps you saw previously, where you've got Eagle
25 River, and then you've got Chugiak and Peters Creek.

Page 7

1 But Northeast Anchorage, Muldoon area, is in the
2 district now with Fort Richardson. Of course, that
3 necessitated some other changes.
4 Another input that I heard from you, Melanie,
5 in particular, was concerns about Mountain View being
6 paired with downtown, and legal counsel advised that
7 legally that was probably okay, but I -- you know,
8 I've heard that you had those concerns.
9 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Can I just
10 respond to that?
11 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yes.
12 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: And I didn't
13 have an opposition to it. My question was on the VRA
14 analysis, so I wasn't opposed to it.
15 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah. And so
16 it's -- you know, it's one of those things that I --
17 you know, I wanted to try to address, though, so I did
18 make the effort here. You can see it's a little bit
19 different. It's still, obviously, contiguous, but to
20 kind of keep Mountain View out separate there so that
21 they are not paired with downtown. So that was the
22 other really major change.
23 And then from that, it's just really small
24 changes to the -- to the changes in order to get to
25 the deviations, but there's really not a lot of other

Page 8

1 changes. In some instances, the districts actually
2 become more compact, like District 14 becomes more
3 compact because of those changes. And in some
4 instances, it becomes less compact. But overall, this
5 map balances our constitutional requirements for
6 compactness and "one person, one vote."
7 The deviation spread between these districts
8 is less than one percent. It's 90 -- .97 percent is
9 the spread. That's 176 voters. I think that --
10 if that's not a super low deviation, given more time,
11 I certainly could have made that deviation become a
12 very low deviation, but I don't think that's the
13 proper route. I think the proper route is to balance
14 compactness with deviation.
15 And so I -- I stopped at the point where I
16 felt that compactness would be impacted negatively by
17 trying to get tighter deviations, and that's the point
18 where that became this .7 -- .97 percent spread,
19 1,000 -- I'm sorry -- 176 voters. So I was trying to
20 find that balance between compact and one-person vote.
21 And -- I'm sorry?
22 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: I don't mean to
23 interrupt your flow, but you're talking about deviation
24 on spread. Is that .97 percent from low to high?
25 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Correct.

Page 9

1 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: So it's really more
2 like half a percent each way?
3 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Correct. Yes.
4 The --
5 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: So what I'm seeing
6 here --
7 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- highest
8 deviation is .5 percent --
9 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: What I'm seeing
10 here --
11 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- on one of --
12 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: -- off of the -- off
13 of what's on the screen, looks like -- there's at least
14 one that's, like, minus 1.08, so that would be more on
15 the negative.
16 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah. That's from
17 the -- yeah. And then you go up to the negative as
18 well, so -- and this is also from the statewide
19 target --
20 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Right. Oh, okay.
21 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- while the
22 Anchorage target is 18,220. 18,220 is the Anchorage
23 target.
24 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: So your deviation is
25 from that 18- --

Page 10

1 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah.
 2 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: -- -220?
 3 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: The 97 -- the
 4 .97 percent applies to both, you know, as far as the
 5 percentage, right, but the number is different, so...
 6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. That makes sense.
 7 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: So when you
 8 compare it to the statewide, what's your high and low?
 9 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: It's the same --
 10 same spread, .97 percent, but for each --
 11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: It's just the number's
 12 different.
 13 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: --
 14 (indiscernible) --
 15 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: What's the high
 16 and what's the low, the districts? The high and...
 17 Is that what's up there right now, Peter?
 18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: Yeah. I'm
 19 just -- I'm just --
 20 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: It's -- it's on
 21 the screen, yeah.
 22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: -- I think
 23 24 is the low, and then...
 24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's hard to read.
 25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: It is hard

Page 11

1 to read, that green, isn't it?
 2 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Yeah. Well, the
 3 highest is 200 people, it looks like.
 4 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah. It's a
 5 176 --
 6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.
 7 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- person spread.
 8 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: And the lowest is 24.
 9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: Right.
 10 Yeah, it's 176.
 11 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: 199.
 12 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: I see.
 13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I've gotcha, yeah, yeah.
 14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The difference is between
 15 24...
 16 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: One -- one is 24 people
 17 underpopulated, and then -- and then 24 has 200...
 18 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: And so that makes
 19 the spread of 176 people, from that -- and that's the
 20 same numbers from the charted population, the state
 21 population there.
 22 And I was trying to ensure that one -- we get
 23 "one person, one vote" for our residents of Anchorage.
 24 And so I wanted to do that, but do that in a way that
 25 we balance that with compactness.

Page 12

1 I did have a question. Nicole, I asked for a
 2 copy of your -- yours this morning. We talked about
 3 deviations, but I hadn't really looked at them yet.
 4 And so I don't know if you want to address those, but
 5 I -- what I saw in the spread, it was actually almost
 6 a 3 percent spread between the populations, and so I
 7 wanted to -- I know you made some changes. I just
 8 wanted to have the opportunity to take a look at that,
 9 which ends up being a 500-person difference between
 10 the lowest district and the highest district, which is
 11 more than double what I think can be achieved with
 12 reasonable compactness.
 13 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: My answer to that
 14 question is that my v.4 Best, to my eye, is a lot more
 15 compact than this. The deviations here have tortured
 16 natural shapes and boundaries, and I can get within one
 17 percent, which I put on the record yesterday, but it is
 18 going to lead a series of warps on districts. And I'm
 19 blindly picking census blocks at this point for a
 20 deviation derivative that is not mandated by law.
 21 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: And I think we
 22 just probably have differences in terms of
 23 compactness. I believe that -- particularly, I did
 24 review all of the previous Anchorage maps that have
 25 been approved in the past and have been used, and I

Page 13

1 believe that these are extremely compact districts
 2 compared to what we have -- have used and seen in the
 3 past.
 4 And I'm really concerned about the "one
 5 person, one vote" situation. I think that a
 6 500-difference population in one district to another
 7 district is a pretty major difference, and so that's
 8 one of the reasons I tried to find a balance between
 9 compactness and that "one person, one vote" that's so
 10 important to people.
 11 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: So let's --
 12 let's talk about compactness a bit for the record
 13 here. How -- how is your proposed District 21 a
 14 compact district? It -- it makes -- down in a shape
 15 that I -- I don't understand. Also, your 16 runs from
 16 -- is that South Addition? South?
 17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, it is South
 18 Addition.
 19 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: It's running
 20 from South Addition all the way to wrap around
 21 Mountain View. And then we've got Turnagain now
 22 coming from -- can you read it?
 23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: Sure.
 24 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: -- Turnagain
 25 crossing Minnesota almost to the Seward Highway.

Page 14

1 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yes. I'd be happy
 2 to address those questions.
 3 So the situation with base is precisely what I
 4 was describing earlier --
 5 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: But I --
 6 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- based on...
 7 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: -- I -- I just
 8 want to help myself understand not what you were trying
 9 to achieve, just the end result. How is this more
 10 compact?
 11 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I certainly didn't
 12 say it was more compact. I said it is the appropriate
 13 balance between compactness and "one person, one vote."
 14 So to answer your questions, the situation
 15 with Fort Rich is there's a lot of unusual boundaries
 16 there -- Peter, are you able to highlight --
 17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: Sure.
 18 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- unusual
 19 census -- census blocks there, in the same way that we
 20 find those in some of the rural areas, and then that
 21 -- so you can see --
 22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Let's -- let's let her
 23 finish her thought here with this.
 24 Peter, help on the census block.
 25 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: And so when you

Page 15

1 get to these particulars -- you're highlighting some of
 2 those -- where they -- where they wrap into and around
 3 others, you end up with these odd shapes. And as I
 4 mentioned, the -- the parameters that we now understand
 5 from counsel, that led me to finding a solution to
 6 address that issue, at the same time as ensuring that we
 7 get "one person, one vote" for Anchorage residents.
 8 You asked, also, about Mountain View, and that
 9 was the -- it's -- actually, it's easy enough to put
 10 it back into that other district, but I was wanting to
 11 honor what I have heard, the concerns about downtown
 12 being with Mountain View --
 13 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I had a question
 14 about it.
 15 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I heard it as a
 16 concern, and I apologize if you weren't concerned about
 17 it. I apologize for hearing it that way. But it's
 18 not -- it's not a difficult thing to fix. I was truly
 19 trying to honor the -- the concern that you had -- that
 20 I had understood you to have regarding that.
 21 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: My concern was
 22 whether or not it raised any issues with VRA, and I
 23 think we've heard the response to that, so that was my
 24 concern.
 25 I wasn't opposed to it being paired with

Page 16

1 downtown. So I apologize if I communicated that in a
 2 way that you took that to me being opposed or concerned
 3 necessarily with the pairing. My concern was with, no
 4 matter where it's paired, these are highly dense
 5 minority populations, the ones that I raised yesterday,
 6 and so that's why we requested the VRA analysis, so...
 7 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: And I heard
 8 your -- your concerns about -- well, your statements
 9 about different sorts of housing, different sorts of
 10 lifestyles, those sorts of things. And then trying to
 11 ensure that we recognize some of that, that was part of
 12 the rationale. And so I -- I apologize if I
 13 misunderstood that that was a concern of yours.
 14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: But I think that looking
 15 at 16, I know -- and I've kind of got the same
 16 impression, Melanie, to be honest with you, of your
 17 concerns there, but I know in the previous version it
 18 was a very tight line. I think it went down to 9th
 19 Avenue, as I recall.
 20 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: 15th Avenue.
 21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: 15th, yeah. It was a --
 22 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Right. Yeah.
 23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- perfectly straight
 24 line across the bottom and well aligned, but this looks
 25 different, certainly, than that.

Page 17

1 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Mr. Chair, could I
 2 ask the question that I was going to ask as follow-up --
 3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.
 4 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- to some of
 5 Bethany's comments about --
 6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Please. Go ahead.
 7 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- compactness?
 8 And she raises concern with Nicole's version, Board
 9 Version 4 Best deviations.
 10 Nicole, the question is for you: What is the
 11 highest deviation from the state target of 18,335 and
 12 Board Version 4 Best for Anchorage?
 13 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: 1.7 percent.
 14 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: So less than two
 15 percent?
 16 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Well less.
 17 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Okay. Thank you.
 18 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I'm sorry. How
 19 many people was that?
 20 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: I don't know.
 21 Peter, can you pull up the confirmation?
 22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: Sure.
 23 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I thought you said
 24 it was 500. I wanted the percentage.
 25 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Well, no. The 500

Page 18

1 is the spread --
2 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: The spread.
3 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- and that's the
4 difference between -- so the -- at least the one I got
5 this morning, it showed 188 was the highest, and the
6 lowest was 312, and so that arrives at the 500-person
7 spread between how one district is represented and
8 another district is represented for "one person, one
9 vote."
10 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: There's still very
11 low deviations.
12 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: 2.74 spread.
13 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: The spread is
14 higher in hers, but your actual percent deviation
15 high -- in yours is higher.
16 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: No, it's not,
17 because it's --
18 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Well, 200.
19 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- de- -- when
20 you're talking about deviation, deviation is a
21 measurement from the highest to the lowest.
22 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Well, and I'm
23 talking about the deviation from the district total
24 population to the state total. That's what I'm --
25 that's the deviation I was asking about, that -- for

Page 19

1 that particular district against the statewide total,
2 that was my question.
3 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Well, I'm -- and
4 remember, we're not -- we don't measure against the
5 statewide total -- the total when we're in the urban
6 core. We measure against district to district. That
7 was my understanding from counsel, right, is what the --
8 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I -- I understand
9 that, but it's still useful information for me to have.
10 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Making sure that
11 we understand that the --
12 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I understand.
13 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- when you said
14 that mine was higher, you're looking at -- what you're
15 looking at on the screen here is not the deviation -- I
16 don't know if it's easy enough to change that matrix
17 there -- but the deviation target is 18,220, and that
18 means that the particular highest is .5 percent, and the
19 lowest is .47 percent.
20 Yeah. Oh, no, I left it up if they wanted to
21 see it. If people -- if people would rather see it,
22 I'm happy to -- we can make that change.
23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I think we -- I think we
24 get it.
25 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Any other

Page 20

1 questions?
2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So that one goes down as
3 far as 16, back to 16. It was at 15, and now it goes on
4 the west side down to -- is that Westchester Lagoon down
5 on the part of Turnagain? It includes it? Okay. It
6 comes across. That's Fireweed. Okay. I see it. Yeah.
7 And over to the Seward Highway, north.
8 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Mr. Chair, can I?
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. Please. Go
10 ahead.
11 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Bethany, I think I
12 heard you say that Mountain View -- let's say 16 and 19,
13 based on perceived concern, that apparently now doesn't
14 really exist, and that it wouldn't be that hard to
15 straighten that up where -- where it comes -- where 16
16 hooks around. And is that something that can be fixed
17 with a couple of clicks?
18 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Well, it would
19 take more than a couple --
20 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Okay.
21 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- of clicks, but
22 it certainly could be done.
23 You know, part two was, remember, part of my
24 original -- the purpose of me originally starting to
25 draw the map that you guys saw a couple of days ago

Page 21

1 was to keep downtown as whole as possible, and so that
2 was incorporated into these changes as well. So you
3 can see that really there's just one section of
4 downtown that comes out, and that -- so between those
5 two things, now, trying to keep downtown full and take
6 Mountain View out, is how I ended up with a slightly
7 less compact shape than the previous.
8 But, yes, it's certainly possible, Budd, to do
9 that and put Mountain View back in, but, you know, it
10 wouldn't be just a couple of clicks. It's a -- it is
11 a process that takes a little bit of time. So I'm
12 certainly happy to -- I'm happy to try it if that's
13 the will of the Board.
14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Well, that would
15 certainly help that, the district, if it looked more
16 like it was originally, a very clean line on 15.
17 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Is it something
18 staff could do while we move on?
19 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: If it's the will
20 of the Board, I'd be happy to.
21 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Is it going to
22 make a difference overall, an improvement from the other
23 map option for us to consider in totality?
24 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: The two maps are
25 quite a bit different, just in terms of how the kind of

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD MEETING
 ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD MEETING on 11/05/2021

Page 22

1 layout (indiscernible).
 2 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: So is it going to
 3 just improve this map, or is it going to improve the
 4 options between the total two, because...
 5 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: It'll improve this
 6 map, which would have a bearing on the selection between
 7 the two.
 8 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I mean, if you
 9 want her to go back and map some more, I guess...
 10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: It looks like the --
 11 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I can stay here
 12 all weekend. I don't mind.
 13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- the ripple effect --
 14 the ripple effect of that was primarily in the north and
 15 to the west. The other portion looks similar.
 16 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Yeah. I thought
 17 what she could do is (indiscernible) but maybe not.
 18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. I wonder if we
 19 should give Bethany some time to try and do that.
 20 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Mr. Chairman, I'm
 21 happy to allow Bethany additional time. I just want to
 22 say we allowed her all last night. She's been mapping
 23 throughout the night. It is now 11:00 a.m. We have a
 24 constitutional deadline breathing down the back of our
 25 neck, and at -- at some point I'm going to call the

Page 23

1 question on --
 2 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: And I know I
 3 said --
 4 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: -- but with
 5 a half an hour of mapping, I'm more than willing to
 6 honor.
 7 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: And I'm grateful
 8 for your willingness to continue mapping. I know I said
 9 it earlier, but I want to make sure that I say it here.
 10 I am grateful for the amount of time that you took,
 11 mapping last night, ensuring that we've exhausted all
 12 options to create the best overall map for the state,
 13 Bethany. So thank you for that.
 14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So why don't --
 15 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Thank you.
 16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Why don't we do that?
 17 Why don't we go back into work session. We're still in
 18 work session. So we'll give Bethany some time to try
 19 and work on that and see if you can adjust some of those
 20 shapes. Now that you know in 16, that's not an issue,
 21 really, of keeping Mountain View and downtown together.
 22 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Let's make sure I
 23 get the will of the Board. The will of the Board is for
 24 me to put Mountain View in with downtown; is that
 25 correct?

Page 24

1 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I think the will
 2 of the Board, what I'm hearing these guys saying is they
 3 want to give you an opportunity to create more compact
 4 districts.
 5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah, and --
 6 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I don't think -- I
 7 don't think they're necessarily saying pair Mountain
 8 View here, pair Mountain View there.
 9 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: That's a different
 10 and longer exercise than -- than...
 11 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: That's --
 12 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: The attempt of my
 13 comment was to see if we can eliminate that hook that
 14 comes up over the top of Mountain View and make downtown
 15 and Mountain View each more compact, and if that spills
 16 over into every other district and you can't do it, then
 17 that's fine. We're done. But if it's something that
 18 can be done in that half hour time frame, I think it's
 19 worth doing because that hook looks kind of weird.
 20 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: So the way to do
 21 that is to -- the previous version of the map that I
 22 had, is to put that with downtown. So that's why I just
 23 wanted to make sure the Board is comfortable with doing
 24 that, and that's --
 25 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: So, yeah, we've

Page 25

1 heard that that is not an improper combination.
 2 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Okay.
 3 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Mr. Chair --
 4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. Melanie.
 5 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- a question for
 6 you and Budd, then, if you're wanting to send her back
 7 to the drawing board, are there any other areas that
 8 you've identified that can be improved in compactness?
 9 I don't want to keep sending her back. If she makes
 10 these improvements, do you...
 11 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: I -- I have
 12 some...
 13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Well, let's...
 14 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: After -- after
 15 Budd has his say.
 16 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Or are you just
 17 wanting her to focus on that?
 18 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: I'm only asking
 19 about that one.
 20 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Okay. And I'd
 21 like to add a few --
 22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Nicole.
 23 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: -- districts.
 24 Thank you.
 25 Can you zoom out? Thank you. I've got real

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD MEETING
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD MEETING on 11/05/2021

Page 26

1 problems -- I need it all the way zoomed out. Thank
2 you -- with 21. I don't find that to be a compact
3 district whatsoever. 15 is -- is a stretch for me,
4 and 16 as well.
5 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: It is almost
6 identical to what we took on the state tour.
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. Those don't --
8 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: But --
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- seem to bother me.
10 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: -- I'm -- I'm
11 saying they were a problem then. It's a problem now.
12 You asked for which ones I have a problem with. These
13 are them.
14 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Obviously,
15 those -- all of those changes are going to require
16 significantly longer than 30 minutes.
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Well, why don't you see
18 what you can do with 15 -- or 16, you know, or you --
19 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Oh, I thought you
20 meant 15 minutes.
21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- can choose. I mean,
22 maybe you want to --
23 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: 15 minutes?
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- work on the ones that
25 Nicole mentioned. I know Budd's mentioned 16, to try

Page 27

1 and adjust that somewhat to get it back to -- or just
2 more compact, similar to your original version.
3 But, you know, I think the Board's willing to
4 give you a half an hour to try and make adjustments,
5 wherever you can make the best use of your time to be
6 on there.
7 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: As long as I can
8 have staff assistance with that.
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Sure. I'm sure
10 they'd --
11 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: And how much time
12 are you giving her?
13 (Audio silences.)
14 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Peter, we also had
15 a printout of v.4 Best yesterday. Can we get that back
16 on the table? I'm not sure...
17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: Yes.
18 They're right behind you.
19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. With that, we're
20 going to continue in the work session. So we'll still
21 be on the record on Zoom, but...
22 (Indiscernible background conversations.)
23 (Off record.)
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. We're continuing
25 the work session here in Anchorage, and I don't if we're

Page 28

1 back on -- or we're still online, continuing to be
2 online.
3 And Bethany has been able to spend some time
4 with staff looking on a little bit of a change to the
5 version she presented earlier this morning. We
6 allowed her the courtesy of some additional time, and
7 so maybe I'll turn it over to you, Bethany, so you
8 can --
9 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I won't use too
10 much of your time, but thank you.
11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
12 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Just to start, I
13 would have welcomed the opportunity to work with
14 Member Borromeo and tried to create a consensus map, but
15 in light of that option not being on the table, I -- I
16 took the opportunity to -- to move forward.
17 When -- when the -- when legal constraints we
18 were made aware of shut the door on the idea of Valdez
19 being with Anchorage, I realized I had a -- a marathon
20 to complete within a sprint time period to try to make
21 those revisions.
22 And so I certainly appreciate counsel bringing
23 our attention to legal issues that needed to be
24 addressed, and I'll take the opportunity to address
25 those in this version of the map.

Page 29

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
2 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: So, you know, they
3 were -- you can see some of the visual changes there,
4 particularly District 16 was one of the ones that was
5 brought to attention because it did previously -- there
6 we go -- wrap around Mountain View, and so that's no
7 longer the case. Obviously that also necessitated some
8 changes down in Turnagain Heights and Spenard area, but
9 we can see that was addressed.
10 And then the other big issue that was
11 requested to be addressed was up on JBER with
12 District 21, and so you can see that has been -- has
13 been addressed in the shape that you see now in
14 District 21 on the Elmendorf side of JBER.
15 As far as deviation changes, obviously you see
16 the visual changes for compactness, deviation changes;
17 so it's -- you know, it's one of those places where,
18 you know, we kept making changes, and obviously it
19 affected deviation, but I stopped at the point -- I
20 was like -- I was like, "Okay. This is it now. We're
21 not going any further."
22 I -- I -- there's a balance. There's a
23 balance where I'm comfortable with ensuring that we
24 are honoring "one person, one vote," and at the same
25 time, compactness. There's plenty of ways, hundreds

Page 30

1 of ways we could have gotten somewhat more compact
2 districts, but that's not -- that's not the goal.
3 It's to find that balance.
4 And so the current map has a 1.2 percent total
5 deviation, and it's a 220-people difference, which
6 is -- my previous one was 170, so it's not a huge
7 difference in deviation. But I'm comfortable that to
8 the degree possible, we're honoring "one person, one
9 vote" via this version of the map.
10 I -- I -- as I stated previously, I am
11 uncomfortable with the 500-person difference. I think
12 that our goal is to -- to get to those particular
13 places where, if it's practicable, we are honoring
14 "one person, one vote," and I believe this map
15 presents a good balance, an excellent balance of
16 compactness to the "one person, one vote" requirement
17 that we have.
18 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Say the number of
19 people again, please.
20 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Sure. 220 is the
21 spread.
22 Are there questions from the Board?
23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I just have to say, in
24 terms of visually, it looks much better, both 21, 16,
25 and 19.

Page 31

1 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: And, Mr. Chair,
2 I'll -- I will note that at the end of the day
3 yesterday, we got a bunch of public comments in, in
4 written form objecting to the joining of Mountain View
5 and Muldoon area with Eagle -- Eagle River, and this has
6 specifically addressed the issue, so it no longer does
7 that.
8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Go ahead, please.
9 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Can you explain
10 the shape for 11?
11 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: It's not that --
12 it's almost identical to what was previously there. So
13 it was -- it's one of those districts that, you know, it
14 follows the highway, and then it has a very square block
15 over into the east side.
16 So, yeah, there's nothing -- I mean, at the
17 bottom you can see -- you know, as you often know, on
18 one end or the other, you end up having to make
19 little -- little bump changes to get your deviations,
20 but as near as possible, try to follow along the highway
21 there.
22 And I will say on the record, I have no idea
23 if anybody is in any of those bump changes, if that --
24 all the time -- I have zero idea who lives in any of
25 those. So that bump that comes out there into

Page 32

1 District 10 and into District 11 is simply a
2 population change. I can tell you the number, if
3 you'd like, but that's simply in order to get the
4 appropriate deviation. I think that's something that
5 we're -- we're used to seeing.
6 Are there questions?
7 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: I don't have any
8 other questions.
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: As -- as I said, I think
10 you did a great job. I appreciate you taking the effort
11 all night long to try and be able to come up with a new
12 version based on some of the guidance we got and
13 addressing that issue of Muldoon and Eagle River.
14 What's the will of the Board? Do you want to
15 continue to see if we can come to a consensus on this
16 one as we've done in other areas of the state?
17 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: In Anchorage, you
18 mean?
19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. Here in Anchorage
20 on these two versions, between Version 4 Best and
21 Version 3, whatever we're calling it, the latest...
22 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I don't see how
23 it's going to take us to improvements over either, or at
24 least definitely not over Board v.4 Best. If it's only
25 to improve Board -- Board v.4 Best, then I could say

Page 33

1 that, sure, let's keep mapping, but I feel like we've
2 got a map that's been vetted by our VRA experts, is
3 compact, contiguous, and has very minimal deviations for
4 us to consider.
5 So unless it's to make improvements or -- or
6 what I consider to be a very constitutionally -- in
7 line with the constitutional mandates of the Board and
8 our duties and obligations, I don't see making
9 modifications any further, unless it's to improve.
10 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: And, Mr. Chairman,
11 I'll reiterate back to you, you know, I was happy to try
12 to work together with Member Borromeo to try to make
13 (indiscernible), and I'm still happy to, if that's the
14 will of the Board.
15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: I've got some
16 people signed up online to testify as well.
17 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I mean, if we need
18 to, we can pull up Board v.4 Best and see where there
19 are any potential improvements that can be made. We've
20 spent, you know, some time on this. Now maybe we need
21 to go back to Board v.4 Best and see if there are any
22 further possible improvements that could be made to that
23 map.
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Nicole, you've been the
25 one working on that version, but I think I heard you

Page 34

1 earlier say that you'd -- you'd gone through that
2 exercise --
3 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME: Yes. I have --
4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- at one point, and you
5 sacrifice compactness to try and make --
6 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME: And thank you,
7 Mr. Chairman. I did go through that exercise yesterday.
8 I provided each member of the Board with a written table
9 of the deviations, all showing that they were less than
10 one percent positive or negative, and also the printout
11 of what was added. I circled all of the warps that we
12 now have to display in order to get to that deviation.
13 And, again, I'm very concerned with this, what
14 I believe at this point is overemphasis into
15 deviations at the expense of compact contiguous
16 districts when the Supreme Court has said focus on
17 compactness and contiguity, and then other things
18 as -- as well, being -- being that.
19 I appreciate all of the work that Bethany has
20 done. I think, though, we're far apart in terms of
21 her best and my best, and I'm -- I'm comfortable
22 moving Board Version 4 forward.
23 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I feel like I'm
24 ready to make a decision.
25 And I also want to apologize to the public for

Page 35

1 the length of time it's taken to get us to public
2 testimony that we had noticed. I don't know if we set a
3 time for that, but I know there was some expectation
4 that that would also be taking place.
5 I'm feeling like I'm ready to make a decision,
6 based on our constitutional mandates.
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. I think just for
8 purposes of the public as well, we had hoped to be able
9 to get to a point earlier this morning to take public
10 testimony, but we purposefully didn't set a specific
11 time. We really wanted to go through this exercise, get
12 a sense of where we were at, take public testimony, and
13 then make the decision after public testimony --
14 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Okay.
15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- on what our final
16 version was going to be that would, then, go to staff to
17 start work on it, and then that we could come back next
18 week to start -- do the Senate pairings and get our
19 proclamation done by the deadline of the 10th, so...
20 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: What are we calling
21 this?
22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: v.3 Anchorage
23 Alternative.
24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There has a name --
25 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)

Page 36

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: If we did want to
2 move to public testimony, we'll just take a quick little
3 two-minute break to reorient the table.
4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yep.
5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: So just a heads up
6 that we would take a break.
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. We're going to
8 have to do that --
9 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME: Mr. Chairman.
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- but I don't know if
11 we want to try and tackle this first, see if we -- where
12 we land on this one so that the public has some sense of
13 where we're going to be at with regards to Anchorage, as
14 we've done in other areas of the state.
15 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME: I have a comment
16 on --
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yes.
18 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME: -- on that and
19 why I'm not supporting this -- this version of Anchorage
20 for the Board's consideration.
21 When this process started, we all agreed that
22 we were going to be non-partisan above board, and
23 we've maintained that we've opened our meetings with
24 public testimony. We've closed them with public
25 testimony. We engaged in a very aggressive statewide

Page 37

1 tour, 26 different communities in total, and I've been
2 to 23 of them. The only reason that I didn't make
3 three of those is because I had to fly back to
4 Washington D.C. to testify before Senate Judiciary on
5 a voting rights matter and then fly back.
6 In good conscience, I cannot now vote for a
7 brand-new drawing of Anchorage that the public has not
8 had an opportunity to review and weigh in on, on one
9 of our last days. It just seems very disingenuous for
10 us to have this about-face this late in the process.
11 And I -- I know why Bethany has suggested this, and I
12 understand her uncomfortableness with moving Valdez
13 into the Mat-Su.
14 All of that said, in my professional opinion,
15 this is not better work than the board version before.
16 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Mr. Chairman,
17 could I have a...
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Please, Bethany.
19 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: So if you recall,
20 when I first introduced this map a couple of days ago, I
21 overlaid the Version 3 map on this and showed that it's
22 not substantially different, that what it was, was
23 actually cleaning up and making for more compact shapes,
24 starting with Version 3.
25 So this is not a substantially different map.

Page 38

1 It's a map that started from v.3 and cleaned up some
2 appendages that created a more compact version. And
3 then we got legal counsel that told us that, you know,
4 we should -- there's some things that needed to be
5 changed, and so then I addressed those things.
6 And so -- and I will say that, going back to
7 the previous iteration, some of -- some of these
8 things are -- are pretty darn close to what was on the
9 original v.3. So, in fact, in some ways, I think it
10 might have gone back closer to the original v.3.
11 So I -- I would respectfully disagree that
12 this is a completely different map.
13 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: When you -- we had
14 Board Version 3, which our voting rights analysts had
15 reviewed both Board Version 3 and Board Version 4 and
16 there were no issues, and then when you came back with
17 Board Version 3 Best, I thought that there were enough
18 substantial changes to what we had taken on tours Board
19 Version 3, that I -- and so that Budd request an opinion
20 from our voting rights experts.
21 So I respectfully disagree that it wasn't
22 substantially different than Board Version 3. Board
23 Version 3 Best and Board Version 3 were, in my mind,
24 substantially different.
25 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Mr. Chairman, if I

Page 39

1 could just..
2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Please.
3 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: That was -- that
4 was one particular area of the map, two districts that
5 were affected by those changes that you referred to. So
6 when you talk about substantial changes that required
7 legal counsel to look, that was -- that's -- you know,
8 I'd be happy to ask legal counsel on record, if we're
9 talking about multiple changes on the whole map or -- or
10 not, but I think that the understanding is that it's one
11 very specific area in change, and that's --
12 (Zoom interruption.)
13 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- we're not
14 looking at any kind of unconstitutionality with the
15 maps, so..
16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Go ahead.
17 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: A moment ago, when
18 Nicole was speaking, she raised the issue of the
19 placement of Valdez, and you addressed that as Valdez --
20 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Valdez is not --
21 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: -- (indiscernible).
22 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- in -- yeah,
23 this is the Municipality of Anchorage plus Whittier. So
24 it has the same borders and boundaries as Borromeo's
25 map.

Page 40

1 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME: I'm -- I'm sorry.
2 I must have missed that downshift. I thought you'd been
3 mapping this whole time trying to get Valdez in with
4 Anchorage. If I would have known that you were just
5 refining v.3, I would have called the question on this
6 much sooner.
7 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I believe I stated
8 that on the record.
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. I think you did
10 this morning. I think that was -- as I recall, anyhow,
11 that was her original intent, and then when we got the
12 memo from legal counsel last evening, that kind of
13 shifted, as I understand it, and then we started with
14 this version last night --
15 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah. I explained
16 that --
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- to make those
18 changes.
19 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah. And I
20 explained that --
21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So --
22 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- based upon some
23 of the parameters that we understood from legal counsel,
24 I was not able to find a reasonable solution for putting
25 Valdez with Anchorage.

Page 41

1 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: So to recap my
2 understanding of what's happened, yesterday Bethany
3 requested time to map a possible iteration that would
4 have brought Valdez into Anchorage. We decided to go
5 ahead and accommodate that request. And then we were
6 advised that we had some parameters that we needed to be
7 mindful of, which though Bethany tried her best and
8 mapped late into the night, I don't think -- I mean, she
9 stated today that she wasn't able to find a better
10 iteration that brought Valdez in, that kept us within
11 those parameters.
12 So then you two asked her to -- so she
13 proposed Anchorage differently but without Valdez
14 still, and then you two saw some areas for concern in
15 terms of compactness, and you asked her to go back yet
16 again to the drawing board to improve those lines as
17 best as she can, and this time that she was able to,
18 this is it. That's my understanding of it.
19 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: And if I could
20 just append that a bit to say that the reason that I
21 attempted last night to amend this map was because of
22 the same legal constraints that affected the Valdez
23 decision.
24 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yes.
25 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Just to be fair,

Page 42

1 those are tied together.
2 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yes. So there
3 were parameters that were identified even without
4 bringing in Valdez that we had to be mindful of.
5 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: And it sounds to me,
6 from other comments, that there was some confusion about
7 what happened with Valdez --
8 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yes.
9 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: -- so I just wanted
10 to make that abundantly clear on the record, that this
11 doesn't deal with Valdez in this particular...
12 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Budd, how would you like
13 to proceed on this? What are your thoughts?
14 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: I'd like to take
15 some testimony. There's people waiting to do that, and
16 I would like to give them an opportunity. Given our
17 deadline, I think we have to be pretty strict about
18 timing for that testimony, set a total time and an
19 individual time, because we still have work to do today.
20 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Mr. Chairman?
21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah, Bethany.
22 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: We have -- we have
23 discussed consensus on all of other areas of the state
24 before public testimony, and so I think for consistency
25 sake, it's important to do that for the public, to know,

Page 43

1 you know, where the -- where the will of the board is
2 leading. I think that leads to more helpful and
3 constructive public testimony, because we have done that
4 for other areas of the state but have not done it for
5 Anchorage.
6 So I'll just bring that up, is that I think it's
7 only fair that Anchorage gets treated as we treated the
8 other regions and areas.
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: That's true. That's
10 what we've tried to establish. I don't know that we're
11 there on this one, and I don't know if public testimony
12 would help us get there or not. That's why I really
13 look to Budd in terms of guidance of how we'd like to
14 proceed with this.
15 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: That's why I said
16 let's do public testimony so we can have some
17 additional...
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. Okay.
19 So I think that's the course we'll take, is
20 we'll shift over to public testimony.
21 I'm wondering, for benefit of the public in
22 terms of looking at this aspect, that we can give them
23 some way. I don't know if it's through --
24 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Screenshots.
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- screenshots --

Page 44

1 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yes.
2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- or split screen or
3 something so that they can see the differences between
4 the two versions, if that is an area that they want to
5 comment on. Of course the comment is not limited to
6 this. It's limited to statewide, whatever the different
7 aspects that we've looked at over the last several days.
8 So if there is a way to do that, that would be
9 helpful. Even for people here in the room, if we
10 could print out the two versions --
11 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah.
12 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- that would be
13 helpful, and put them on the wall, then people could
14 look at them and see it visually.
15 I agree with you, Budd. We have a deadline.
16 We've had hours and hours and many, many days of
17 testimony, and as Nicole articulated, around the
18 state. We've been very generous with testimony,
19 always have, and we want to continue to do that, but
20 we are under time constraints. So we're going to have
21 to set up overall time, and that may mean that we have
22 to ask people who do testify to try and get to the
23 point, make a point quickly in a limited amount of
24 time so we can make sure that everybody is heard.
25 Should we kind of lay out some time frames so

Page 45

1 we can -- the back working forward, to see how much
2 time we should dedicate to public testimony right now,
3 or do you want to ask the public to be to the point in
4 their testimony, and --
5 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I think some
6 people's --
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- keep it --
8 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- version of "to
9 the point" might be very different from other people's
10 version of "to the point," and given that there might be
11 a lot of interests, I suggest we establish a time limit
12 that is fair to everybody.
13 And then just one other thing that I want on
14 the record. I'm grateful, Mr. Chairman, that you're
15 asking this to be posted to the website so the public
16 can see and for those who are here to see. I did ask
17 staff to do that with Board Version 4 Best this
18 morning. I didn't know that it hadn't already been
19 put up, especially since we've been starting to
20 seriously consider Board Version 3 Best and Board
21 Version 4 Best starting on Tuesday.
22 So if there's any question to the public as to
23 why Board Version 4 Best was posted about an hour ago,
24 that is why. And this was still a moving target,
25 so --

Page 46

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I've gotcha. Okay.
2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: And --
3 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- that's why they
4 weren't posted at the same time.
5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: And just on that
7 point, into the point you made about making sure that
8 people have access to the maps, we did post, also, the
9 Alt 3 one as soon as it got completed, and checked in
10 with Member Marcum, who indicated she also wanted it
11 posted --
12 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Okay. So it's on
13 the --
14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So --
15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: -- so -- so the
16 maps are posted --
17 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Great.
18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: -- on the "lege"
19 website, on the public notice website, and our website.
20 So there are -- members of the public watching can
21 access both versions of the maps under discussion in
22 multiple places.
23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Great. And is it clear,
24 when you go to the website, where those two versions
25 are? Because I know there's a map gallery with a lot of

Page 47

1 different maps in it.
2 STAFF MEMBER JULI LUCKY: So for today, because
3 they are not published maps, the maps are actually under
4 the meeting notice. So if you look under the meeting
5 for today, there's meeting documents, and it will say
6 "revised Anchorage maps." Oh, sorry.
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: And Peter is making
9 it pop up right now to make it more clear.
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Perfect. That's
11 perfect.
12 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. So if you go --
14 for those that aren't here physically in the room with
15 us, if you go to the website, we're just creating a
16 pop-up now on the website that will be clear where you
17 click to see the two different versions of the Anchorage
18 maps that are under discussion. We're also printing off
19 here for people in the room to be able to look at it
20 physically on the wall.
21 And right now we're going to take a little --
22 and there was an excellent suggestion from Member
23 Bahnke to limit the testimony. We're going to pick
24 two minutes, try and limit your testimony to two
25 minutes, and that will allow everybody to participate

Page 48

1 and still give us the time to get our work done today.
2 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. Online, there's a
4 method by which people can sign up. I don't know what
5 that is, TJ, but you can -- is it -- this is on Zoom?
6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: Nope. We have a
7 multi-factored way of doing it.
8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: So we have the
10 teleconference line, as well as the Zoom line. So the
11 teleconference line has been open for all of Alaska to
12 call in, and when we -- we can repeat those numbers
13 right now, if you'd like, before we --
14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. Why don't you --
15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: -- we do that.
16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- do that.
17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: Yep.
18 So for members of the public who would like to
19 call in and testify to the Alaska Redistricting Board,
20 you can call in by dialing from Anchorage, 563-9085.
21 From Juneau, Alaskans can call 586-9085, and calling
22 from anywhere else in the state, Alaskans can dial
23 844-586-9085.
24 So depending on the Board and the Chair's
25 decision, we can start in the room and then switch

Page 49

1 over to teleconference or do it the other way around.
2 We are ready for both.
3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. And we may go
4 back and forth.
5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: Yeah.
6 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: (Indiscernible).
7 These folks have been waiting a long time.
8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. That's a good
9 point, yeah. We're going to try to do the folks locally
10 first.
11 So we're going to need a few minutes to --
12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: Yep.
13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- rearrange the room,
14 and we'll kind of stand at ease for five minutes or
15 thereabouts while we get things reset.
16 (Off record.)
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We're going to come back
18 into session. All members are present, and we're going
19 to begin our public testimony.
20 And do we have the sign-up sheet? And we're
21 going to get started.
22 I'm reminding people that we're going to try
23 and -- we will be limiting this to two minutes, and if
24 you can consolidate your testimony and do it in a
25 shorter period of time, it would be greatly

Page 50

1 appreciated.
2 Nicole has agreed to be the timekeeper to help
3 us all keep on schedule.
4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: I think
5 Mr. Executive Director wanted to make a comment to the
6 Zoom audience as well.
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Peter, did you
8 want to...
9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELOSON:
10 (Indiscernible).
11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Peter is -- can
12 you be heard on this, Peter? Do you -- do you want to
13 make any statement, or we're going to get started?
14 Okay. Ready to get started. People online,
15 go to the website. There should be a pop-up there
16 that allows you to see the two different versions that
17 we were working on earlier this morning. But
18 testimony this morning is not limited to that, or this
19 afternoon, already.
20 Again, we're going to try and limit it to two
21 minutes, if we could. We would appreciate that.
22 The first one, Yarrow, you're up.
23 Thank you. And, again, thank you to the
24 patience of everybody here that came in early at 9:00
25 this morning that's been waiting all morning, and

Page 51

1 those online as well.
2 Welcome back, Yarrow.
3 MS. SILVERS: Hi. Thank you.
4 First I'm going to speak for my community
5 council. My name is Yarrow Silvers. I'm on the Board
6 of the Scenic Foothills Community Council, and I am
7 speaking for the council.
8 Last night we unanimously passed a resolution,
9 and I will read the resolved part --
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
11 MS. SILVERS: -- to be timely.
12 "Now, therefore, it be resolved that the
13 Scenic Foothills Community Council recommends that the
14 Redistricting Board bring the new state redistricting
15 plan into closer alignment with local neighborhood
16 boundaries, including East Anchorage, and not split
17 off part of the socioeconomically distinct East
18 Anchorage neighbors, including the Scenic Foothills
19 Community Council neighborhood (indiscernible)
20 district, which are socioeconomically distinct with
21 East Anchorage, especially as done in the current
22 proposed map area -- Map 3 area around the Muldoon
23 curve."
24 That was passed last night with 18 votes in
25 favor and zero opposed.

Page 52

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
2 MS. SILVERS: I also just wanted to mention that
3 although it's too late to make changes to the resolution
4 last night, the council was shown the current working
5 maps as of yesterday, and a lot of people spoke up very
6 strongly in favor of Nicole's working map.
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: It's Version --
8 MS. SILVERS: 4.
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- 4?
10 MS. SILVERS: Yeah, the one that --
11 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Board Version 4
12 Best.
13 MS. SILVERS: Yeah.
14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: 4 Best.
15 MS. SILVERS: Yep. Thank you. Yes.
16 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: I think we need
17 to start calling them by the titles.
18 MS. SILVERS: Now I will speak for myself.
19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
20 MS. SILVERS: So I'm no longer speaking for the
21 community council.
22 I am here today to advocate for Nicole
23 Borromeo's working map, Map 4 Best, which is both more
24 compact and better respects socioeconomic boundaries,
25 as well as preserve voices of racially-diverse

Page 53

1 communities in East Anchorage.
2 I find it concerning the necessity of
3 analyzing at Best Map 1. That map, for Voting Rights
4 Act violations, was brought up yesterday, and yet the
5 map was still on the table until this morning and now
6 it is quickly being changed, and particularly when
7 there is another option that is so much more
8 constitutionally sound.
9 Borromeo's map has excellent deviations. It's
10 more compact. It's got lots of straight lines, nearly
11 rectangular shape districts. The respects the natural
12 socioeconomic boundaries. It takes into account
13 public testimony, and unlikely to run afoul of the
14 VRA.
15 I really see no reason to use Marcum's working
16 map, except possibly to gerrymander East Anchorage's,
17 as well as other areas of Anchorage's voices away.
18 With East Anchorage sliced and diced between JBER and
19 South Anchorage, it is a very effective map if
20 dilution of East Anchorage's votes (indiscernible);
21 however, our Alaska state constitution clearly calls
22 for a non-partisan process that disallows partisan
23 gerrymandering. Although the map has been hurriedly
24 adjusted this morning, much of Anchorage is still
25 chopped up. Districts have been created that look

Page 54

1 like snakes, and natural socioeconomic boundaries are
2 not respected.
3 My district, in particular, which is Number
4 20, remains chunked up strangely with part of it in
5 South Anchorage District; that requires driving
6 through four other districts to get to. Why is this
7 population not moved throughout these districts so
8 that con- -- contiguous population residence in a
9 district together.
10 To say that there is no other option or that
11 this is the best option does not ring true. It feels
12 disingenuous and raises many questions for me. While
13 there has been a lot of talk about "one person, one
14 vote" concerns, this feels transparently false because
15 diluting the votes of certain populations does not fit
16 in with the concept of "one person, one vote."
17 Marcum's map, to me, does not appear to honor
18 "one person, one vote."
19 Thank you for hearing my comments, and I
20 request that the Board recognizes that Nicole
21 Borromeo's -- sorry -- map is more thoughtful,
22 constitutionally sound, and the appropriate one of the
23 two, and please use that one.
24 Thank you.
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Yarrow.

Page 55

1 And just for further -- for the public, when
2 you're testifying about the maps, maybe you could not
3 ascribe them to an individual member --
4 MS. SILVERS: Sorry.
5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- but to their names.
6 There's v.4 Best, which was just up on the screen, and
7 there's v.3...
8 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Alternative.
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Alternative. So those
10 are the two maps we're really discussing.
11 MS. SILVERS: It's changing so fast, it's hard
12 to follow.
13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I appreciate that.
14 MS. SILVERS: But --
15 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Thank you,
16 Yarrow.
17 MS. SILVERS: -- thank you.
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. And thank you for
19 your continued interest. I know you've been following
20 this closely from the beginning, so thank you.
21 The next person that we have is -- is it Lacey
22 Hemming? Okay. We'll move down the line, and some
23 have not checked the box to testify.
24 Joelle, did you want to testify?
25 MS. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Page 56

1 My name is Joelle Hall. I'm here on behalf of
2 AFFR.
3 I live in Peters Creek, so I first want to say
4 thank you very much for the rectification of the blend
5 between the Eagle River community and Muldoon. I'm
6 glad to hear -- we didn't state it on the record, but
7 obviously, by process of elimination, that was a VRA
8 concern. And so just by deduction of what happened
9 last night was what we saw this morning.
10 I appreciate that. Really glad that that
11 happened. Just because something's legal doesn't mean
12 it's right, and that would have been not right, to
13 blend those two communities. There's a clear boundary
14 between us, and we're very distinct communities.
15 Thank you for that.
16 I would also like to testify in favor of v.4.
17 If you look at the map up there and look at the map
18 behind you, shapes matter, compact is the first order
19 of merit in the order of operations you're to consider
20 in this. One is clearly more compact than the other
21 and within the allowable deviations constitutionally.
22 And so I implore you, now that we're off the
23 other thing that was I was most concerned about,
24 there -- it doesn't even feel like there's a real
25 question about which one is more compact here. So I

Page 57

1 implore you to use v.4.
2 We will have further comment from the AFFR.
3 You'll probably get, you know, piecemeal dissertation
4 from the AFFR about everything relating to the maps
5 process, all of these things.
6 I want to state for the record that AFFR will
7 be back in 10 years. We have been here for 20 years
8 in the past. So we view our work here as your
9 perpetual partner in this effort. So comments we make
10 on the record in the future are not personal. They
11 are about the process that must be reinvented every
12 ten years, so we need to create a record about what we
13 thought worked well on this process and what we
14 thought didn't work well on this process so that those
15 who come after you will benefit from the experience of
16 people who are -- like me, who are here every ten
17 years. Maybe I won't be in ten more. I don't know.
18 We'll see. Maybe it'll wear me down.
19 Thank you for your time. Thank you for your
20 effort.
21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Joelle, and
22 also thank you for AFFR's effort. Robin and David were
23 great on the road. They spent an incredible amount of
24 time, and we appreciate the education that they helped
25 with the statewide, not just the board. But they did a

Page 58

1 great job in helping explain the whole process and
2 everything else. So thank you --
3 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Mr. Chairman.
4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- for your effort.
5 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Mr. Chairman, I'd
6 like to reiterate that --
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yes, please.
8 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- to say we
9 sometimes refer to their expertise when we had
10 questions.
11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.
12 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: So that was
13 appreciated, so...
14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. So next here in
15 Anchorage, we have Kirk Rose.
16 MS. ROSE: That's me.
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
18 MS. ROSE: (Indiscernible).
19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Okay. They said
20 not testify.
21 Felisa Wilson, good afternoon.
22 MS. WILSON: You've promoted me
23 (indiscernible).
24 Good afternoon. Felisa Wilson. Again, on
25 behalf of JBER, I wanted to thank the Board for all of

Page 59

1 your hard work through Christmas.
2 I was a little alarmed that the maps were
3 being changed at the last minute and the public
4 testimony is just now. Just wanted to note that
5 concern, because it seems like it all just literally
6 changed in the last hour. That concerns me, but I
7 know you guys are experts and will do your best to
8 make an informed decision.
9 After looking at the maps that were just
10 created in the last hour and finalized, I think that
11 the integrity of JBER and the majority minority
12 districts around the Muldoon area and Northeast
13 Anchorage and Mountain View are best represented in
14 that v.4 Best map version. And I think it's
15 important, with the diaspora of Anchorage and Alaska,
16 to make every effort that we can to keep the majority
17 minority and that integrity of the Base population and
18 the gates that surround us.
19 Thank you so much for your hard work.
20 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you for your
21 participation and recognizing, too, that it's a dynamic
22 process and things are going to change.
23 MS. WILSON: Absolutely. Thank you. And, you
24 know, military, that's what we -- that's how we work.
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.

Page 60

1 MS. WILSON: You know what I mean. Exactly.
2 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Thank you to
3 your -- for your service to our country as well.
4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yes. Thank you, Felisa.
5 Tahnee...
6 MS. SECCARECCIA: Tahnee.
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Tahnee? Oh, sorry about
8 that, Tahnee.
9 MS. SECCARECCIA: Yeah, no.
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
11 MS. SECCARECCIA: It's a complicated name.
12 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Join us, please.
13 MS. SECCARECCIA: So I am just here for two
14 different reasons, one is because I want to --
15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Could you just pronounce
16 your last name, too, just for the record.
17 MS. SECCARECCIA: Tahnee Seccareccia.
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Seccareccia? Okay.
19 MS. SECCARECCIA: Yes. Seccareccia.
20 So I'm here to read part of the resolution
21 that the Spenard Community Council passed last month,
22 and then just to give my own personal testimony.
23 So --
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
25 MS. SECCARECCIA: -- I'll try to be quick, and I

Page 61

1 want to read the key whereas statement in the
2 resolution, as well as the -- the resolved statement.
3 "So whereas the current boundaries, the
4 Spenard Community Council consists of three house
5 districts and three Senate districts, which makes it
6 difficult and burdensome for the council and
7 all-volunteer entity to coordinate on state projects
8 and issues that directly affect Spenard.
9 "Now, therefore, it be resolved that the
10 Spenard Community Council recommends that the
11 Redistricting Board, bring the new state redistricting
12 plan, into closer alignment with local neighborhood
13 boundaries, including the Spenard Community Council
14 boundaries, and the slightly expanded boundaries
15 contained in the Spenard corridor plan."
16 And that was unanimously approved by the
17 Spenard Community Council on October 6th, 2021.
18 And I will admit -- so now I'm just speaking
19 for myself -- as a 23-year resident of Anchorage and
20 of the West Anchorage area, I've lived in Spenard for
21 17 of those years and in other parts of West Anchorage
22 for the remainder, and I will admit I had a whole
23 written testimony, and with all of these changes, it's
24 been really hard to keep track of.
25 In fact, I was -- I found myself really

Page 62

1 frustrated by how things went this morning, because,
2 with all due respect to your time as well, you know,
3 you're a five-board commission, and we are members of
4 the public, and so you are making decisions for
5 thousands of Anchorage residents.
6 So, you know, when you made the comment that,
7 "You've done a great job so far, but now we're going
8 to start limiting on time and we're going to cut down
9 on the public hearing part," it felt really
10 frustrating to hear that, because that meant that now
11 you're taking the power, even in these little changes,
12 mind you, away from the public who are going to be
13 most impacted by this, and so many people are going to
14 be impacted immediately and severely and have their
15 voices diluted by --
16 I'm just going to say, I completely object to
17 the version -- the Best Version 3 Alt 3 Map. I -- I
18 urge you to support the Version 4 map, because even
19 just looking at them side by side, the shapes, I mean,
20 you see the Version 4 map, and you actually have
21 straight lines, and it respects the idea and the
22 definition of compact, which is closely and neatly
23 packed together and dense. That's what that map does.
24 There aren't obvious attempts to gerrymander and to
25 cut out and carve out districts.

Page 63

1 And with all due respect to Ms. Marcum, the
2 fact that she would say, even up to this point that
3 she only last night decided not to put Valdez and
4 Anchorage together, is absurd to me. I have to drive
5 six and a half hours to go to Valdez. They absolutely
6 never should have been considered to be put in the
7 same map.
8 So the fact that -- that her reason for
9 stepping back away from that was not because it didn't
10 make geographical sense, not because they were
11 culturally different and not because -- any other
12 reason other than she got legal pushback. That, to
13 me, says that the intent and the spear behind Version
14 3 is not in the spirit of the law and the constitution
15 which -- which says that gerrymandering is illegal and
16 we have a right to a fair and equal election.
17 And I just -- I just want to say that I
18 really, really want you to focus on fair and equal
19 representation, because in the end, partisan politics
20 aside, let the people have a say in the vote and let
21 the people's voice speak in how things go and not
22 because it makes sense for one political party or
23 another.
24 Thank you for that.
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you. And it is --

Page 64

1 it is difficult; you know, the constitution really
2 requires us to go out and get public testimony, come
3 back, and make decisions, and that's kind of the point
4 we're at, and at some point we have to make the
5 decisions and move forward.
6 Okay. Let's see. I see Veri. Veri? Yeah.
7 You wanted to testify? The box isn't marked, but
8 please come and join us.
9 MS. SUVERO: Thank you so much.
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: And if you could give
11 your name for the record too. I apologize.
12 MS. SUVERO: Oh, no. It's not an easy one, for
13 sure. Thank you.
14 My name is Veri di Suvero. I am the Executive
15 Director of AKPIRG, which is a public interest group.
16 We, as a group -- this is, again, just comment
17 on -- in terms of the public interest process -- just
18 to note that in general, across all of the
19 recommendations and advice we give, that putting
20 Executive Session before public comment for meetings
21 makes it very burdensome for members of the public to
22 be able to give input.
23 I, as someone who knows a couple of folks who
24 are trying to call in, who are trying to be here
25 today, they weren't able to end up testifying about

Page 65

1 their communities that they feel really passionately
2 about and are deeply invested in, partially because
3 they do have so many other commitments.
4 And as so much of this process, as a board,
5 you all have done such an amazing job of centering the
6 public comment and making sure that is a priority, and
7 continuing this as these decisions are about to be
8 made is critical, and I appreciate that there is an
9 opportunity to do so today. But it also, as looking
10 at the disparate impacts of marginalized communities,
11 folks who generally have less time to be able to wait
12 for four hours to give comment, especially if this is
13 the last time to give substantive input into these
14 maps for the house districts, which will, then, you
15 know, turn out for the rest of the Senate districts.
16 Is -- it's a concern of public interest nature.
17 And that being said, AKPIRG is also a member
18 of AFFR, and so as Joelle has -- or as Ms. Hall put
19 it, we support Version 4 Best of the map as well.
20 And I really appreciate all of the effort of
21 this board. I hope that you'll consider providing
22 another opportunity for public input into this -- into
23 these maps, because they are incredibly complicated
24 and impactful. So I hope you will consider doing that
25 as well.

Page 66

1 Thank you very much.
 2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Veri.
 3 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Quick question
 4 for Veri.
 5 Thank you, Veri. I appreciate your support
 6 for v.4. Is there any particular reasons that you
 7 wanted to add some of the other people before you have
 8 given specific reasons?
 9 MS. SUVERO: Yes. Well, so this is a personal
 10 note. I'm -- I live in South Addition by Westchester
 11 Lagoon, and I see my community more fully represented
 12 in the version -- the v.4 Best Map.
 13 In addition, I don't want to speak for him,
 14 but I know Mr. Ruz (phonetic), who was meant to
 15 testify or unable to testify, he works with
 16 communities in Mountain View, Fairview, and Spenard,
 17 and their -- more -- more in the v.4 map -- their
 18 communities are more compact and have -- you know,
 19 that organization is only a trust that specifically
 20 works with defined communities on socioeconomic
 21 reasons, which I think are -- I know that legally, all
 22 of Anchorage is socioeconomically integrated.
 23 And I know, Member Marcum, you had changed the
 24 map in order to make Mountain View more whole, and so
 25 I think that v.4 Best just does that in a way that

Page 67

1 accomplished it more clearly.
 2 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Thank you.
 3 MS. SUVERO: Thank you so much.
 4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Veri.
 5 Cliff. Okay.
 6 Donna Mears. Good afternoon, Donna.
 7 MS. MEARS: Thank you.
 8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Welcome.
 9 MS. MEARS: My name is Donna Mears, and I am
 10 here on behalf of the Northeast Community Council here
 11 in Anchorage, with a resolution from our October
 12 meeting. I'll hand that out. But it's also been
 13 submitted. This is just a draft, but the final
 14 resolution was submitted. The text is identical.
 15 Although my understanding is that community
 16 council boundaries are not necessarily consideration
 17 for district boundaries, we believe they should be.
 18 Particularly in the case of Northeast Community
 19 Council, where multiple map versions have and
 20 continue -- continue to snip the north and eastern
 21 portions of our community and Bartlett High School
 22 into a largely Eagle River District.
 23 My experience as a Northeast Community Council
 24 Board member over the last couple of years is that
 25 state and local representatives, very small portions

Page 68

1 of our council district, rarely, if ever, show up.
 2 This is important. In Anchorage, the most consistent
 3 accessible opportunity for constituents to interact
 4 with the representatives is at community council
 5 meetings. This is the place where our work is done,
 6 both for the representatives and for the community.
 7 From our perspective in Northeast Anchorage,
 8 community boundaries are more important than a
 9 slightly larger population deviation, as it provides
 10 better access to our representatives.
 11 Again, Bartlett should be in a district with
 12 the families it serves, and Northeast Anchorage
 13 residents should be paired with their neighbors.
 14 So our -- our community council met at the
 15 last -- the last time as a group on October 21st. So
 16 as a community council, we don't have a statement on
 17 the maps in front of us today, but from my personal
 18 perspective, the v.4 Best Version best represents
 19 that, the -- the desires of The Northeast Community
 20 Council. It would be nice if our (indiscernible) and
 21 Bartlett could be included with us, but I don't know
 22 the population variation there, but having access to
 23 our representatives is significant and important to
 24 us.
 25 Thank you.

Page 69

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Thank you, Donna.
 2 Any questions?
 3 That's all that we have on the sign-up sheet
 4 for locally. Is there more back there?
 5 David, would you mind grabbing the...
 6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: See, David.
 7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: There he is.
 8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: David and Robin
 9 (indiscernible) for us, I'll tell ya...
 10 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: This is for the
 11 record, I think; right? Is this included for the
 12 record?
 13 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yes.
 14 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Okay.
 15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I appreciate that.
 16 Okay. Also here in Anchorage, we have Robin
 17 O'Donoghue. Robin.
 18 MR. O'DONOGHUE: Good afternoon, Chair Binkley
 19 and Board. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
 20 I have spoken before you mostly on behalf of a
 21 coalition, but today I'm primarily speaking for myself
 22 as a resident of Goldstream Valley within the
 23 Fairbanks North Star Borough, and I'm going to talk to
 24 you about Fairbanks.
 25 I first want to thank you for the decision

Page 70

1 yesterday to respect the "one person, one vote"
2 principle in Fairbanks and to break the borough
3 boundary; however, I want to just put on the record, I
4 strongly oppose taking that population, the excess
5 from the Goldstream Valley to populate the Rural
6 Interior District.
7 Goldstream Valley is essentially a suburb of
8 Fairbanks. The area is about 10 or 15 minutes out of
9 town, and it's very highly socioeconomically
10 integrated and connected to the University of Alaska,
11 Fairbanks. This is not really just a statistic, but
12 my lived experience as the child of two UAF employees
13 who grew up Goldstream Valley, because that is where
14 people in Goldstream live, work, and play is UAF and
15 Fairbanks.
16 Additionally, I want to point out that while
17 the Board did recognize the resolution passed by the
18 Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly, which requested
19 the boundary to be broken. The Board didn't fully
20 recognize other parts of that resolution, which
21 requested for communities in the borough to be kept
22 together. I believe that throwing Goldstream into the
23 Greater Interior does not respect that request from
24 the borough.
25 Also, I wanted to note that yesterday the

Page 71

1 Board discussed the socioeconomic integration of
2 Eielson Air Force Base, but what was missing from that
3 conversation was also the obvious socio- --
4 socioeconomic integration between Eielson Air Force
5 Base and Fort Greely near Delta, which are highly
6 socioeconomically integrated along the Richardson
7 Highway.
8 The so lastly, I do just want to -- that we
9 still do believe that the AFFR map is the best version
10 for Fairbanks, and that the way that our map breaks
11 the boundary and shares population is more logical
12 sharing along the Richardson Highway and respecting
13 that socioeconomic integration on that side of town.
14 We also believe that you can plug in the AFFR
15 version of Fairbanks into your existing board map to
16 achieve better representation, not only for the
17 communities, but also perhaps better deviations and
18 respect the socioeconomic integration better.
19 Thank you.
20 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Robin.
21 Okay. Staying here in Anchorage, Chris
22 Nelson. Oh, I'm sorry.
23 Yeah, David, you were next on the list. Sorry
24 about that. I -- I skipped over you, not
25 intentionally.

Page 72

1 MR. DUNSMORE: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman,
2 Members of the Board.
3 For the record, I'm David Dunsmore with
4 Alaskans for Fair Redistricting. I'm -- I hope you
5 don't mind. I'm going to be relying on the fly on
6 looking at the Anchorage maps, but I just wanted to
7 expand a little more on the testimony I shared
8 (indiscernible) about why we believe that, given the
9 choices the Board is currently considering, that v.4
10 Best is the option that is clearly best in line with
11 your constitutional mandate and in line with AFFR's
12 process in Anchorage of trying to make sure the
13 communities and interests in certain neighborhoods,
14 maximum, at possible, are represented in the
15 legislative lines.
16 And, you know, one thing we've appreciated
17 that I think, literally every single public hearing on
18 the road show, that a board member, staff would
19 introduce the public hearing process by explaining
20 that the Board's goal was -- an understanding of the
21 constitutional (indiscernible) for socioeconomic
22 integration was that people who live, work, and play
23 together should vote together, and given these two
24 options, we believe that Version 4 Best is the one
25 that best accommodates that.

Page 73

1 So I'm going to go a little bit in detail
2 about how that is true with the various parts of town.
3 In East Anchorage, unfortunately the v.3 Alt 3 -- I
4 believe that's the right term -- has some pretty odd
5 ways in which it divides the neighborhoods of East
6 Anchorage; Nu- -- Nunaka Valley is placed in the
7 district with most of Mountain View, when Nunaka
8 Valley has much more in common with either the dis- --
9 the neighborhoods that are in -- would be in District
10 20 on that map, are in District 21.
11 **A portion of Chugach Foothills subdivision,**
12 **along the Muldoon Road curve, is placed in a district**
13 **with the Huffman/O'Malley neighborhood. This is**
14 **likely unconstitutional. I believe, in the court,**
15 **when it was discussing why the Kawasaki finger was**
16 **unconstitutional, talked about large corridors of land**
17 **with no population, and that's exactly what we have in**
18 **District 10.**
19 **While -- you know, with -- without a satellite**
20 **view, it looks like a pretty even square. This is**
21 **swampland in Far North Bicentennial Park and Campbell**
22 **Tract. There are no dwelling units connecting that**
23 **chunk of Chugach Foothills to the Huffman/O'Malley**
24 **area.**
25 **And I'll also say this is a particularly**

Page 74

1 inappropriate neighborhood match, because that portion
2 of Chugach Foothills is some of the lowest-income
3 population in South Muldoon, and placing it in a
4 district with -- I mean, it's mostly not apartment
5 buildings. It's mostly, like, really tight,
6 zero-outline housing, and placing them in a district
7 with the Upper Hillside and Huffman/O'Malley, where
8 very large lot sizes, limited road service areas as
9 opposed to being in the city, private well and sewer
10 instead of being under AWWU.
11 The -- the people of that Chugach Foothills
12 appendage just don't have anything in common as far as
13 their legislative needs for their neighborhood, and I
14 think it would really be ill-served by having -- being
15 placed in the Upper Hillside, Huffman/O'Malley
16 District.
17 And staying, then, in South Anchorage, Version
18 4 Best does create logical South Anchorage districts
19 that are separated from East Anchorage. District 16
20 is a logical Abbott Loop District, and District 15 is
21 a logical Huffman/O'Malley District, and then
22 District 9, being South Hillside, Turnagain Arm
23 District. And all of those districts, not only do
24 they have clearly compact geographic boundaries, but
25 they make sense as far as the neighborhoods within

Page 75

1 South Anchorage.
2 And whereas the Version 3 Alternative,
3 District 11 splits the Abbott -- the Abbott Loop
4 neighborhood is split between Districts 11 and 14, and
5 a portion of the Huffman/O'Malley area is put in with
6 the south portion of Abbott Loop, when it would be a
7 better neighborhood integration to keep those
8 neighborhoods within their district as been
9 demonstrated in v.4 Best and in several other party
10 maps.
11 We believe West Anchorage is better
12 represented under Version 4 Best.
13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: David, I -- I know
14 you've got a lot there, and you're very knowledgeable
15 about all of these, but I want to be somewhat consistent
16 too, so...
17 MR. DUNSMORE: Mr. Chairman, 15 more seconds,
18 please.
19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. No problem. No
20 problem.
21 MR. DUNSMORE: One of the main problems in West
22 Anchorage with the Version 3 Alternative is District 15
23 puts three distinct population centers into a district.
24 There's population in the Turnagain neighborhood to the
25 north of the airport. There's population in the west

Page 76

1 end lake area to the west of what would be District 13,
2 and then there's population in the Taku-Campbell area.
3 And it puts three distinct, not-compact population
4 centers into one district, whereas Version 4 manages
5 throughout West Anchorage Districts that at least keep
6 much more reasonably compacted neighborhood
7 (indiscernible).
8 Thank you.
9 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Mr. Chairman, I
10 have a question.
11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Thank you.
12 Go ahead, Bethany.
13 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah. Thank you,
14 Mr. Dunsmore.
15 So you have -- you've heard, you know,
16 counsel -- you've heard many times when we've been in
17 board meeting, counsel advise about socioeconomic
18 integration within the city boundaries, and I -- I
19 take it that you have a different opinion regarding
20 that as far as the -- being able to put different --
21 as far as where the lines are drawn in neighborhoods
22 and communities.
23 MR. DUNSMORE: Through the Chair, Ms. Marcum,
24 I think there is a couple of considerations. While
25 the socioeconomic integration factor may not

Page 77

1 technically be at play within municipalities
2 compactness very much is. And as, you know, the Court
3 discussed in previous rounds where they threw out
4 appendages within boroughs, they were discussing how
5 corridors, fingers, appendages made -- even if they
6 were socioeconomically integrated, they made districts
7 less compact.
8 So in light of that, you know, I would believe
9 that Districts 10 and possibly 15 would not be
10 constitutional and compact.
11 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: You're talking
12 about v.3?
13 MR. DUNSMORE: Yes.
14 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Okay. Thanks.
15 MR. DUNSMORE: Through the Chair.
16 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: You said Districts
17 10 and 15?
18 MR. DUNSMORE: Yes. And possibly -- possibly
19 others, but as -- you know, I mean, we -- it's --
20 it's -- I'm trying to do the best I can from what's
21 available to see where the exact boundaries are.
22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We appreciate that.
23 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Thank you. Thank
24 you.
25 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: May I ask a

Page 78

1 question?

2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. Please, Melanie.

3 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: David, what are

4 your thoughts on Alt 3, 21 as compared to Board Version

5 4 Best, 20 -- geographically compared the area. It's

6 kind of hard to see the numbers, but comparing 21, what

7 are your thoughts from 3 to its counterpart in the other

8 map?

9 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: It's 23.

10 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Oh, 23, yeah.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: 21 to 20 -- are you

12 talking about this one?

13 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Yeah.

14 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yeah.

15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So the upper

16 (indiscernible)?

17 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: This one right

18 here, Mr. Chairman. This one right here.

19 MR. DUNSMORE: Through the Chair, Ms. Bahnke, I

20 believe that -- that the population from JBER is not --

21 that it's -- put into District 21 on the Version 3

22 Alternative is not the most appropriate place to do it.

23 This is putting the JBER population -- in -- in the AFFR

24 plan, we had divided among all three of the Anchorage

25 gates, but in the process the Board has chosen not to do

Page 79

1 that.

2 But it would be more appropriate, since the

3 bulk of the population is on the Government Hill side,

4 and, you know, it's been testified from that there's

5 some retiree housing over there. So people who are

6 long-term Anchorage residents on the Government Hill

7 side, where they live, work, and play is through the

8 Government Hill neighborhood, not through that Turpin

9 area. That would be put in there under Version 3.

10 And while the structure of how District 23,

11 Muldoon District in Version 4 is different than what

12 we proposed at AFFR; I think it's a very reasonable

13 approach to doing it. And just talking from personal

14 experience --

15 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: In v.4? You're

16 saying v.4 is more reasonable?

17 MR. DUNSMORE: Yeah. And just from --

18 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Okay. Thank you.

19 MR. DUNSMORE: -- my personal experience, having

20 worked at the municipal state level for East Anchorage,

21 I think that is a very cohesive --

22 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Thank you. In the

23 interest of time, thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, David.

25 Chris.

Page 80

1 MR. NELSON: Thank you all very much. My name

2 is Chris Nelson. I live at 7702 Boundary in North

3 Muldoon. I respectfully disagree with the previous

4 government who testified on the integrity of JBER and

5 the Bases. I've served on Richardson when I was in

6 uniform. When I retired, I worked on Fort -- on JBER,

7 because JBER is a relatively new creation, both as the

8 State Missile Defense Coordinator, and then later on

9 the State Director for Employer Support of the Guard

10 and Reserve, ESGR. I'm a life member in VFW Post in

11 Eagle River, but I'm speak- -- oh, and for the last

12 ten years I've served on the Municipality of Anchorage

13 Military & Veterans Commission.

14 I'm speaking entirely for myself, but I've

15 been at my -- in my current condo for 20 years. The

16 military community on JBER includes retirees like me.

17 It includes military families who live off post in the

18 areas that are adjacent to JBER, and I believe that

19 the version that you created today -- and I really

20 appreciate, give and take the members of the

21 commission in raising questions, making adjustments

22 and all of that -- best suits the retiree community,

23 the military families living off the Base but need to

24 have adjac-- -- be close to the Base to get on to

25 work. And I've done that, again, as both a member of

Page 81

1 the Army and as -- as a civilian employee.

2 So I would think that the -- and I apologize

3 for not having completely prepared testimony on

4 that -- but I wanted to share based on what I

5 witnessed this morning in your meeting, that this

6 latest version, I think, best represents people like

7 me, who served on the Base, who retired and live

8 adjacent to the Base. I was actually at the hospital

9 on the Base this morning. So it's -- that's good.

10 But I also want to thank every one of you for

11 serving on this commission for your patience and for

12 your willing- -- your willingness to listen to

13 testimony.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Chris. And

16 also, thank you for your service, not only to our

17 country, through the military, but also to this

18 community and state as well. You've been engaged since

19 your retirement and wear many different -- many

20 different hats, and it's much appreciated.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. NELSON: Thank you all very --

23 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Just -- just for

24 the record, for clarity, which version are you -- was

25 there a version? You said the version that was most

Page 82

1 recently...

2 MR. NELSON: The -- the one that you just --

3 I'm -- I'm confused on the names of all of them, and I

4 know a lot of people have followed this more --

5 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yes.

6 MR. NELSON: -- closely than I have. Although,

7 where's Juli? I want to thank Juli for sending out

8 those notices. I do read them and appreciate them, you

9 know, very, very much, and I think your staff has done

10 an outstanding job as well.

11 It's the...

12 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Is it v.3 Alt? I

13 believe that was the one that you mentioned that --

14 MR. NELSON: Yes. That's -- that's the one.

15 That's the one.

16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.

17 MR. NELSON: Thank you very, very much.

18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Chris.

19 Okay. We're going to go online. Let me just

20 make sure I've got this, hopefully.

21 TJ, is this the top right here? Is there a

22 scroll?

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: Top right here.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. We're going to go

25 to Matthew and Casort, and -- two members. No.

Page 83

1 Unavailable. Sorry.

2 Savannah Fletcher in Fairbanks. Savannah, are

3 you online? Just a moment. Savannah Fletcher in

4 Fairbanks?

5 Let's -- let's, then, go to Kasey Casort in

6 Fairbanks. Maybe if Savannah comes online later, she

7 can identify herself and we'll go back to her.

8 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: What's the last

9 name again, please?

10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: K- -- C-a-s-o-r-t.

11 I just want to make sure TJ or staff that

12 we're on mute or something, are we?

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: Let's take just a

14 little, brief at-ease, and we'll double-check

15 technology.

16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. We're going to

17 take a two-minute brief at-ease just to make sure we're

18 connected to those that want to testify online.

19 (Off record.)

20 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. So is this --

21 this is Kasey?

22 MS. CASORT: Yes. This is Kasey Casort.

23 MS. FLETCHER: Sorry. This is Savannah. I -- I

24 also -- can you hear me now?

25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. We can hear you

Page 84

1 now. Thank you.

2 Let's -- let's go to Savannah, then.

3 MS. FLETCHER: Perfect. Okay. Thank you.

4 So my name is Savannah Fletcher. I live in

5 Fairbanks off the Parks Highway between Ester and the

6 university area. I will -- I will be brief. I know

7 there are a lot of folks.

8 But my biggest concern is just Goldstream and

9 that kind of western part of our community is not

10 being joined with the group that is most

11 socioeconomically similar, that is most compact, and

12 is a continuous part of our community. Putting them

13 in with Interior Rural Alaska really misses the mark

14 and doesn't accurately represent them, nor is it a

15 fair combination to other parts of our community, such

16 as Tok, Salcha, Harding Lake, Eielson. Those areas

17 make a lot more sense to combine with Interior Rural,

18 and so that's my main ask today.

19 Second, as others, some of the public comment

20 struggle, I also just want to say that the process

21 here has been frustrating as a member of the public

22 trying to testify. I had to take today off of work

23 and then sit on the line for hours to try and get a

24 chance to speak. So I appreciate getting in public

25 testimony, but I think it falls short, especially for

Page 85

1 those who work 9:00 to 5:00 jobs and don't have the

2 ability to take a day off.

3 So thank you for hearing me. My biggest ask

4 is to please keep Goldstream with our university and

5 kind of Western Fairbanks community.

6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Savannah.

7 Okay. Kasey.

8 MS. CASORT: Thank you. This is Kasey Casort,

9 and I'm a resident of Fairbanks.

10 Also, I want to (indiscernible) again

11 frustration for the record. I'm really frustrated

12 with this process and how challenging it was to make

13 public comment today. There's still (indiscernible)

14 available that we're supposed to be commenting on

15 today, and the only reason I know about these proposed

16 changes is because I saw some photos on social media,

17 not from the Redistricting Board, just from somebody

18 else. And we still haven't heard anything about

19 Senate pairings, which is something I would really

20 like to testify on, but it doesn't look like

21 that'll -- that'll be an option before the end of this

22 process.

23 So my actual reason for calling today is that

24 I've testified twice before the Redistricting Board

25 and was maybe naively hopeful that my testimony, along

Page 86

1 with the dozens of others who I've heard sharing
2 similar feelings about the value of keeping Goldstream
3 with our neighbors in Ester, Chena Pump, Chena Ridge,
4 and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, would be
5 reflected in the final map, and I'm really quite
6 dismayed to see that now, in order to make Fairbanks
7 fairly represented and not overpopulated -- which I do
8 appreciate that effort -- the Board is now pulling
9 Goldstream out of their main district with Rural
10 Interior Alaska, which is really not representative of
11 either area.

12 And I've read that in previous redistricting
13 cycles, another map tried to pull Goldstream into a
14 district line all the way to the coast, and it was
15 ruled unconstitutional because it's not compact
16 (indiscernible) similar communities together.

17 So I grew up mostly in the Chena Pump area,
18 but my family moved to Goldstream for a few years when
19 I was in middle -- middle and high school. And when
20 we lived in Goldstream, nothing functionally changed
21 for us, except that the drive to school was longer and
22 I rode a different bus route home. My family still
23 shopped at the West Fred Meyer's, still used the
24 borough (indiscernible), and we still regularly
25 attended events at the UAF campus.

Page 87

1 I really can't think of a more cohesive part
2 of Fairbanks than Goldstream, Ester, Chena Pump, and
3 Chena Ridge. That really doesn't make sense to me to
4 split Goldstream as a way to stop overpopulating
5 Fairbanks. Instead, I'd really like to see the
6 population pulled from Southeast Fairbanks rather than
7 Northwest, because I think there's more similarities
8 with the more rural areas, Southeast and to the North,
9 which I believe is already done in Board Map Version
10 4, but I honestly could not tell you the real title
11 since they're not online and I haven't been able to
12 see the maps.

13 I also want to mention, again, that Fairbanks
14 and North Pole are distinct places and they should get
15 separate distinct representation, North Pole bleeding
16 into Fairbanks.

17 I do appreciate the opportunity to testify
18 today. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Kasey.
20 The next online -- is Andrew Guy online?
21 Andrew Guy, I believe, from Anchorage with Calista?
22 MR. GUY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 This is Andrew Guy with Calista Corporation,
24 and I'm from -- originally from Napaskiak, Alaska, and
25 I've been working here in Anchorage since 1995 because

Page 88

1 of the job that I have with Calista. But I have been
2 involved with the redistrict- -- redistricting process
3 since the 1980s through the -- through this year,
4 every decade Calista has been involved with this
5 process.

6 So I do know the factors that go into this,
7 and I commend the Board for the work that you're
8 doing. It's a very difficult give-and-take process
9 that you have to go into; and, you know, equal vote
10 for equal representation, you know, are really good
11 ideas and good societal goals, the continuing of
12 things being equal, they do work for society, but it's
13 a factor that has been really detrimental to the
14 Calista region.

15 I've already provided written testimony and
16 comments regarding the maps this morning, so you have
17 that available. And what I wanted to do with my own
18 testimony was to provide, like, an idea, you know,
19 about the state and federal factors that are -- that
20 go into this process are given a lot of weight, but
21 not the cultural Native factors, and that is what is
22 really detrimental to the Calista region.

23 Since the 1980s, Calista has been split into
24 various districts, even though we've always had the
25 population in order to have full representation of a

Page 89

1 senate seat, allowing two house seats, we've never had
2 that since the 1980s, though, and resulted in a very
3 bad situation for the villages in my area. And the
4 COVID situation that happened over this past year and
5 a half is an example of that; you know, we are
6 experiencing one of the highest rates of infection and
7 deaths because of COVID, and it's not an accident that
8 it's happening; you know, the representation is money,
9 and that is what we've been losing out on for decades.

10 With the cumulative effect of all those
11 decades, we are experiencing the worst COVID situation
12 in rural Alaska. And it's something that I would
13 request that the board members consider as you're
14 doing all of these maps, you know, we have always
15 given our population to other districts that needed
16 it, but if you can, in some fashion, draw those lines
17 back to where we're able to finally have a voice for
18 the number of people that we have in our region, that
19 would be a very good result.

20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Thank you very
22 much, Andrew. We did get your written testimony this
23 morning. We have it right in front of us, and we
24 appreciate that very much.

25 Questions for Andrew?

Page 90

1 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Andrew, this is
2 Melanie. Thank you for calling in and for your
3 testimony. This is Melanie Bahnke.
4 If -- so in terms of socioeconomic
5 integration, if it was a matter of having to look at a
6 combination of the Calista region with the Bering
7 Strait region versus the Calista region with the Doyon
8 region, which is more socioeconomically integrated, in
9 your mind?
10 MR. GUY: Well, like I said, we've been living
11 with this since the 1980s; you know, when -- when we
12 say that we're all Native, then it should be applied,
13 whether or not it's Eskimo to Eskimo or Eskimo to
14 Indian. So if the Bering Strait region needs extra
15 population and the Doyon region needs extra
16 population, they should help each other, instead of
17 one digging into Calista and the other digging into
18 Calista too; you know, and that has happened in the
19 past reapportions.
20 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: So -- but in terms
21 of socioeconomic integration, the question I had was:
22 Do you -- if it was a matter of --
23 MR. GUY: Well, we're all different Native
24 groups; right?
25 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I know, but --

Page 91

1 MR. GUY: (Indiscernible).
2 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- do you think
3 there are any socioeconomic ties between Stebbins, Saint
4 Michael, and some Yupik villages down in the Calista
5 region? Are there some socioeconomic ties?
6 MR. GUY: Oh, yes. Stebbins and Saint Michael
7 are Yupik communities, and Onalukisik is a Gwich'in area,
8 and there are Cu'pik villages further up on the Norton
9 Sound.
10 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: And there are some
11 shared customs and ceremonies and languages; correct?
12 MR. GUY: Correct.
13 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Okay. Thank you.
14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Any other questions for
15 Andrew?
16 Andrew, I know yesterday we tried, and in the
17 last couple of days, very hard in trying to make that
18 happen, to bring Hooper, Chevak, and Scammon into the
19 Bethel District. It was -- we couldn't achieve
20 consensus on that and we moved on in terms of trying to
21 get to a final product, but we'll, again, take your
22 testimony into account as we look at the final product.
23 I really appreciate and empathize with you in terms of
24 not being able to keep the region intact.
25 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: But

Page 92

1 congratulations on your population growth.
2 MR. GUY: That -- you know, we realize that, and
3 if some of our communities can come back into the fold
4 to the majority so they can have an opportunity for
5 better representation, let's do it. Some of our
6 communities have been out of the main Calista region for
7 decades already, and that's why, like I said, the COVID
8 situation is really impacting us negatively.
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Andrew.
10 Okay. We're going to move on. Let me just
11 make sure I've got the -- let me scroll up here. If
12 you could -- let's see. Is TJ here? It looks like
13 it's Bryan Whitten.
14 Bryan Whitten? Bryan, are you online?
15 MR. WHITTEN: I -- yes. I -- I'm here.
16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yes. Good afternoon,
17 Bryan.
18 MR. WHITTEN: Hi. Thank you to the Board for
19 letting me speak today. I'll be pretty brief here.
20 My name is Bryan Whitten. I live in Fairbanks
21 on the west side in Ester. I've lived in Alaska for
22 12 years in Fairbanks (indiscernible), and because
23 of -- mainly because of the community that surrounds
24 Ester and Goldstream and that whole area is what I
25 want to address today, basically reiterating what

Page 93

1 Savannah and Kasey talked about, which is that the
2 Goldstream community is a really critical part of the
3 Fairbanks population, especially on the west end. It
4 also mainly supports the university which is so
5 important to our state, and it -- it (indiscernible)
6 to me to look at the V.3 version, the v.3 Board, which
7 has Goldstream broken off into these other rural
8 communities. So I'm requesting that the Board take a
9 look at that once again and consider that. It is very
10 important to us that these communities are very
11 tightly knit and really are what makes Fairbanks what
12 it is.
13 So thanks for your time today.
14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Bryan.
15 Next is Erin Willahan in Anchorage. Erin?
16 MS. WILLAHAN: Yeah. Hi. This is Erin.
17 Thank you for calling on me and for your time.
18 I just wanted to say that I was born and
19 raised in East Anchorage and now live in Spenard.
20 After listening in and considering the new maps, I
21 would like to urge the Court to adopt the v.4
22 Anchorage Best Map. I think in comparison to the maps
23 on the table, that is the clear choice, unlike the v.3
24 Map, which problematically divides the contiguous
25 Mountain View neighborhood into three and the Fairview

Page 94

1 neighborhood into two. The v.4 Best Map is clearly
2 more compact, more contiguous, and more socially --
3 socioeconomically integrated.
4 Further, I feel like the way that the v.3 Map,
5 in the ways it would carve up Anchorage, begs the
6 question of gerrymandering, and I feel like on the
7 premise of fair representation, the v.4 Anchorage Best
8 is also clearly a superior choice, and to my
9 understanding is the map that best achieves the above
10 criteria and the Board's mandate.
11 So that's all I came to say, and thank you for
12 your time and effort. I don't envy any of you on this
13 board going through this process. So thank you.
14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Erin.
15 John Perreault in Fairbanks.
16 MR. PERREAULT: Thank you. My name is
17 John Perreault. I am a resident of the Fairbanks North
18 Star Borough, the Goldstream area, northwest of the
19 city. I also serve on the Borough's Planning
20 Commission, though I am speaking today for myself.
21 It is important to make sure Goldstream is not
22 separated from Fairbanks by legislative district.
23 Goldstream is very clearly socioeconomically integrated
24 with the rest of the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Our
25 homes are in the borough, as are our jobs, our

Page 95

1 children's schools, our friends and our family. There
2 are only three stop signs between my home and Goldstream
3 and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.
4 Separating Goldstream and Ester from Fairbanks
5 and pairing with communities all the way around
6 Anchorage -- all the way around Fairbanks to the South
7 and East is a pretty clear violation of contiguous,
8 compact, and integrated standards.
9 I do recognize the difficulties of drawing
10 maps to satisfy -- satisfy these criteria statewide;
11 however, this solution is out of order, and Version 3
12 or Version 4 is a significant improvement on anything
13 that takes Goldstream out and pairs it to the Canadian
14 border.
15 Thank you.
16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Just -- thank you, John.
17 Just for clarification, too, that district that
18 would be paired with Goldstream actually goes all the
19 way around Fairbanks, so it connects not only on the
20 east but on the north of the Elliott and the Steese
21 Highways, and to the west as well of the Parks Highway.
22 So it -- it really is a district that connects all the
23 way around Fairbanks. So it is contiguous with all
24 aspects of Fairbanks.
25 MR. PERREAULT: (Indiscernible) compact, though.

Page 96

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Well, it's -- yeah.
2 It's a very, very large district, District 36. It
3 extends, as you said, all the way from the Canadian
4 border down the Yukon River to Holy Cross, down south
5 almost to Valdez and north to Chalkyitsik, Venetie
6 across the south slope of the Brooks Range, the
7 (indiscernible) River drainage, most of the Yukon River
8 drainage. It's very, very vast. And the Kuskokwim
9 River down as far as, I believe -- is it Stony River or
10 thereabouts?
11 So it is an incredibly large district, but
12 that's a result of the geography and the population
13 that we have.
14 MR. PERREAULT: And it's important to keep in
15 mind that that vastness does not necessarily include
16 the ability of the socioeconomic integration, and
17 rural communities, whether they're on the Alaska
18 Highway road- -- road belt or they're out to the
19 Kuskokwim Valley, have much less in common despite the
20 sparseness of our Valley than we do. We have much
21 more in common with Fairbanks and the borough, and we
22 should be integrated with them because we already are
23 socially and we are politically.
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: And I would certainly
25 agree with you, John, but your Borough Assembly has been

Page 97

1 clear that they wanted to move about 4,000 people out of
2 the borough into that larger district so that you can
3 achieve a much less deviation and get to "one person,
4 one vote," and that's the dilemma that we find ourselves
5 in, is that Fairbanks has approximately the population
6 for 5.2 seats, and so that .2, which translates to about
7 4,000 people, need to be moved outside the borough,
8 really, to comply with the resolution that the Fairbanks
9 North Star Borough passed here just a week ago.
10 MR. PERREAULT: Yes. It was just a couple of
11 days ago. I attended that meeting as well. I think
12 that it's important to point out that Southeast Borough
13 Salcha has a lot more to do with Delta and the Alaska
14 Highway/Richardson corridor than the northwestern part
15 of Fairbanks does.
16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. We can certainly
17 discuss that as we go along, but I appreciate your
18 comments and your testimony. Thank you, John.
19 MR. PERREAULT: Thank you.
20 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Nicole Eisemam, or
21 "Eisemam."
22 MS. EISEMAM: Hi.
23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Excuse me, Nicole.
24 MS. EISEMAM: Yes. I'm here. Can you hear me?
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We can. Loud and clear.

Page 98

1 Thank you, Nicole.
2 MS. EISEMAM: Okay. Wonderful.
3 My name is Nikki Eisemam. I've lived on the
4 west side of Fairbanks for going on 50 years,
5 50 years, (indiscernible) and Ester, and I've done all
6 the things you do in those 50 years.
7 I'm glad to see the current plan no longer
8 overpopulates Fairbanks, but I remain concerned about
9 what many of the Fairbanks calls have been concerned
10 about. The residents of Goldstream Valley share
11 strong socioeconomic ties with Ester, Chena Pump,
12 Chena Ridge, and the University of Alaska. The
13 community on the west side of Fairbanks should share
14 representation.
15 Now, I, too, have only heard of what the
16 current maps are because they haven't been posted, but
17 I'm going on -- on what I've been hearing, and that,
18 you know, Goldstream is currently represented with
19 Interior Alaska, Tok, and Delta, which would not be
20 represented for either residents of Goldstream, Tok,
21 or Delta. UAF is a huge economic engine for the
22 Fairbanks community and the entire state, and it's
23 deserving of full advocacy and representation. As
24 others have suggested, a more representative grouping
25 would populate Tok and Delta with Salcha, Eielson, and

Page 99

1 Harding Lake.
2 Again, in a previous redistricting cycle,
3 there was a district that paired Goldstream with rural
4 communities and was ruled unconstitutional, so I
5 question the wisdom of proposing a plan that is likely
6 to be ruled unconstitutional again.
7 The new board -- the new plan creates a North
8 Pole District that goes all the way into Fairbanks.
9 Again, Fairbanks and North Pole are really quite
10 distinct communities. I've knocked on a lot of doors
11 while campaigning for Senate (indiscernible) and had a
12 lot of conversations. And so this is my lived
13 experience that they are -- that they're separate.
14 I'm going to do two things. That's the end of
15 my quick testimony. I have been frustrated that --
16 you know, I got on the phone at 9:00 this morning. I
17 understand that you were with counsel to try -- you
18 know, be in Executive Session. I understand that.
19 But this has been incredibly Anchorage-centric time
20 this morning.
21 You've spent a lot of time talking about two
22 maps that were Anchorage, then you did a revision and
23 talked again about that. You heard from everybody in
24 the room first who was from Anchorage, and even though
25 I did hear murmuring, "Oh, let's switch back and forth

Page 100

1 from people in the room and people who are online";
2 you know, Anchorage already takes up so much of the
3 air in the room of the state of Alaska, and this was
4 really disheartening for me to feel more, you know,
5 that that just happened again.
6 And -- and very respectfully to the Chair,
7 since we have such limited time, you said we only have
8 an hour for public testimony. It's been disheartening
9 to hear you use this time to make your point and talk
10 about the difficulty of the process. I fully
11 appreciate how hard this task is, but, you know, in
12 listening to public testimony at a prior public
13 hearing in Fairbanks, and again a little bit, I felt
14 like you were using your position from the Chair to
15 grill people who were speaking, which is not
16 appropriate, and, again, to talk about the difficulty
17 of the task.
18 So I hope you take that with good intentions
19 and we can all make this process the best that it can
20 be. Thank you so much.
21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I do. Thank you, Nikki.
22 Next online is Alyssa Clinton.
23 MS. CLINTON: Can you hear me?
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We can.
25 MS. CLINTON: All right. Well, thank you very

Page 101

1 much. My name is Alyssa Clinton. I'm a community
2 organizer here in Fairbanks, and I really just want to
3 echo all of my fellow Fairbanks and Interior folks are
4 concerned.
5 I really appreciate the context that the Board
6 has been able to give us in terms of the resolution
7 and the dilemma that not just the Board is facing but
8 our community is facing, but I do have to make my
9 stand as someone who's lived in the Interior for
10 20 years and whose job is to understand the nuances
11 and the relationships of our communities and how we
12 work together.
13 Putting Goldstream with communities that
14 literally live on the Yukon and have to check their
15 fish traps and don't live in an organized borough, so
16 they have to kind of fend for themselves, doesn't
17 really make a lot of sense. Taking Eielson and Salcha
18 away from North Pole and putting North Pole with
19 Fairbanks in the same district doesn't really make a
20 lot of sense.
21 And I know we have Interior representation on
22 this board, and I'm just really confused how none of
23 these things are really being discussed, especially
24 when our communities have said multiple different
25 times, "Hey, that's not going to work for us."

Page 102

1 I one hundred percent agree with Robin's
2 testimony earlier that the AFFR map is one of the best
3 versions I've seen that truly represents not just the
4 socioeconomic ties that the Interior has, but also the
5 racial and cultural demographics that our communities
6 have tied together; you know, West Fairbanks is West
7 Fairbanks for a reason, and so is East and so is
8 South; right? That's because we all live and work
9 together. That's where our schools are. That's how
10 our roads are laid out, and taking communities and
11 splitting them up across those boundaries, you know,
12 to -- you know, point to deviation is detrimental,
13 because like I said in my past testimony, you're,
14 then, asking communities to compete with each other in
15 terms of emergency services, resource allocation and
16 representation, and that is not fair, equitable for...
17 So I'd just urge you all to think about that
18 again. Thanks.
19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Thank you,
20 Alyssa.
21 We're going to go to Celeste Hodge-Growden in
22 Anchorage. Celeste, are you online?
23 MS. HODGE-GROWDEN: I am. I am.
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Hello.
25 MS. HODGE-GROWDEN: Hello. Good afternoon,

Page 103

1 everyone. My name is Celeste Hodge-Growden, and I am
2 the president and CEO of the Alaska Black Caucus. The
3 Alaska Black Caucus is a non-profit 501(c)(3)
4 organization that champions the lives of black people in
5 the areas of health, economic, justice, and education.
6 I have to agree with so much that have shared
7 already. This has been a very difficult and
8 frustrating experience to just testify, to allow our
9 voice to be heard.
10 I am calling to express my strong opposition
11 to the Anchorage map proposed by Member Marcum.
12 Marcum's map denied BIPOC -- and that's Black,
13 Indigenous, People of Color, for those that don't
14 know -- representation for the next decade by
15 sacrificing representation of communities of color to
16 ensure partisan power. This is outrageous and can
17 violate provisions of the Voting Rights Act that
18 protect minority representation.
19 Marcum's map completely ignored the many hours
20 of public testimony and has rearranged East Anchorage,
21 Muldoon, and Mountain View without allowing the public
22 the opportunity to testify on these new changes. This
23 map is nothing more or nothing less than a hack job of
24 the most diverse neighborhoods in Anchorage.
25 African Americans, Alaska Natives, Pacific

Page 104

1 Islanders and other communities of color may represent
2 small portions of the overall population in any
3 Anchorage house district. Our voices should not be
4 diminished by partisan gerrymandering that separates
5 us from other minorities with like interests, and with
6 whom we work together and collaborate on social,
7 justice, education, and community projects.
8 Other problems with Marcum's map puts part of
9 the East Anchorage around the Muldoon curve into a
10 South Anchorage District --
11 And I appreciate the timer is going off, but
12 like those that went before me, I'm going to finish
13 what I have to say.
14 -- you have to drive through four other
15 districts to get to the rest of this proposed
16 district. Again, East Anchorage is socioeconomically
17 distinct from South Anchorage. Most of the remainder
18 of East Anchorage is placed with JBER in an odd, long,
19 diagonally shaped district.
20 This part of East Anchorage is one of the most
21 racially diverse areas in the country and diluting
22 minority voices in this manner could run afoul of the
23 Voting Rights Act. The map does not respect the
24 diverse communities in East Anchorage and Mountain
25 View. Taken together, this slicing and dicing of East

Page 105

1 Anchorage represents an egregious gerrymander and
2 reduces the voice of East Anchorage residents.
3 In summary, I support Member Borr- --
4 Borromeo's Version 4 Map over Member Marcum because it
5 respects individual neighborhood boundaries, does not
6 split East Anchorage into Eagle River and South
7 Anchorage and provides better opportunities to elect
8 representation that reflects the diversity of our
9 community.
10 Thank you so much.
11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Celeste.
12 Any questions for Celeste? Okay. We'll move
13 back to Fairbanks.
14 Kelvin Rogers.
15 MR. ROGERS: Hello? Can you hear me?
16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yes, we can, Kelvin.
17 MR. ROGERS: Hi. I wanted to call in to
18 testify.
19 First off, my frustration with the process of
20 testifying today. I do work 9:00 to 5:00, and I've
21 been listening with an ear pod, and it's gone out of
22 battery twice waiting for a chance to speak.
23 In the interim, I haven't been able to look at
24 any of the maps because I'm working, and maps for only
25 Anchorage were posted on the website during the extent

Page 106

1 of the calls. In order for people like me be able to
2 speak in a meaningful fashion with regard to the maps,
3 we need them at least the evening before, and I'd like
4 the whole maps. My understanding through the
5 testimony, is that we haven't even gotten what the
6 final version of Fairbanks is going to look like.
7 Myself and many others testified that clumping
8 together Goldstream and University makes sense and
9 should be done, and that including North Pole with
10 Fairbanks is nonsensical. I hope that those changes
11 have been made, but I can't find them.
12 I'd also like to complain that Version 3 is
13 even still being discussed. I've listened to three
14 public testimonies so far and heard near unanimous
15 derision of the Version 3 Map with support for Version
16 4 and the AFFR Version. The fact that we are now
17 looking at Version 3 and Version 4 instead of Version
18 4 and AFFR is frustrating and mind-boggling.
19 I -- I think that's everything I wanted to add
20 to, but as I said, I didn't have a chance to prepare
21 notes or look at the maps myself.
22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Kelvin.
23 Okay. Next is Former Mayor Luke Hopkins.
24 Luke, are you on?
25 MR. HOPKINS: Yes. Thank you very much.

Page 107

1 I am Luke Hopkins, and I am the former mayor,
2 and I do wanted to bring up a point, if I may, to
3 start with, a resolution that you spoke to, John, that
4 the Borough Assembly just passed, that also states the
5 whereas existing communities of interest should be
6 represented based on city boundaries, geographical
7 proximity, and interconnected neighbors that share
8 concerned interests and values.
9 And then the last part of (indiscernible), it
10 resolved to further request contiguous and compact
11 districts that keep communities of interest together,
12 and that's what I want to speak to right now -- right
13 now, are the -- the communities of interest, which is
14 in Goldstream Valley, where I live and have lived for
15 almost 60 years, and have been, of course, as -- as
16 you know, subject to the district that went all the
17 way out to the -- almost to the west coast of Alaska
18 that was called unconstitutional when a portion of
19 Goldstream Valley and Ester area was put into that
20 huge district.
21 So, again, we have the pushing of Goldstream
22 Valley, or all of Goldstream Valley where -- where I
23 still live, being -- being associated with a gigantic
24 district, and I want to speak to -- that that is not
25 appropriate, and I find that it's not compact and

Page 108

1 contiguous with the socioeconomic areas that I've been
2 associated with all of those years that I have been in
3 Alaska, right here in Goldstream Valley.
4 And I do have a concern that the -- with some
5 board comments, I believe, yesterday, that spoke about
6 that we don't have to have terribly -- don't be
7 terribly concerned about socioeconomic integration of
8 the borough, and I believe they were speaking about
9 the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and that really
10 upsets me a lot because that's exactly what all of the
11 people testifying about the Fairbanks area right now,
12 over some -- District 36, or -- or the current
13 proposal that I can't even see online, Version 4 Best
14 or Version 3 Best, except for a static map of -- of
15 the Anchorage area. I'm very disappointed that I
16 can't see it, but I did have a screen caption from
17 somebody that was online yesterday, and that's how I'm
18 aware of this.
19 And I just find that in -- so when I was
20 there, or Borough Assembly, I found that the areas
21 that were outside of the borough -- to be able to
22 allow "one person, one vote," outside of the borough
23 boundaries, I have not heard -- I have not heard
24 concerns about those areas the way I have heard about
25 redistricting process right now with the western part

Page 109

1 of the Fairbanks North Star Borough being separated
2 into this new district.
3 And, of course, the -- the idea that North
4 Pole would be -- the district would be associated with
5 the Fairbanks area population as socioeconomic
6 connections, I find that very surprising because
7 that's not the experience I've had in -- in our
8 borough. And I would like to associate myself with
9 the comments that have been made with -- with others
10 from our Fairbanks area.
11 So -- so with that, I will be submitting my
12 public comment, but I certainly find that any eastern
13 part of the Fairbanks North Star Borough could be much
14 easier associated with Delta, Tok than -- than the
15 Goldstream Valley, which when we do try to travel by
16 road, we end up going (indiscernible) south all the
17 way into Anchorage as opposed to out into this new
18 district that's being proposed.
19 So I certainly hope that we in Fairbanks will
20 be able to see these Best 4 -- or Version 4 Best and
21 Version 3 Best so that we can continue making comments
22 as you attempt to come up with a map of -- final map
23 by next week.
24 Thank you very much.
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Page 110

1 Next is Louis Bishop (phonetic). Oh, it says
2 unavailable here.
3 Elyse. Elyse Guttenberg.
4 MS. GUTTENBERG: Can you hear me?
5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We can.
6 MS. GUTTENBERG: Hi. Thank you, and thanks for
7 taking my call. I have been on since 9:00 this morning,
8 and in that regard, I'd like to associate myself with
9 Nikki Eiseman, Savannah Fletcher, and everybody else
10 calling in from Fairbanks on how difficult this process
11 has been and frustrating.
12 We do not see the Fairbanks maps. We have spent
13 all this time listening to Anchorage, and I would like
14 to -- before I have to (indiscernible) I have to start
15 talking, make sure that you hear from me as you have
16 been very clearly from everybody who lives in Fairbanks,
17 that it's inappropriate to cut Goldstream off from the
18 rest of Fairbanks and put it in a rural district, and I
19 have total respect for the rural districts.
20 But I live ten minutes from the university. To
21 get to Tok, I have to drive four hours. I -- my kids go
22 to school here. I live here. I shop here. That meets
23 everything about the definition of socioeconomic and
24 the need for the district to be whole. So to -- to
25 cut -- cut Fairbanks off -- cut Goldstream off from

Page 111

1 Fairbanks and communities (indiscernible), I find very
2 problematic.
3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you.
4 MS. GUTTENBERG: I -- I'm also -- I'm frustrated
5 by the time that you have been taking up debating
6 everybody response's as they call in.
7 So thank you. That's all.
8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Thank you, Elyse.
9 I'll try not to debate, and I won't ask any more
10 questions or try to give anymore information. I
11 appreciate that.
12 Jacqueline Debevec.
13 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Mr. Chair.
14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah?
15 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Melanie has a
16 question.
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Melanie?
18 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Before she starts,
19 can I offer a suggestion?
20 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Sure.
21 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I know we have
22 about 31 more people in line to testify, and given the
23 frustrations that we're hearing, I suggest that we allow
24 them all to -- you know, all of them at least two
25 minutes instead of cutting off at a hard hour. I don't

Page 112

1 mind if we have to stay later, myself. As part of the
2 public process, I would like to hear from everybody.
3 I do, however, request that if we're going to
4 do that, we take a short bathroom break. I don't know
5 how that other members of the Board feel about
6 allowing everybody that's all here waiting to testify.
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Other board members?
8 Nicole?
9 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Mr. Chairman,
10 given that Alaskans have been waiting online since
11 9:00 a.m. this morning, taking days of PTO, having their
12 electronics die not once but twice, I think that's a
13 fair recommendation. I'm happy to support it.
14 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Same here.
15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yep.
16 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: No opposition.
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yep. I think we're all
18 in agreement. So we'll stay as long as it takes, but we
19 have had a request to take a restroom break, so we're
20 going to --
21 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I don't mind --
22 she's ready to testify, so we can -- I can hold it for a
23 couple minutes.
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Jacqueline?
25 Jacqueline, are you on?

Page 113

1 MS. DEBEVEC: Can you hear me?
2 We can, Jacqueline.
3 MS. DEBEVEC: Okay. Okay.
4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Can you give us your
5 last name for the record, too, please?
6 MS. DEBEVEC: Sure. Jacqueline Debevec, and
7 I've lived in the Goldstream area for over 25 years.
8 And I agree with John and Savannah and Kasey and Luke.
9 So all of the folks that have talked about Goldstream, I
10 totally agree with that.
11 We are a distinct community. I've worked --
12 my husband and I have worked in -- at UAF for all this
13 time that we've been here, and it is a distinct
14 community. So please keep us together. That makes
15 sense.
16 I totally -- I heard from the Calista guy, you
17 know, that they want the Interior to -- for their
18 voice, and they certainly need to be heard as well, so
19 somehow make that happen and then keep us together.
20 And then also the same thing with North Pole
21 and Fairbanks. They are two distinct univers- --
22 sections. I did advising for the university, and I --
23 you know, I heard people from all over Fairbanks and
24 North Pole area, so I know the distinctions, so if
25 we'd do that. I appreciate, you know, the hard part

Page 114

1 about doing all of this, but just like people have
2 said, you know, Delta, Tok, Salcha, Southeast -- I
3 mean, those guys kind of think more alike and are
4 socioeconomically connected.
5 I definitely like the AFFR map. I think that
6 that's represented. And I know you heard a lot from
7 the assembly or something, but what about all of us
8 that are testifying and have spent the time writing
9 letters to you? So please give us our due as well.
10 And Savannah is -- Fletcher is part of the assembly
11 now, so she should have an additional voice, I guess,
12 for that.
13 So thank you, and go take your pee break.
14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Thank you,
15 Jacqueline.
16 We're going to stand by for just a couple of
17 minutes.
18 (Off record.)
19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Let me make sure we're
20 not on mute here, or just --
21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: (Indiscernible) --
22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- would you check that?
23 Okay.
24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: -- one minute.
25 Danae is listening.

Page 115

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Danae, we are
2 ready to get started again.
3 MS. BURNS: Hi. This is Danae. I am listening.
4 And Peter is unmuted, so he may be muted on his end.
5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Thank you, Danae.
6 MS. BURNS: You're welcome.
7 MR. MILLER: Hello?
8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. Hi, Peter.
9 MR. MILLER: This is Peter.
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. We can hear you.
11 MR. MILLER: Can you hear me?
12 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yes, we can.
13 MR. MILLER: Okay. For some reason I can hear
14 you through the (indiscernible), but I can't hear you
15 through my phone.
16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I don't know what to say
17 about that.
18 MR. MILLER: I'm talking through my phone.
19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Maybe -- I don't know.
20 Is it Skype? Maybe turn Skype off and put it on mute?
21 I don't know.
22 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Or just proceed
23 because we can hear him.
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah, we can hear you.
25 There's a bit of an echo, but go ahead.

Page 116

1 MR. MILLER: Okay. So the main reason for my
2 testimony today is the choice to separate Goldstream
3 from the rest of Fairbanks. I don't live in Goldstream,
4 but I've lived my whole life right down the street in
5 the university (indiscernible), and I grew up going to
6 elementary school middle school, high school, playing
7 sports, (indiscernible) a lot of my best friends in
8 Goldstream.
9 Anyone who's lived here for any amount of time
10 can tell you, as you've heard from different people,
11 that Goldstream is just as much a part of Fairbanks as
12 that town, and to pretend that it doesn't share common
13 community interests with the rest -- with the rest of
14 Fairbanks, (indiscernible) complete disservice and
15 hindrance to our community's ability to mobilize and
16 work together (indiscernible).
17 Like many have said, Goldstream supports UAF.
18 **A lot of people who work at the university live there,**
19 **but also people from Goldstream work all over**
20 **Fairbanks, and people from all over Fairbanks go out**
21 **to Goldstream for work and different things and**
22 **recreation.**
23 **And so the citizens of Goldstream deserve to**
24 **have representation (indiscernible), and if you take**
25 **that away, it'll be really getting an entire region of**

Page 117

1 **Fairbanks to second-class citizenship without any real**
2 **representation with the governing body that affects**
3 **them the most, and I just think that that**
4 **(indiscernible) other people that have testified,**
5 **(indiscernible) in my testimony.**
6 **Also, I just want to (indiscernible) the**
7 **frustrations that, you know, I've been on the phone**
8 **here waiting for, like, almost five hours. And also**
9 **my headphones, I've had to charge over and over again.**
10 **It's taken a lot of time out of my day.**
11 **And, yeah, I just wish that the process would**
12 **have been easier, like everyone else. So thank you.**
13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Thank you, Peter.
14 We'll go to Bill Moser (as spoken).
15 MR. MOSER: Yes. Hello. Can you hear me?
16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We can, Bill.
17 MR. MOSER: Okay. Thank you. My name is
18 Phillip Moser. I'm testifying from Juneau. I'd like to
19 testify in support of Version 4, and I think the main
20 point of my testimony today would be that I think
21 Version 3 should be discounted or thrown out. I'm tired
22 of hearing of it (indiscernible) instead of the version
23 initially -- the reference into this from my area,
24 (indiscernible) own district.
25 Since then, I feel like I've been hearing

Page 118

1 testimony over and over from around the state about
2 unconstitutional issues and issues that could
3 potentially run up against civil rights with this
4 particular map. I don't know what it is particularly
5 about how this map is being drawn, but even now, with
6 it being reworked and reworked at this late point in
7 the game -- so I think it's time to -- I don't think
8 it's sound.
9 The Democratic Party's (indiscernible) was
10 thrown out very early on in the process for much fewer
11 issues than this map had repeatedly come up against,
12 whether (indiscernible) for Fairbanks, for Anchorage,
13 or the rural communities that have appeared at this
14 vantage
15 I support Version 4, and I think Version 3
16 just needs to be discounted at this point.
17 Thank you.
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Thank you,
19 Phillip.
20 We'll go to Former Representative David
21 Guttenberg in Fairbanks.
22 David?
23 MR. GUTTENBERG: Can you hear me?
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We can. We can hear
25 you.

Page 119

1 MR. GUTTENBERG: Okay. Thank you. Thank you.
2 My name is David Guttenberg. I currently
3 serve on the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly.
4 I'm not representing the borough. I also served
5 16 years in the Legislature, from 2003 to 2019.
6 I represented three different districts, on
7 the three different redistricting maps, one of which
8 was the declared unconstitutional by the Alaska
9 Supreme Court, and you've heard a lot of people talk
10 about my -- that district at that time. That was
11 District 38.
12 (Indiscernible) my community of Goldstream in
13 Fairbanks and took as much of the Yukon River,
14 McGrath, along the coast, Alaska coast, from Kotlik to
15 Hooper Bay. Now, imagine that. Look at a map of
16 Alaska. First circle around Fairbanks. Circle the
17 Yukon River to -- to Emmonak. Extend that line a
18 hundred miles north and south along the coast. That
19 was District 20 -- 38 in 2012.
20 You're repeating that map that looked like
21 that district that was previously declared
22 unconstitutional. The district simply had too many
23 distinct socioeconomic centers. Now you're repeating
24 the same unconstitutional mistakes by breaking up
25 socioeconomic and political boundaries and

Page 120

1 disfranchising communities across the state.
2 You know the consequences of that, and I do.
3 When you repeat what was done in 2010, you repeat
4 those same mistakes. You disenfranchise a community.
5 You're forcing underrepresentation regardless of the
6 population deviation. The ability to represent --
7 representative or senator to represent such diverse
8 interests forces underrepresent- --
9 underrepresentation. It's inevitable. When you break
10 socio- -- natural socioeconomic and political
11 boundaries when you don't have to, you're forcing
12 inequality. It's not fair representation.
13 The 2013 proclamation constitution map was a
14 fix to that issue. That is a good representation of
15 Fairbanks. I'm asking you not to do that again. It's
16 hard to keep up with the current maps. You were
17 drawing them as I was listening -- I listened this
18 morning. You were drawing them last time in my
19 testimony -- I'm sorry. I'll be sending this
20 (indiscernible) copy into you.
21 Thank you.
22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, David.
23 Alex Baker in Anchorage.
24 MR. BAKER: Can you hear me, Mr. Chairman?
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yes, we can, Alex. Go

Page 121

1 ahead and proceed.
2 MR. BAKER: Hi. My name is Alex Baker. I'm a
3 resident of Fairview. I'm testifying on behalf of Board
4 Map Version 4 Best. It is the best map for my
5 community. I testified at the first Anchorage meeting
6 early -- early October, I believe it was.
7 There was only one member of the Redistricting
8 Board at the table at that point, and they happened to
9 be the author of Board Map Version 4 Best. They took
10 my testimony into account, and based on my research of
11 other neighbors, citizens of Fairview, the testimony
12 of a lot of people in my community, and it's clear to
13 me that Board Map Version 4 evolves with the process.
14 And I commend you all for going around the state and
15 taking public testimony into account, especially Board
16 Map Version 4. So that would be my preferred map.
17 And I do think, when you talk about that
18 process, I (indiscernible) to Fairbanks as well.
19 Going around the state and listening to public
20 testimony is one thing, but the second half of that
21 public process is evolving with the testimony and they
22 can edit, reflect the feedback you're hearing.
23 So thank you for the opportunity to testify,
24 and thank you.
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Thank you, Alex.

Page 122

1 Next is Representative Zack Fields from
2 Alaska. Representative Fields?
3 MR. FIELDS: Thanks, Chairman Binkley, and
4 thanks, Board Members, for a very rigorous travel
5 schedule.
6 I'm calling to express concern about the maps
7 that's presented today, final Version v.3. I share
8 Board Member Borromeo's concern with v.3 has not been
9 public vetted. It is quite different from previous
10 Version v.3; however, even with the limited time to
11 review it, this much is clear about v.3: v.3 is less
12 compact than v.4 Best, which is what appears to be
13 similar levels of population deviation.
14 As a result of being a rushed product, v.3 has
15 numerous messy and illogical lines between districts,
16 including a jagged line cutting through Fairview,
17 sloppy divisions of neighborhoods within Turnagain and
18 South Anchorage. It also seems clear that v.3 was
19 originally intended to gerrymander or represent
20 neither (indiscernible) district, create a safer
21 public (indiscernible) out of East Anchorage and Eagle
22 River. This morning, v.3 also attempted to
23 gerrymander me, Matt Claman, Harriet Drummond, Tom
24 Begich in the same district.
25 Constitutional parameters, legal guidance, and

Page 123

1 your public process has forced v.3 to abandon some of
2 the problematic partisan objectives, and that's -- and
3 that's credit to you and that's credit to the process;
4 however, the v.3 before us still uses the partisan
5 gerrymander to target Representatives Spohnholz and
6 Snyder, including by packing democrats into
7 neighboring districts.
8 The result of starting with a partisan
9 gerrymander, is v.3 ends up being less compact than
10 v.4 Best. If v.3 really sought low population
11 deviation, the Senate Minority Map actually does a
12 better job, a low deviation and the goal of v.3.
13 And the Board should follow constitutional
14 guidance, rather than allowing partisanship to drive
15 any aspect of the process. The Board has multiple
16 constitutional options before it, and even though it
17 might be inconvenient for certain incumbent elected
18 officials, that includes me, I -- I would share a
19 district with another incumbent if v.4 was adopted.
20 Nonetheless, v.4 does appear to be the best
21 constitutional map.
22 I want to close by saying if I looked at
23 Anchorage v.4, the v.4 Best, I would conclude that
24 whoever drew them had no idea where incumbents live,
25 no idea about the partisanship in different precincts,

Page 124

1 but was very cognizant of Anchorage's distinct
2 neighbors in that natural geographic dividing line.
3 So to be blind of partisanship but cognizant of our
4 neighborhoods, that's an amazing achievement.
5 And I just want to thank the Board for their
6 hard work, and I appreciate the opportunity to
7 testify.
8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you,
9 Representative Fields.
10 Next one on the list is -- let's see -- that's
11 available, is John Nelson from Wasilla. Mr. Nelson
12 from Wasilla, are you with us?
13 If not, we're going to go to Telli (as spoken)
14 -- excuse me, Kelli Toth in Chugiak.
15 MS. TOTH: Hi. Thank you. Can you hear me
16 okay?
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We can, Kelli.
18 MS. TOTH: Thank you, Chairman Binkley and
19 Board. I appreciate the opportunity to testify. I'm
20 representing myself today. I am a resident of Chugiak,
21 and I've tried, this morning, to follow what the changes
22 were. I did receive the new map update, but it looked
23 like the v.3 Alternative and v.4 Best was Anchorage
24 specific, so it was hard for me to -- to decipher how
25 that was going to affect our area.

Page 125

1 I would like to associate with the comments of
2 the gentleman who lived off of Boundary and who was a
3 military veteran, in that people in our area, in the
4 Chugiak/Eagle River area, a lot of our population
5 lives there and works on JBER.
6 And personally, in my area, it's interesting,
7 the socioeconomic integration, because in the way I'm
8 districted now, I'm actually districted with the
9 Mat-Su. So my interests don't -- talking about the
10 school board issues and what's happening in the Valley
11 doesn't exactly apply to me. I would more align
12 better with an Anchorage School District or what is
13 happening in Anchorage.
14 So I hope that -- I prefer the v.3
15 Alternative, I believe because of that reason, because
16 it would integrate Chugiak, Eagle River, and JBER
17 together. It makes more sense for that to be
18 integrated in, especially when looking at the
19 socioeconomic integration situation.
20 So I look forward to seeing entire map and how
21 it affects our entire state, and I think the staff for
22 their hard work and keeping us all up to date with
23 your e-mail alerts. It's been very helpful.
24 Thank you.
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Thank you, Kelli.

Page 126

1 Next on the list is -- excuse me just a second
2 while I move to the right spot here -- it looks like
3 Kendra Kloster or "Kloster."
4 MS. KLOSTER: Hi. Yes. Kendra Kloster. Can
5 you hear me okay?
6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We can, Kendra.
7 MS. KLOSTER: Great. Thank you so much.
8 So, Kendra Kloster. I live, work, and play on
9 (indiscernible), more specifically here in East
10 Anchorage. I wear multiple hats in the community,
11 President of the Russian Jack Community Council, part
12 of the Muldoon Farmers Market, and also Executive
13 Director of an indigenous non-profit. So lots of
14 different hats in the community.
15 Specific to the -- the map with Anchorage and
16 (indiscernible), the current map with v.4 looking like
17 that would be the best opportunity for us right now.
18 East Anchorage is very diverse. We have over 100
19 languages spoken within our high schools and within
20 our communities, and so I highly recommend that
21 those -- our community within East Anchorage are kept
22 together. I don't think that we share, kind of -- I
23 think within that district, we'd be diluting our
24 voices with East Anchorage if we're going to be
25 included all with -- with Eagle River or within South

Page 127

1 Anchorage. So that is the best map that is currently
2 on the table for us within East Anchorage to ensure
3 that our voices will be heard and our -- many of our
4 distinct districts are kept together.
5 I also just want to share that I'm hearing a
6 lot of what's happening there in Fairbanks as well. I
7 just want to stretch my support for the neighbors up
8 in Fairbanks and hearing what they're saying. I think
9 it's really important that the Board listen to the
10 people within the communities, as we know our home
11 lands very well, and taking the time to call in to
12 really voice our opinions about this because we know
13 and love our homelands of where we are currently
14 living and think that they are really the experts
15 on -- on the areas that we live.
16 So I hope that you take a lot of these
17 considerations when making your decisions on these
18 maps. I appreciate your work.
19 And I also just want to say that I hope that
20 we continue to have additional call-ins, especially
21 for our rural areas as well. As being an indigenous
22 person, I really respect a lot of our voices
23 throughout the entire state, and I know there's been
24 some difficulties with rural communities not having
25 the opportunity to call in, board members going out a

Page 128

1 little bit later. So I do hope in the future that we
2 can ensure to get the information out as soon as
3 possible so people can be able to call in and
4 participate.
5 But, again, thank you for the opportunity and
6 for staying there to take all of our public testimony.
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Kendra.
8 Next is Tanner Amdur-Clark with Doyon
9 Redistricting Coalition. Tanner, are you online?
10 MR. AMDUR-CLARK: I am, Mr. Chairman. For the
11 record, this is Tanner Amdur-Clark.
12 Before I begin, I just want to double-check
13 and make sure you guys can hear me okay.
14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We can. Five by five.
15 MR. AMDUR-CLARK: Excellent. Thank you.
16 So today I think I want to address three quick
17 points, and they're all intended to help you get
18 through this process efficiently as you can; one, with
19 respect to Western Alaska. It begs the question of
20 the socioeconomic integration between the, kind of,
21 western area of Doyon ANCSA region and with the coast.
22 That affects two of your major decisions. One
23 is kind of the question about Chevak, Hooper Bay, and
24 Scammon Bay and whether it's feasible to include those
25 in the Bethel -- Bethel District. And I think it's

Page 129

1 not worth your -- your time to continue having to
2 address that, because it just really isn't possible to
3 do in a way that creates socioeconomic integration for
4 the region as a whole, and therefore would be
5 unconstitutional.
6 The second, kind of, point has to do with
7 Fairbanks. Again, for the point of efficiency and
8 trying to get into a socioeconomically integrated map
9 as a whole, when you look at the question of that .2
10 of a district, that are .2 of a district that has to
11 go outside of the Fairbanks North Star Borough.
12 You've heard loud and clear, I think, from the
13 residents of Fairbanks that that should not be -- that
14 population should not be coming from the western part
15 of the borough. I think our coalition would echo
16 that. We, as a coalition, which includes Doyon, TCC,
17 and Fairbanks Native Association, all of whom are
18 headquartered in Fairbanks, have spoken very clearly
19 about where we think that population should come from.
20 If there -- if -- you know, that option is not going
21 to be considered by the Board, I think Board Version
22 v.4 presents a better solution than Board Version v.3
23 as far as we can tell where it is now.
24 With respect to Anchorage, last second, we
25 spent a lot of time talking to the Anchorage community

Page 130

1 councils in Anchorage, and Board Version v.4 is
 2 aligned with what we heard from the people of
 3 Anchorage much more than Board Version v.3.
 4 So thank you for your time, and I appreciate
 5 all of the hard work that you've put in over this --
 6 this --
 7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Great. Thank you,
 8 Tanner, and thank you for your time that you've
 9 personally put into this, as well as the Doyon
 10 Coalition. We appreciate that.
 11 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: May I ask a quick
 12 question?
 13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yes. We have a question
 14 from Bethany.
 15 Bethany?
 16 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Thank you. Yes.
 17 Tanner, so I just wanted to make sure I --
 18 because I believe a couple of days ago we looked at
 19 quite a few different iterations of changes to address
 20 the issue that you raised of Chevak, Hooper Bay, and
 21 Scammon Bay. The versions that you -- as far as you
 22 know that we have that your consensus on -- for the
 23 Doyon villages and that area, do both of those contain
 24 or do either of those leave out any of the villages
 25 that you are considered about? Is there anything that

Page 131

1 we should be aware of in terms of any Doyon villages
 2 that are not included within that -- those maps?
 3 MR. AMDUR-CLARK: No. So -- so the purposes
 4 of that, it's in an area of the state, the border
 5 between District 36, District 37, and District 38.
 6 Version 3 and Board Version 4 are identical, and then
 7 there were some -- some changes patterned on Board
 8 Version 3 -- excuse me -- District 37, and those don't
 9 impact the area of the state that I was talking about.
 10 Later, then, you spent some time trying to
 11 play around with doing some switches from Board
 12 Version 3 and 4 to -- that would require taking
 13 population into the Nome District from Interior
 14 villages, and as Board Member Bahnke pointed out
 15 repeatedly, and correct me, that would be
 16 unconstitutional and not socioeconomically integrated.
 17 So there really isn't a way to do it, so you
 18 have limited time where -- where you -- where you can
 19 make changes that would be constitutional.
 20 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Can I follow up?
 21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Say again?
 22 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Can I follow up.
 23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Oh, please. Yeah.
 24 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I'm sorry if my
 25 question wasn't clear. So the -- for the -- the Doyon

Page 132

1 villages, are they -- on both maps, are they all
 2 captured within the maps that, as far as you know, the
 3 Board has consensus on at this point?
 4 MR. AMDUR-CLARK: I'm sorry --
 5 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: (Indiscernible).
 6 MR. AMDUR-CLARK: -- I cut out at the beginning
 7 part of that.
 8 But my -- my understanding of what the -- what
 9 the Board has kind of had consensus on, to trying to
 10 make the -- the Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay
 11 switched. We -- we don't have any problem with that.
 12 That -- that would be just fine, from our perspective,
 13 as to the eastern border of District 38 and northern
 14 border of 37.
 15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I'm not sure I
 16 understood that.
 17 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I think part of
 18 the confusion is that we don't have a statewide version
 19 of what the latest -- and also he might be referring to
 20 the map that you attempted to draw, Mr. Chairman, as
 21 part of the --
 22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I think that's on the
 23 web right now, so maybe we can just get --
 24 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: The state- -- the
 25 statewide one is on the web?

Page 133

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. The statewide one
 2 is on the web.
 3 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I wonder if
 4 they're able to pull those up.
 5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We might not have
 6 understood what you were saying there, Tanner. Were you
 7 saying that you didn't have a problem with that, putting
 8 Chevak, Scammon, and Hooper...
 9 MR. AMDUR-CLARK: In with Bethel, yes, I do have
 10 a problem with that.
 11 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Okay.
 12 MR. AMDUR-CLARK: That necessitates -- that
 13 necessitates putting Doyon Interior villages in with --
 14 with Nome. And I'm sorry if I wasn't clear. That is
 15 unconstitutional and (indiscernible).
 16 So my point was to -- the Board should have
 17 consensus on sticking with the v.3 and v.4 or slight
 18 modifications to it for Western Alaska around the
 19 state, or use our borders that we provided, but -- but
 20 not -- not trying to do -- do more than that.
 21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Did you get your
 22 question answered --
 23 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: No.
 24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- Bethany?
 25 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: But apparently he

Page 134

1 can't hear me, so I guess...

2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah, you might not have

3 been able to hear Bethany's question, and this cord

4 doesn't allow me to stretch it any further.

5 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: That's fine. I'll

6 follow up with him offline or something.

7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. She'll follow up

8 with you later.

9 MR. AMDUR-CLARK: Okay. Thank you very much.

10 And I apologize. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: No problem. It's a

12 technical issue at this end.

13 Next one up is Jamie Allard from Eagle River.

14 Jamie, are you --

15 MS. ALLARD: Thank you, sir.

16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- online?

17 MS. ALLARD: I am. Can you hear me okay?

18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We can, Jamie.

19 MS. ALLARD: Thank you.

20 So first I want to say that I appreciate all

21 that you guys are doing. It has been quite the road

22 for you, and I don't believe the public should be

23 attacking volunteers sitting on the Redistricting

24 Board.

25 In saying that, my name is Jamie Del Fierro

Page 135

1 Allard. I am a resident of Eagle River. I am the

2 first generation Chilean veteran who lives in Eagle

3 River, proudly so.

4 Chugiak, Eagle River, Joint Base Elmendorf,

5 and Northeast Anchorage, we are one. We are a diverse

6 group of a great community and we represent each other

7 well. We have 25 percent military personnel, either

8 related to or working for, have been veterans or

9 family members who live in Eagle River that are

10 absolutely connected with Northeast Anchorage to the

11 JBER military community.

12 There are very close ties between Northeast

13 Anchorage and Eagle River due to all of the military

14 members, to make these areas their home. It's natural

15 to put populations from both of these areas into the

16 same district.

17 My husband and I are both military veterans

18 and have chosen to live in Eagle River as our home,

19 raise our family because of the diverse population.

20 Most individuals who live on JBER are within our

21 district and do attend Bartlett High School, Eagle

22 River High School or Chugiak High School.

23 I've heard mention of Eagle River Exit or

24 Eagle Exit numerous times. I want to assure the Board

25 and the community that this has taken three years to

Page 136

1 get this far, which means we have signs up on the

2 road. I've spoken to the majority of my community

3 members who disagree with Eagle Exit, and I find this

4 will not pose any threat with anything that is going

5 on with Eagle River and Anchorage.

6 Eagle River commuters, we often conduct -- let

7 me change that -- we absolutely conduct business in

8 East Anchorage, by stopping either to get gas, grocery

9 shopping, our banking, our dinner, or we work. We're

10 all part of the same Anchorage community, and it

11 naturally follows that we would combine into

12 one district. As East Anchorage residents, I know for

13 a fact, I attend all community council meetings and

14 know they enjoy their Eagle River resident neighbors

15 and participate on our trails, our biking trails, our

16 hiking, and other efforts.

17 There are two areas that contain many military

18 personnel, Northeast Anchorage and Eagle River. The

19 military is one of the most diverse workforces, and we

20 are proud of these two parts of Anchorage. Our Eagle

21 River children attend Anchorage School District,

22 along with -- we are represented by the Anchorage

23 Assembly, Anchorage School Board, and to split us up

24 and be part of the Mat-Su would then take our -- our

25 representatives away from us.

Page 137

1 Just like my friends from Northeast here in

2 Eagle River, I believe the northeast constituency

3 chooses to live on the northwest boundary line because

4 of -- they're closest to Eagle River, also conducting

5 business, bringing their kids to Eagle River for

6 school, and being part of our community. Many of us

7 live in Eagle River, and they choose -- and others

8 live in the Northeast Anchorage. It allows them to

9 avoid the drive into the heart of Anchorage. Instead,

10 they decide to take a right instead of a left and

11 do -- and conduct their business in Eagle River as

12 well.

13 I've run out of time. So I apologize. I had

14 a lot more to say, but I am for Map 3. And I want to

15 also say that as a member of individuals that is, I

16 guess -- I'm a woman of color as well. As a first

17 generation Chilean, I don't have anybody speak to me,

18 and I don't have anybody speak for me from any other

19 group.

20 And I want to say thank you for Ms. Marcum and

21 other members of the Board for doing such a difficult

22 job.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Jamie. I

25 appreciate it.

Page 138

1 Okay. Next is James Squyres from Deltana.
2 James, are you still on with us?
3 MR. SQUYRES: Yes. Can you hear me?
4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We can, James. Good to
5 hear you again.
6 MR. SQUYRES: Thank you and good afternoon. My
7 name is James Squyres, and I am from Rural Deltana, the
8 apparent "leftover district." I'm current -- I'm
9 currently in District 9. I have verbally testified
10 before this board on 8-24, 9-17, and 10-30. This
11 testimony is with the other three.
12 I've heard all of this talk about compactness in
13 Anchorage, yet District 36 proposals are all over the
14 place. I heard, briefly, a potential proposal
15 yesterday, which I applaud, by Bethany, that might
16 include Denali Borough across from the breakup of the
17 North Star Borough, which assumes to tie in with
18 Eielson, along the Richardson Highway to Delta. I've
19 testified on behalf of this idea previously. This
20 speaks to compactness and your constitutional duty.
21 To this point, the Koyukuk drainage and Lower
22 Yukon down to Holy Cross, along lower District 39 for
23 the sake of -- for the sake of the compactness of
24 District 36, which relatively speaking, still leaves
25 District 39 compact, relative.

Page 139

1 Statements by one board member appeared
2 discriminatory with an adamant argument that District
3 39 and the Koyukuk drainage could not be placed
4 together in the name of socioeconomic integration.
5 Imagine, please, the similarity between the last stop
6 of the villages of the Koyukuk drainage and the
7 coastal communities and then contrast that with the
8 differences in the lifestyle between those and the
9 Koyukuk drainage and the Richardson Highway corridor
10 with integrated socioeconomic ties of missile defense
11 of Fort Greely and then 35 to Eielson. See the
12 difference? I never once heard you folks mention
13 Delta and Greely or missile yet today with all of your
14 discussion, yet there's about 5,000 Alaskans in that
15 area. Denali -- Denali Borough contains
16 Clear/Anderson and the Space Force, a further group in
17 the socioeconomic integration of this area.
18 The word "shall" appears in Article 6,
19 Section 6 in regard to compactness. If you'd properly
20 execute your duty, you need to apply this standard to
21 District 36 with as much enthusiasm, and maybe even
22 more enthusiasm as you are these much smaller
23 districts.
24 I implore you not to leave our district, not
25 to leave our area as a leftover and burn up so much

Page 140

1 time elsewhere and not consider the suggestion raised
2 by Bethany yesterday, supported by public opinion,
3 which will address the compactness in District 36.
4 That concludes my testimony.
5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, James.
6 David James in Fairbanks. David, are you on?
7 MR. JAMES: Yeah, I am. Can you hear me?
8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We can, David.
9 MR. JAMES: Okay. Good.
10 Yeah, I live in Goldstream Valley. I've lived
11 in Goldstream for more than 25 years now, and I just
12 want to object to the attempt to pair us in a Senate
13 district with the -- down to the Southeast there in
14 the rural area. It's -- it's crazy, and it reminds me
15 of ten years ago when you guys tried to set us up with
16 Bethel.
17 You're putting us into a completely different
18 economic and social world, and I feel that this is
19 being done purely for political purposes, and quite
20 frankly, under the constitution, it's going to get the
21 state sued, and you guys who are already volunteers
22 are going to be spending a lot of time in court
23 testifying on why you did this, and it's a pointless
24 thing.
25 I have -- like, Tok would be in my district.

Page 141

1 I would have -- I've been in Tok. The last time I was
2 there was 2018. The last time I was in West Fairbanks
3 was today. Who -- who am I socio- -- who am I
4 socioeconomically tied to? It's pretty obvious. And
5 that's true of the whole district.
6 You know, the last time around we got thrown
7 in with North Pole, which was kind of a stretch in
8 itself but understandable. I didn't object to that
9 one because I know it's not an easy job. But
10 that's -- that's a whole cry different from putting us
11 in a district.
12 When we were briefly in with Bethel, I had a
13 state senator in Bethel, and I live in Fairbanks. How
14 could I visit with this state senator? When was the
15 state senator in my district even to see how things
16 are going? This isn't a proper way to do it, and the
17 constitution and the state is very clear on this, and
18 that Senate pairing needs to put Goldstream in with
19 Fairbanks. We are part of Fairbanks, we should be
20 treated as part of Fairbanks, and I am asking that you
21 do not do that Senate pairing.
22 Thank you.
23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, David.
24 Next is Sue Sherif from Fairbanks. Sue, are
25 you on?

Page 142

1 MS. SHERIF: Can you hear me?
2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We can, Sue. Go ahead.
3 MS. SHERIF: Okay. Good afternoon. Thank you
4 for the opportunity to testify.
5 I am -- I have testified (indiscernible) but
6 I'm speaking as an individual right now. And I, like
7 other people too in the Fairbanks area, am
8 disappointed that we cannot see the version of the map
9 that was discussed yesterday. And in your meeting
10 yesterday, the Anchorage versions had gone up very
11 quickly. And I heard at the break time maybe a
12 possibility of putting up the Fairbanks map, but I
13 still don't find it on the website. And so I -- I do
14 hope that you'll note that this makes public testimony
15 difficult when we can't even really see the -- the
16 maps of Fairbanks that are considered (indiscernible).
17 That being said, I'm very glad that you've had
18 so many public hearings and so many ways to provide
19 public testimony, and I'm glad that you listened to
20 the voice of Fairbanks when we said that we did not
21 want an overpopulated district, and that the
22 resolution from the Borough Assembly had some weight;
23 however, the resolution from the Borough Assembly did
24 not indicate which area that should be -- should be
25 the one that's united with the population outside of

Page 143

1 the borough boundary, and it's been -- it has been
2 alluded to yesterday that the Borough Assembly wanted
3 to do that, but the Borough Assembly, in fact, did not
4 specify an area. Chairman Binkley at one point said,
5 yeah, people in Fairbanks want to have
6 (indiscernible).
7 And I, as a current resident of District 6,
8 which is the one -- the outlying area going from --
9 currently the Denali Borough up around Fairbanks
10 through the Doyon villages of Interior Alaska and down
11 to Tok, I know what it's like to be in a district
12 that's not associated with the city where I
13 (indiscernible), where I work, where I get my mail,
14 where I shop, so on and so forth.
15 But I would say that I would be the one who
16 stands up and says it makes more sense for the east
17 area of Fairbanks, like mine, Chena Hot Springs Road,
18 Eielson Air Force Base, any of the eastside choices,
19 to be part of an interior district than it does the
20 Goldstream Valley.
21 As you know well, the Fairbanks North Star
22 Borough is the longest access of east to west, and
23 east to west are the natural -- natural
24 (indiscernible) within the borough, and to take the
25 Goldstream Valley out, as you've heard over and over

Page 144

1 again today, is not an obvious or necessary solution
2 to -- to the question of where to part to -- to the
3 part the district should go.
4 So I hope that you'll consider the Fairbanks
5 map, and I hope that you'll post it so that we can see
6 exactly where the boundary lines that you have set up,
7 the districts are, and I hope that you'll be revising
8 it as well.
9 Thank you.
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Sue. I just
11 -- I just checked with staff, and they said it should be
12 up in two more minutes, they said, so keep checking.
13 MS. SHERIF: Well, I have been, so I will.
14 Thank you.
15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you.
16 The next is Kristen Peters in Fairbanks.
17 Kristen?
18 MS. PETERS: Hi. Thank you.
19 I am Reverend Kristen Peters. I'm calling of
20 (indiscernible) Christ and as a member of the Clergy
21 Advocacy Board Planned Parenthood.
22 It is part of my vocation to care for issues
23 that affect people who are underrepresented --
24 underrepresented and marginalized by the state, and
25 for that reason I'm asking the Board not to divide

Page 145

1 communities or integrate communities in order to serve
2 one political policy agenda. So please consider how
3 the lines turn into policies, and let us make sure
4 that we're doing right by our neighbors.
5 Looking at v.3, as you've heard from
6 additional callers, taking Goldstream out of -- of the
7 communities that it -- it has connections to and then
8 integrate North Pole into Fairbanks just creates a lot
9 of -- of trouble and unfair -- unfair groupings for
10 these communities that are distinct. They need --
11 North Pole, for example, needs a separate district to
12 accommodate the socioeconomic differences between
13 urban Fairbanks and North Pole. It doesn't make sense
14 to group them together.
15 And -- and as the previous caller stated,
16 the -- the lines go from east to west in Fairbanks,
17 and so just the -- the way that these maps have
18 separated the communities don't make sense for our
19 people. They seem to be politically motivated, not
20 community oriented, and the partisan proposal provides
21 the community and makes communities who are already
22 underrepresented and marginalized more vulnerable. We
23 need fair representation in the Alaska Legislature.
24 So I thank you for the changes that you've
25 made for not overpopulating the Fairbanks area. I'm

Page 146

1 grateful that those were listened to, but as other
2 people have mentioned, the lack of transparency for
3 the map not being available. Even if they're up in
4 two minutes, we have been on hold and on this call
5 since early this morning. It's now 2:30 in the
6 afternoon. This is a lack of transparency. It's just
7 not fair for adequate public testimony.
8 Thank you.
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We appreciate that,
10 Kristin, and apologies for not having it up earlier. It
11 is up now. I'm just looking at it now. Many of the
12 questions that you had about North Pole going into
13 Fairbanks, those have been resolved and were resolved
14 earlier in the week, but this map reflects that. But
15 apologies for not having it up there sooner.
16 Gary Newman.
17 MS. PETERS: Thank you.
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: You bet.
19 Gary Newman. Gary, are you online?
20 MR. NEWMAN: Yes, I'm online.
21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Go ahead, Gary.
22 MR. NEWMAN: Thank you. I'm bouncing between
23 Zoom and otherwise.
24 I am representing myself and that little
25 dodecahedron that's in the square there.

Page 147

1 I'd like the Board to reconsider factors that
2 led the Board to tentatively approve representation of
3 the 5.2 seats for Fairbanks, moving the northwest
4 section of the Fairbanks North Star Borough into rural
5 District 36.
6 The Board appeared to accept that Eielson was
7 an economic engine to the borough, thus was found more
8 compelling to meet the socio- -- socioeconomic
9 integration of what was characterized as the more
10 rural northwest area of the borough, imposed to --
11 what was alluded to was including those who live in
12 dry cabins, implying that those were adequately
13 similar to the Interior Athabaskan villages. I found
14 this comparison troubling on several levels.
15 The focus on Eielson being an economic engine
16 fails to recognize the socio and integration of the
17 constitutional requirement. Eielson is a closed air
18 force base by definition. You can't get into the Base
19 without valid reason to get past the guard gate. They
20 have their own schools, own recreation and social
21 structure, even their own power plant. Those who live
22 on Base are not anywhere as close as being socially
23 integrated into the borough. It was mentioned that in
24 the past many military didn't even register to vote in
25 Alaska, but that receiving a Permanent Dividend

Page 148

1 changed that dynamic.
2 By contrast, the equivalent 4,000 people in
3 Goldstream, work, shop, and recreate in Fairbanks.
4 They are and have been for the long term and engage in
5 our community in many ways.
6 The current house representative, the past two
7 borough mayors and the past Alaska house
8 representative for many years would be excluded from
9 being represented by someone in the borough. These
10 are individuals who have substantially contributed
11 their time toward their community, and they are not
12 alone. The proposed exclusion of the Goldstream area
13 is driven by the Board's Fairbanks representative who
14 is given deference by other board members because of
15 this lifelong knowledge of Fairbanks. On appearance,
16 it appears that the proposed plan to exclude them
17 appears politically targeted, and I find that
18 extremely suspect.
19 I want to touch on one of the things that in
20 my 50 years in Fairbanks has become rather evident.
21 Alaskans like recreation, and we love our trails. The
22 area proposed to be incorporated into District 36 is
23 one of our significant ski areas, and many trails and
24 historic, such as Murphy Dome to the Elliott Highway.
25 These areas are used not just by local residents but

Page 149

1 by residents from around the borough.
2 In contrast, I would submit that the Eielson
3 Air Force Base residents enjoy recreation, like
4 hunting and fishing, are -- are more likely to use the
5 areas to the south along the Richardson and the Alaska
6 Highway for recreation. They even fly their F-15s and
7 F-35s more over District 36.
8 The Board discussed the idea for Richard --
9 Richardson Highway District that could include Valdez,
10 and I share your challenges with Valdez. I also
11 played with those numbers. With a population of about
12 10,000, it does fall short. But the Board did
13 recognize the significance of the Richardson corridor.
14 It seems logical that Eielson would fit better
15 into District 36, the northwest section of the
16 borough, with the people who are fully
17 socioeconomically integrated and engaged in community
18 life in our borough.
19 At the Borough Assembly's hearing last month,
20 I heard a lot of support for the Board's Version 4.
21 Other than -- than one part of the Assembly's request
22 by resolution to not overpopulate the borough
23 districts, (indiscernible) to include Eielson, I've
24 heard no mention of any other testimony in the
25 Redistricting Board's deliberation this week. This

Page 150

1 seems a mockery in a sense of -- of the efforts that
2 the borough residents made to educate the Board on
3 their perspectives.
4 I guess I do request that the Board substitute
5 Board Version 4 Best, recognizing it is far better to
6 meet the constitutional requirements of socioeconomic
7 integration than does the current board proposal for
8 the borough legislative house district's fulfillment
9 of their constitutional charge.
10 And like others, I do commend you for all the
11 time you've put forth, and it's not an easy task.
12 Thank you.
13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, Gary.
14 Let's see. We have Ann Brown from Anchorage.
15 Ann Brown in Anchorage, are you online?
16 MS. BROWN: I am.
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Good afternoon, Ann.
18 MS. BROWN: I don't know if you can hear me yet.
19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We can hear you now.
20 MS. BROWN: Okay. I was calling in support of
21 the final version of Map 3. In my view, I would echo
22 the testimony of others that Version 3 is the best for
23 the military and civilian population. Certainly
24 military activities involve (indiscernible) outside of
25 the (indiscernible), and I think that that's the request

Page 151

1 of the population there. So I would call in to support
2 that version.
3 Thank you.
4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Thank you, Ann.
5 And next we have Lacey Hemming in Anchorage.
6 Lacey, are you on?
7 MS. HEMMING: I am on.
8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Good afternoon. We can
9 hear you just fine.
10 MS. HEMMING: Okay. Thank you.
11 My name is Lacey Hemming, and I live in the
12 Scenic Foothills neighborhood in Anchorage, and I am
13 here to testify. I'm not sure what the number of the
14 maps have changed, and I haven't been able to look up
15 the current ones, but it's supporting Nicole's map.
16 It keeps the neighborhoods together with natural
17 boundaries that follow our community councils and our
18 communities that are in our area.
19 I do not support Bethany Marcum's map. Her
20 map completely ignores hundreds of public testimony
21 that came in over the last few months. The major
22 concern I have is placing East Anchorage in the Eagle
23 River and Muldoon curve neighborhood in with South
24 Anchorage. These two communities can be farther apart
25 in terms of socioeconomic standing. We need to keep

Page 152

1 neighborhoods and communities together to help support
2 the cultural diversity of Anchorage.
3 I see it only one way: It greatly silences
4 the voices of East Anchorage residents. And I'm not
5 sure -- I haven't been able to look at -- you know,
6 you guys were in a working session today. I feel like
7 everything east of Muldoon is so tucked in with Eagle
8 River, and it really should be together with -- right
9 across the street from Muldoon Road. It should be
10 with -- with us in our community. It should not be
11 tucked away in Eagle River. I drive Muldoon Road
12 every day, and it seems to me that we are extremely
13 different neighborhoods than Eagle River, and those
14 people voting in those areas would be
15 underrepresented.
16 Thank you.
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Thank you.
18 Let's see. Let's go back. Teresa Wrobel.
19 Are you on, Teresa, from Anchorage?
20 MS. WROBEL: Hi, there. Good afternoon. My
21 name is Teresa Wrobel. I'm calling in, actually, from
22 Anchorage, but I'm calling today as someone who was
23 born in Fairbanks and raised in Goldstream.
24 I wanted to address the current general
25 consensus of placement of the Goldstream Valley area.

Page 153

1 Living there, I can confidently say that Fairbanks and
2 UAF are an integral -- integral part of the Goldstream
3 community. In my personal experience, Goldstream is
4 highly connected to Fairbanks on a socioeconomic
5 level. My family moved into Goldstream when I was
6 five, so around 2001, before the 2013 proclamation
7 map. Growing up, my entire family felt connected to
8 the university and the City of Fairbanks. My brother
9 and I went to extracurriculars, like art classes,
10 recreational sports, and music lessons at UAF and in
11 town.
12 My father worked for the state of Alaska at a
13 building located at UAF, and my mother worked for the
14 Fairbanks School District. The majority of our
15 neighborhoods in Goldstream had similar connections to
16 UAF and Fairbanks, both in work and enrichment.
17 Essentially, Goldstream is an important suburb to and
18 of the City of Fairbanks.
19 Goldstream is a part of Fairbanks, not rural
20 Interior Alaska. To be honest, it does not make any
21 sense to put Goldstream in with Tok and Delta. I
22 would bet that Tok and Delta do not feel connected to
23 Goldstream in any way either.
24 Given the testimony from fellow Goldstream
25 folks today, I think it's obvious how passionate this

Page 154

1 area is about its community, so I encourage you to
2 keep Goldstream in the Fairbanks Borough District
3 where it belongs.
4 Thank you for your time.
5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Great. Thank you,
6 Teresa.
7 Also, we have John Nelson in Wasilla. We'll
8 go back and see if John is on the line still.
9 MR. NELSON: Yes. Thank you very much. I
10 appreciate that. I move away for two minutes out of a
11 four hour phone call, and I -- I missed my
12 opportunity.
13 But I appreciate your efforts. I know that
14 you're under a time crunch and a deadline that needs
15 to get this process done. It is, however, important
16 that you do take into consideration the people who do
17 live within the communities and attempt them to keep
18 the communities together. We do live in those
19 communities. We -- we understand that, you know,
20 separation of the Chugiak/Eagle River area is -- you
21 know, it's not fair to lump communities in with the
22 other communities that they're away from.
23 I was born and raised in Anchorage, product of
24 the '64 earthquake, so I've lived here all of my life.
25 I raised my family of 30 years in Chugiak before

Page 155

1 becoming empty nesters and moving out to the Mat-Su
2 Borough.
3 You know, having representation in the
4 communities, Chugiak, Eagle River, they do think
5 like-minded, and they do live in those communities,
6 and I think it's important that we keep the
7 representation together.
8 Moving out to the Mat-Su Borough, having
9 representation in the Wasilla city, it's important to
10 keep that community together instead of separating and
11 dividing people within the -- within the city limits
12 with other districts. I think it's also discouraging
13 to see that the Denali District be connected into the
14 Mat-Su Borough. I think they're separate and they
15 should be considered separate entities.
16 I am more supportive of Map 3, even though
17 looking online it's very frustrating and challenging
18 to actually find the current version. I am on there
19 right now and I've been looking back and forth and I'm
20 still perplexed. I'm making sure that I would
21 encourage the Board to, you know, maybe open up
22 additional public comments after the -- the time that
23 has been allowed for, you know, the maps to be online
24 for people to actually see and comment on, and maybe
25 even making it available as a solution and a

Page 156

1 recommendation, you know, allowing somebody like
2 myself to call in and record a message that you guys
3 can listen to, maybe play that back or record it,
4 instead of making us wait online for half of the day.
5 Anyways, that's my time, and I appreciate your
6 time and your efforts and keep up the good work.
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you, John.
8 And just for anybody else on the line too, we
9 do get written testimony each evening, and even this
10 morning. I know we got another 60 pages last night.
11 I think we got about 60 pages as well.
12 So we do get the written testimony in a very
13 timely basis, and it's helpful, and we all read
14 through those. So that's another avenue to be able to
15 comment as well.
16 Next online, we have Kirk Rose from Anchorage.
17 MR. ROSE: Yes. Thank you. Can you hear me?
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We can, Kirk. Go ahead.
19 MR. ROSE: Yeah. My testimony is very brief.
20 Thank you for your time.
21 I'm here as someone who's participated in the
22 life of the Mountain View and Fairview communities in
23 Anchorage, and I think there's a matter before you
24 related to sort of the -- how those communities are
25 divided on the map, and I'm here to argue that they

Page 157

1 should be whole and cohesive communities.
2 I have been a part of these communities for
3 over a decade, as I said, and I think it's incredibly
4 important for matters of disenfranchisement that can
5 impact low income and diverse communities that these
6 places are considered in the neighborhood's context,
7 that they're understood.
8 We've seen issues related to representation;
9 in fact, these communities for many years -- you might
10 be familiar with the recent change to the assembly
11 regime in Anchorage. For many of these years, both of
12 these districts were represented by only one assembly
13 member, while every other district in the city was
14 represented by two. That longstanding mistake has
15 just been rectified through votes and proposition, and
16 now both of these districts will have two assembly
17 members.
18 But that kind of representation, historical,
19 has -- has impacts on communities that -- that regime
20 sort of presides over. And I think any of the maps
21 that are presented that divide or don't make those
22 neighborhoods cohesive or contiguous is problematic
23 for representation of the low income and diverse
24 communities and neighborhoods that those are.
25 So very simple testimony from me. I hope that

Page 158

1 Mountain View and Fairview are not divisible or
 2 parcelled up. They need to be cohesive neighborhoods
 3 on your maps.
 4 Thank you.
 5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Thank you, Kirk.
 6 I don't see anybody else that's signed up here
 7 locally in Anchorage or anybody else online, so we're
 8 going to close the -- oh, we do have somebody else
 9 here in Anchorage that wishes to testify. If you
 10 could join us at the podium.
 11 I don't know. Did we have a mic out there
 12 before?
 13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: No.
 14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: No. This picks him up?
 15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: This will pick him
 16 up.
 17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
 18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: It's still working.
 19 MR. RUEDRICH: It's my privilege to appear
 20 before you today. I'm Randy Ruedrich with Alaskans for
 21 Fair and Equitable Redistricting. I wanted to wait
 22 until all the folks on the telephone had had a chance to
 23 speak because they've had a terribly long wait.
 24 The first thing I want to address is a very
 25 simple request on behalf of Calista. It's not the

Page 159

1 issue of moving Scammon Bay and Chevak. It is the
 2 issue of getting some Calista villages into
 3 District 37. Calista, at this time, has minimal
 4 impact in the state Senate because they are severely
 5 diluted. We have a tiny portion of 17, about
 6 17 percent, where they have no influence, and they
 7 have roughly 50 percent of Senate S. If we can allow
 8 some Calista villages to go into 37, Calista will at
 9 least start to build a small positive majority in that
 10 district.
 11 And I want to point out that all five of
 12 District 37's population census units decline in size
 13 when you accumulate them, and that decline was over
 14 300. So there should be room for a thousand folks
 15 within the district. For that reason, hopefully we
 16 can get Platinum, Goodnews Bay, and possibly Quinhagak
 17 into the district.
 18 Secondly, I want to address the Fairbanks
 19 situation. I commend the Board for getting to a full
 20 representation map. It is unfortunate that the people
 21 who testified today have not had a chance to see that
 22 map, because we got the impression from the testimony
 23 that only the far west side of the borough was
 24 affected. The area that has been assigned to
 25 District 36 goes all the way over to the east side.

Page 160

1 There are people from across the north's frontier of
 2 the borough have been assigned, and you may want to
 3 adjust that slightly. But I would assume that roughly
 4 half of the folks come from the East and half of the
 5 folks from the West. Everybody should be adequately
 6 taken care of.
 7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Sorry, Randy. That's
 8 not the timer.
 9 MR. RUEDRICH: I was going to say, I didn't
 10 think I --
 11 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I started it
 12 because I noticed you were texting, so...
 13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Oh, I --
 14 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I did start it
 15 when he started.
 16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Oh, sorry.
 17 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I thought Nicole
 18 was doing it, and then --
 19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
 20 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
 21 MR. RUEDRICH: With that, I will leave it, then.
 22 My time has expired.
 23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. I did have a
 24 quick question about Platinum, Goodnews -- and Goodnews.
 25 I didn't quite understand that. They are now in

Page 161

1 proposed 37, but I --
 2 MR. RUEDRICH: (Indiscernible) 37.
 3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, they're not.
 4 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
 5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah, yeah, into Bethel,
 6 yeah. You're saying move them down to 37, yeah.
 7 MR. RUEDRICH: And there's no question about
 8 them not being properly socioeconomically integrated.
 9 Those are Yupik villages, and the villages on the other
 10 side of 37 are Yupik villages, and you can accomplish
 11 this very easily by honoring the Kenai Borough's request
 12 to not take villages from Kenai and move them into
 13 District 37.
 14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So -- but if I
 15 understand it, you're saying take some of those
 16 villages, Platinum, Goodnews, potentially Quinhagak,
 17 move them to 37, and that allows room to pull some --
 18 MR. RUEDRICH: You might --
 19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- either Hooper,
 20 Chevak, or Scammon --
 21 MR. RUEDRICH: You can't pull one.
 22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- into 38 and not
 23 affect 39 as it stands right now?
 24 MR. RUEDRICH: Yeah.
 25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So that might --

Page 162

1 MR. RUEDRICH: (Indiscernible).
 2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- overrepresent -- that
 3 might overpopulate 38 --
 4 MR. RUEDRICH: No.
 5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- and underpopulate 39?
 6 MR. RUEDRICH: If we move three villages out of
 7 38, it definitely will not be overpopulated, because
 8 we're trying to put them in 37 which needs people.
 9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Right.
 10 MR. RUEDRICH: If you can put Chevak in...
 11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Even if it's just
 12 Chevak?
 13 MR. RUEDRICH: One's better than nothing.
 14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
 15 MR. RUEDRICH: Two is better than --
 16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
 17 MR. RUEDRICH: -- one.
 18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I get it.
 19 MR. RUEDRICH: Thank you.
 20 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Thank you.
 21 MR. RUEDRICH: You've got to start somewhere.
 22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. Well, that's a
 23 good point.
 24 Okay. There is somebody else who has called
 25 in online, Dawn Frazier from Delta.

Page 163

1 Dawn, are you online? Dawn, can you hear us?
 2 MS. FRAZIER: Yes.
 3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Oh, you can. Okay.
 4 Great.
 5 MS. FRAZIER: Yes. I am online. Can you hear
 6 me now?
 7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We can. Yes. Thank
 8 you.
 9 MS. FRAZIER: Okay. Excellent.
 10 So my name is Dawn Frazier. I live in
 11 District 9, presently. I believe you're proposing to
 12 make it District 36, and I wanted to -- I did send in
 13 written testimony, and I wanted to advocate for
 14 putting the military communities of Eielson, Fort
 15 Greely, Clear and Anderson together in one contiguous
 16 group.
 17 At presently, the horseshoe-sized shape
 18 district you have include a lot of people that are
 19 socioeconomically the same, and it's certainly not as
 20 compact as all. I hear you talking about it being
 21 compact. Well, this district is crazy in size. I
 22 want to tell you why I really think these communities
 23 should be together.
 24 So our school district here has children that
 25 speak Ukrainian, Russian, Spanish, and English in our

Page 164

1 school district. The -- I have lived at Fort Greely
 2 in the '80s, and almost the entire '80s, and then I
 3 have worked there since 1996, and that community out
 4 there is very much like the Eielson community and
 5 probably Clear. I'm not familiar with people in
 6 Clear/Anderson very much, but the similarities between
 7 all of our communities are very similar, and the --
 8 the bedroom communities that live around those coasts
 9 are very similar.
 10 And I -- I encourage you to come to Delta and
 11 go to our grocery store and see the kind of
 12 (indiscernible) we have. We have European foods, and
 13 we have Spanish foods, and it's very much an
 14 international community that is not at all related,
 15 very minimally to -- to the Native communities of the
 16 Koyukuk. Very different issues. Our -- our utility
 17 providers are different. Our sources of income, our
 18 school districts are different. All of our issues are
 19 very different, and I'm not sure that representation
 20 by one person from -- for all of those areas would
 21 actually be good representation for anybody.
 22 So I encourage you to put those communities
 23 together, and I thank you all for your work and your
 24 time. Goodbye.
 25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Thank you, Dawn.

Page 165

1 And that does conclude the public testimony
 2 here, so we're going to close the public testimony out
 3 and take a few minutes to rearrange the room so that
 4 we can get back to deliberating on the maps.
 5 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Can we have at
 6 least 15 minutes to eat?
 7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. Let's take a
 8 15-minute break so that --
 9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: Do you want to take
 10 a little longer than 15 minutes?
 11 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: I said at least
 12 15. I'm -- I'm being --
 13 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yeah. We need to,
 14 like, clean the room and sanitize and stuff like that.
 15 Can we take 30?
 16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Well, let's take
 17 30 minutes, then, so we can eat some lunch, they can get
 18 the room reset, and they can sanitize the room and staff
 19 can kind of catch up.
 20 Again, those maps that were referenced are
 21 online, to my knowledge, at this point, so people can
 22 get a little bit of a better look at it by going to
 23 our website.
 24 Okay. Thank you.
 25 (Off record.)

Page 166

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. We had a lunch
2 break, and we've rearranged the room and resanitized the
3 room and we're back on the record, still in work
4 session.
5 All members are present. We do have some
6 members of the public here, and we're online on Zoom
7 so people can observe and listen to the proceedings.
8 We had extensive public hearing, which we're
9 appreciative of, and apologies for those people who
10 thought it was going to start at 9:00 and had been
11 online since 9:00, and those that were here in the
12 audience waiting since 9:00 as well.
13 It's -- it's a new process, I think, for us,
14 and no excuses, but we're kind of doing this on the
15 fly and figuring it out as we go, and so genuine
16 apologies for inconveniencing the public by not being
17 consistent, maybe, in exactly when we do have our
18 public hearings. But thank you for those who did have
19 the patience to wait and did give us the benefit of
20 your testimony.
21 I think we're now to the point where we need
22 to start making decisions and closing those out so we
23 get to the final plan by today, if that's the
24 consensus of the group, that we're going to reach upon
25 a plan by this afternoon or evening so that the public

Page 167

1 has an opportunity to look at that over the weekend,
2 that staff has an opportunity to describe the
3 metes-and-bounds which are required, and also do final
4 checks on that final plan over the weekend as well.
5 And we'll get comment from board members, but
6 I think we've anticipated coming back Monday morning,
7 9:00 getting started, and we can discuss maybe taking
8 public testimony at that scheduled time first thing
9 Monday morning after the public has had a chance to
10 see the final map on Senate pairings and what the
11 public feels -- or how the public feels we should be
12 pairing these 40 house districts to comprise the 20
13 Senate districts.
14 And I think if we've learned anything from
15 today, we should set it for 9:00 Monday morning and
16 stick to that, regardless of other issues that we may
17 have, legal or otherwise, and give the public a
18 dependable time that they can call.
19 Melanie?
20 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: That sounds fine,
21 but I just wanted to remind you that I had something
22 that I want to say --
23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
24 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- talking about
25 the process.

Page 168

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: From the staff
3 perspective, if could get, like, a firm go ahead, we can
4 notice it and get -- start letting people know, if
5 you're okay with that.
6 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I support the idea
7 of starting public testimony at a fixed time to enable
8 that people to plan their lives around the testimony,
9 rather than having to wait all day online, recharging
10 their -- their batteries.
11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Oh, my goodness. Yeah.
12 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yes.
13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: That was not good.
14 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: Do --
15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Matt?
16 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: Mr. Chair, do you want to
17 meet here on Monday, or at LIO?
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Oh, I don't -- I don't
19 have an answer to that.
20 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: I would prefer
21 here.
22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Here. I -- I -- I think
23 this is a good location. It works good.
24 Nicole? Melanie?
25 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yep.

Page 169

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. So we'll plan on
2 here at 9:00 Monday morning, and we'll take testimony on
3 Senate pairings for the final plan that we will have
4 completed by this afternoon.
5 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: Great.
6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Or we'll say before
7 midnight. How about that?
8 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: One other kind of
9 question, is -- is there -- is there any decision-making
10 for the Board as to the numbers 1 through 40, or is
11 there a general consensus about that?
12 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Well, the -- the
13 numbering 1 through 40, we'll have -- that will be
14 important in the Senate pairings.
15 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: Right.
16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So we need to have
17 numbers on the 40 house districts for this weekend, just
18 to be able to have the map and for people to be able to
19 look at it and say -- and I would think that we need to
20 do it in a decisive manner today, but we have to have
21 some numbers ascribed so the public can say, for
22 example, "I see District Number 9 and Number 12. I
23 think you should renumber those so that those two
24 districts can be paired, those two house districts can
25 be paired as a Senate district, letting them know that

Page 170

1 we've not made -- the numbers that are assigned are not
2 an indication from the Board that this is how we think
3 the Senate pairings should be.
4 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: I just raise it so that
5 it's a discussion for you all, because I agree with that
6 conclusion.
7 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I just have a
8 question about the process. I'm not sure that I
9 understand.
10 For Senate pairings, we know they have to be
11 physically contiguous, but do they also have to be
12 numerically chronological, or -- because I believe
13 that in the past they've had two numbers that were not
14 chron- -- you know, not next to each other that were
15 still Senate pairing because they were physically
16 contiguous. But that's what I'm asking. I'd like
17 to -- to get a definitive answer on that.
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I don't have the answer.
19 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: I don't think there's any
20 legal requirement that -- that, for example, District 1
21 must be with 2 as opposed to 5, but rather the -- the
22 requirement of the constitution is that they be -- that
23 two be contiguous with each other. Right. So you
24 shouldn't be pairing districts that are distant from
25 each other and not connected.

Page 171

1 But to the Chair's point...

2 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: It makes more
3 sense.
4 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: It makes more sense,
5 yeah.
6 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Sure. Absolutely.
7 Yeah.
8 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: Right. So there's not
9 much -- yeah.
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. So are there
11 general -- go ahead, Melanie.
12 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: So if you'll
13 indulge me --
14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Please.
15 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- I have a
16 process request and then an explanation for an earlier
17 action, why -- why I chose to go this route, and then I
18 have a question for fellow board members.
19 So first of all, process-wise, I'd like us to
20 have the benefit of legal counsel advice in Executive
21 Session before we consider the final map. We did that
22 yesterday, thankfully, and found out that there were
23 some parameters that we needed to be mindful of.
24 Today we've looked at a whole new version of
25 Anchorage, and I think it would be beneficial to

Page 172

1 obtain counsel for legal advice on Anchorage, so we'll
2 just -- then altered, v.3 Alternative. So that's my
3 process request.
4 And then just an explanation for earlier, when
5 there was a suggestion that we pursue a compromise
6 map. The only concerns I had heard from any of the
7 board members regarding Board Version 4 Best were
8 those of deviations that could be improved, and Board
9 Member Borromeo established that it would be a
10 sacrifice of compactness to make any kinds of edits to
11 Board Version 4, and I also felt like an overemphasis
12 on deviation would run us afoul of prior court
13 decisions, at the expense of doing that, at the
14 expense of compactness would run us afoul. And we
15 should only be looking at new mapping for the purposes
16 of improving what we have to consider.
17 And then lastly -- so that's my explanation
18 for why I figured it's time for us to move on to
19 public testimony.
20 My third part to this is a question for
21 Bethany. Other than deviations that you feel could be
22 improved to closer than zero in Board Version 4 Best,
23 were there any concerns that you had with that map?
24 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Oh, yes.
25 Absolutely. I don't feel it's my place to criticize

Page 173

1 someone else's map. I've taken my testimony and made my
2 map changes based upon public testimony that I've heard
3 without criticism of the map, but I don't think it's my
4 place to criticize others. The only reason I brought
5 the deviation was because what I found in the data is
6 different than my -- what I heard given verbally to the
7 Board. That's the only reason I brought that particular
8 piece to attention.
9 I certainly am not in a place to criticize
10 what Member Borromeo feels is the right -- the right
11 way to draw her lines, you know, the right to -- those
12 districts. Because a lot of this, as we know, with
13 Anchorage being socioeconomically contained as a city,
14 as a municipality, is really where those -- where
15 those lines end up going as you draw the -- as you
16 draw the census blocks for the deviations and trying
17 to get to those target populations.
18 So there are hundreds of iterations that could
19 come about, and so I'm not in a position to personally
20 criticize. I think that we should be taking our --
21 our input from the public and making those decisions
22 that we think are best based upon the balance that we
23 find between those districts that are compact,
24 contiguous, and provide the opportunity for "one
25 person, one vote."

Page 174

1 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Let me rephrase my
2 question, then. I guess I'm not so much inviting
3 personal criticism of Board Version 4 Best.
4 Are there any concerns that you can point to
5 in terms of compactness, contiguity, socioeconomic
6 integration beyond the one thing that you've mentioned
7 that you felt could be improved, if verbally indicated
8 that personal criticism in terms of deviations could
9 be improved? In terms of the other "big three," do
10 you have any concerns on Board Version 4 Best?
11 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Well, again, I --
12 I hesitate to -- since you're going to push me to, I
13 will -- I will bring up one, but I -- I hesitate to
14 personally offer criticism of another board member's
15 map. I have -- I have not done so for, you know, any of
16 the other board member's maps. I haven't criticized the
17 Chair's maps. I haven't criticized your map, and I
18 haven't criticized Mr. Simpson's map, and --
19 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yes. Yes, you
20 did. Yes, you have.
21 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: No. I made --
22 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Just answer my
23 question, please.
24 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I made
25 recommendations for changes in the same way that I made

Page 175

1 recommendations to --
2 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I mean, that's not
3 the same as criticizing --
4 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: --
5 (indiscernible) --
6 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- deviations.
7 Can you answer my question? Are there any
8 concerns --
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Let's --
10 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- that you have
11 on the three...
12 Yes or no?
13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: You know, I don't know
14 if this is productive.
15 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Mr. Chairman,
16 thank you.
17 It's -- it's productive for me, because I've
18 pointed to specific areas of Bethany's map that give
19 me great cause for concern, and I'm asking to hear the
20 answer to what Melanie has asked, which is: What are
21 your specific concerns with Board Version 4? Are
22 there districts --
23 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I will --
24 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: -- that you're
25 concerned with --

Page 176

1 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- since you're
2 pushing me, I will be happy to answer. I'll give one
3 example. But I don't think it's my place to personally
4 criticize --
5 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: I don't look at
6 it as a criticism. I look --
7 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Okay.
8 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: -- at it as we're
9 down to the wire --
10 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: (Indiscernible).
11 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: -- and we've
12 heard a lot of public testimony over the last hour that
13 has pointed out some concerns with your map.
14 I want to know, do you have any similar
15 concerns with mine? Because the concerns I heard
16 about your map is that it could run afoul of the
17 constitution, a lot of testimony from the Eastside
18 talking about how it slices and dices those
19 neighborhoods, and it would be helpful for me to hear
20 that from you, if you have similar concerns.
21 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yes. I said I'd
22 be happy to offer one example --
23 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Okay.
24 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- and that is
25 regarding the military integration. I absolutely feel

Page 177

1 that the military bases are closely associated with all
2 of those places directly outside of the map and the
3 Muldoon gates in those areas, and so that's one of the
4 things that I feel most strongly about.
5 I also feel, as you know, that Eagle River and
6 those portions are also strongly affiliated. We've
7 heard testimony to that effect. We've seen testimony
8 in writing over time, and we've heard testimony. And
9 so I feel like that is one of the things that is -- is
10 not taken into account as clearly and as definitively
11 in your version. It's one of the reasons that as I
12 drew that, the new map, with downtown containing -- I
13 guess that's another one that comes to mind again.
14 Get me on a roll, but, I mean, it's not my
15 place here to criticize, but I didn't -- I didn't
16 think that the way that downtown was -- was -- was
17 carved was -- was appropriate in a way that I felt was
18 important. So that's one of the reasons I started
19 drawing downtown differently.
20 But, yeah, I don't -- I don't think this is a
21 helpful exercise for me to criticize. It's not --
22 it's not my position to -- to criticize your map or
23 you to criticize mine. You draw what you thought was
24 best for Anchorage. I drew what I thought was best
25 for Anchorage taking public testimony into account.

Page 178

1 And I don't really see that it's helpful for
2 me to be asked on record to publically criticize a
3 fellow member's map. I think that makes it very
4 uncomfortable and to some degree unprofessional. I'm
5 sorry, but that's just the way I feel. I don't think
6 that's the purpose of -- of our discussions.
7 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME: So I don't see
8 this as criticism. I see this, actually, healthy debate
9 here --
10 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: And we have
11 those --
12 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME: -- because --
13 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- in person.
14 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME: Can I -- you've
15 got a really bad habit of interrupting. Can I finish
16 what I'm saying?
17 Is -- is I've taken military integration into
18 consideration. I don't say this a lot, but my husband
19 is a proud Navy veteran as well. He spent a lot of
20 time, actually, on Base, was a Naval recruiter up
21 here, went to Annapolis.
22 I constantly go in and out of the Government
23 Hill gate. I have a healthy overlap of population
24 there at Government Hill and around that gate. I also
25 frequently use the Muldoon and Boniface gates when I

Page 179

1 go to the commissary as well, and there is a healthy
2 population of Navy, Air Force, Army, World War II,
3 Korean vets around this gate here. There's well
4 almost 2,000.
5 So this notion that you're somehow implying
6 that I'm -- I'm less integrated with the Base, I -- I
7 don't personally see. And, in fact, I'd like to point
8 out that between my Version 4 and my Version 4 Best, I
9 actually took a greater population of East Anchorage
10 and put them into District 21, so it has an even
11 bigger carve-out right now of that military population
12 that you care about.
13 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: You implied that I
14 criticized a portion of your map, but you had asked for
15 that criticism. So, again, this is why I --
16 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME: I -- I --
17 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- don't think
18 it's helpful for me to offer my -- you've drawn what you
19 think is the best version of Anchorage, and so as soon
20 as I responded to your question after many requests, you
21 got defensive and wanted to defend it.
22 And so, you know, we've -- we've had
23 one-on-one mapping sessions, and that's where I think
24 that sort of discussion occurs. We have these work
25 sessions for the purpose of working these things out,

Page 180

1 but I don't think publicly going on record and
2 actually putting me in a position to criticize your
3 map is -- is a -- I'm sorry. I'm a Christian, and I
4 believe that that is -- that it is not appropriate to
5 publicly criticize our fellow board members, and I
6 really resent the fact that you have put me in this
7 position.
8 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME: So, first of all,
9 Christianity has no bearing in what we're doing today,
10 and --
11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Let's -- I -- I think --
12 I don't think this is being productive. I don't think
13 we're making any headway by pursuing this --
14 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME: But Mr. --
15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- this interaction. I
16 think --
17 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME: It's --
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- you know, our charge
19 is to get to a final product --
20 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME: It's productive
21 for me.
22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- and I think we're
23 going to have to make some difficult choices on what we
24 believe are the best maps and move forward, and I just
25 don't think we're making progress doing this.

Page 181

1 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yesterday,
2 Mr. Chair -- and it wasn't a criticism of the map that
3 you drew, Bethany, but I had cause for concern about the
4 Muldoon area and the impact to dilution of minority
5 voters. I wouldn't say that was a personal criticism of
6 your map. Our job is to draw the best map, so I
7 expressed my cause for concern over that so we don't run
8 afoul of our constitutional mandate and the VRA. That's
9 not a criticism.
10 I guess what I was trying to get at is: Do
11 you have any similar causes for concern that run us
12 afoul with the constitution or the Federal Voting
13 Rights Act when it comes to Board Version 4 Best?
14 It wasn't so much an invitation for you two to
15 criticize each other's iterations. I'm asking: Are
16 there any concerns similar to the one that I raised
17 yesterday that run us afoul of our mandates?
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Let me ask you this:
19 Are you inclined to support Version v.3 Alt, if there's
20 some different answer to that, or are you just trying to
21 convince Bethany that Version 4 is a better version?
22 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I'm not --
23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I mean, what's the point
24 here?
25 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- saying which

Page 182

1 one's better. I'm asking if she has any concerns about
2 v.4, to give us --
3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I think she's expressed
4 that, but she doesn't want to do it in a manner that's
5 critical. She wanted to say that she thinks Version 3
6 Alt is better. That's all.
7 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I'm not asking
8 which one's better or not --
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: But -- but --
10 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- I was asking --
11 and then the other thing is --
12 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: What's the point? What
13 are you trying to accomplish, Melanie?
14 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: To determine if
15 there are any things that violate the constitution or
16 the VRA that we should be aware of as we consider Board
17 Version 4 Best. And the other thing is, as we look at
18 the brand-new Board Version 3 Alt, we're going to need
19 that legal counsel advice before we make any decisions,
20 and that's why I've asked for some Executive Sessions.
21 I won't push the issue anymore. You don't
22 need to answer it. I didn't hear any, I guess,
23 explicit concerns over compactness, contiguity,
24 socioeconomic integration. We heard some concerns
25 over deviation. So I'll take that non-answer as you

Page 183

1 don't have those kinds of concerns.
2 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I -- I would say
3 you're absolutely incorrect, but it's not my position to
4 publicly criticize that map. I've expressed those
5 concerns, as, again, I said, in private work sessions
6 and will continue to do so if we have work sessions, but
7 the reality is this is not the forum for that.
8 And -- and I'm sorry that you don't feel that
9 the fact that I'm a Christian is relevant, but it is,
10 because my -- as a Christian --
11 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
12 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- criticize
13 people. That -- that's --
14 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: We are not the
15 same person.
16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Let her finish, please.
17 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I don't feel it's
18 appropriate to publicly criticize people in a forum like
19 this, and that was part of my ethics and my morals, and
20 you're pushing that because you know that is something
21 that is an Achilles' heel, and I --
22 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I didn't know.
23 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- I -- I very
24 much -- I very much --
25 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I don't ask people

Page 184

1 about their religions. I'm sorry. And we are two
2 different people.
3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
4 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I said you pushed
5 it. I didn't say that (indiscernible) --
6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Let's --
7 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: No. You said --
8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Let's just stop this,
9 please. I think you've made a legitimate request, that
10 you want to see us go into Executive Session to -- I
11 can't recall exactly why, but you want to get legal
12 advice -- advice from counsel?
13 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yes. Just like we
14 did yesterday. We've got a whole new map that is now on
15 the table for consideration.
16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: If you --
17 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I'd like legal
18 advice.
19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: You can make a motion,
20 if you'd like, to go into Executive Session. I think we
21 can probably get the right language here, if you'd like,
22 and we can...
23 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I think it's
24 prudent for us. It turned out to be prudent yesterday.
25 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: If it doesn't

Page 185

1 have to be the exact language, I'd like to move,
2 Mr. Chairman, that the Board enter Executive Session
3 under Alaska Statute 44.62.310(c), Subsection 3 and 4,
4 respectively involving matters which by law, municipal
5 charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential
6 and matters involving consideration of government
7 records that by law are not subject to public
8 disclosure.
9 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I second that
10 motion.
11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: There's a motion before
12 us, and seconded to go into Executive Session for items
13 stated in the motion.
14 Is there a discussion on motion? Is there any
15 objection to the motion? Okay. We're going to head
16 into Executive Session.
17 And apologies, but we're going to have to
18 clear the room again, and hopefully it won't be too
19 long.
20 (Executive Session in progress.)
21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: And we both have people
22 here locally in Anchorage, as well as online on Zoom,
23 and we're going to continue to work on trying to achieve
24 consensus on some of the maps. We're going to move to
25 the Mat-Su, which we really hadn't closed out yet or

Page 186

1 achieved any kind of consensus on.
2 So let's pull that up, Peter, and maybe you can
3 explain where we're at and which map that we're looking
4 at is, and this is Nicole's map.
5 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This is actually --
7 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEEO: No. It's
8 Bethany's.
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: This is --
10 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Board Version 4
11 Best?
12 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEEO: No. Board
13 Version 3.
14 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Board Version 3...
15 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEEO: Board -- Board
16 Version 3, Mat-Su.
17 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Alternative, or...
18 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEEO: This is just --
19 this is Board 3, Mat-Su.
20 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Okay. Okay.
21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELOSON: So,
22 Mr. Chairman, we have two Mat-Sus. I was just loading
23 them up. I don't have a preference with which one to
24 start. This happens to be Member Marcum's Mat-Su. Both
25 of them bring Valdez into the Mat-Su, which I know has

Page 187

1 been a point of, you know, considerable conversation,
2 but they are somewhat different.
3 I think all -- both Mat-Su plans are the same.
4 They closely respect the local government boundaries.
5 In Mat-Su, they have three incorporated cities,
6 Houston, Wasilla, and Palmer. Not only do they fully
7 contain and do -- are careful not to divide a city
8 boundary, but they also keep each of the three in a
9 separate legislative district. So they're not sharing
10 a population.
11 So you've got Houston and KGB Road. You've
12 got City of Wasilla and out towards the lakes and this
13 area's heavily populated. And then Palmer --
14 similarly, Palmer surrounds, and this particular one
15 is Palmer. And this is, you know, a middle district
16 (indiscernible).
17 I think they both have some version of two
18 east, west larger rural Mat-Su districts, which still
19 pick up most of their population from the southern
20 portion, but then extends up to taking all of the
21 Mat-Su Borough in this case, and in the Denali Borough
22 in this particular one. This one shows the Cantwell
23 coming out to the Interior district.
24 And then this is Member Marcum's, so maybe she
25 can speak to the facts, but I can also pull up Member

Page 188

1 Borromeo's version as well.
2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. Do we need
3 anymore explanation? We've looked at this before.
4 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah, we brought
5 it up a couple of days ago, or however long ago that
6 was.
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
8 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I spoke to it a
9 little bit then. I think the only main difference is,
10 between Borromeo's and mine, is -- is the direction that
11 the Houston district goes, whether it goes south or
12 north, and then I guess the only difference was that --
13 but she -- she gave them this and something more
14 (indiscernible) Valdez.
15 I will say for the record that we should all
16 probably just acknowledge the fact that the Denali
17 Borough has weighed in, and they were not in favor of
18 having Cantwell carved out of the Denali Borough, so I
19 just want to make sure we recognize that that is a
20 concern that they had.
21 We also had testimony, obviously, that from
22 Cantwell, from the folks in Cantwell, that they felt
23 they strongly were affiliated enough with Ahtna to be
24 included in that Doyon District as part of the
25 coalition map.

Page 189

1 So, you know, I -- as I've stated before on
2 record, I -- I don't really like the idea of -- of
3 dumping other 4,000 people into -- from Valdez into
4 the Mat-Su. It is the fact that they are there now,
5 though, and it is a fact that it can be done in terms
6 of being able to get compact, contiguous districts
7 that are also -- you know, socioeconomic similarities,
8 been determined by the fact that they are districted
9 with them now, but you can also get deviations that
10 are within reasonable ranges in doing so.
11 I do not have a strong preference for my map
12 over Member Borromeo's. She's did a good job, and
13 there's minor differences.
14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELOSON: Would
15 members like to see the...
16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah, yeah. Let's see.
17 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: While you're doing
18 that, I'll just -- for the record, we talked about
19 deviation numbers, ranges 444 difference to the top one,
20 452, so it's about 100 -- 110 or so people difference
21 between the districts of Mat-Su.
22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELOSON: Okay. So
23 this is -- this is Member Marcum's rendition of the
24 Mat-Su that also includes Valdez.
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Isn't that Ms. Borromeo?

Page 190

1 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: It's actually
 2 mine.
 3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: I'm sorry.
 4 Member Borrromeo's rendition of the Mat-Su. It also
 5 includes Valdez, and also maintains the same, you know,
 6 core city-specific -- not breaking any city boundaries,
 7 keeping each incorporated city in its own separate
 8 legislative district. This one also has Palmer.
 9 And then a middle district, not vastly different
 10 than what was (indiscernible). And then this one does
 11 not show Cantwell drawn out. And then this is the
 12 Denali Borough here with the Mat-Su Borough. This
 13 dashed line here is the line between the Denali and the
 14 Mat-Su Borough boundaries.
 15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So I -- I don't see a
 16 lot of differences in these.
 17 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: One of -- one of
 18 them, Mr. Chairman -- Peter, can you zoom it out,
 19 please, and not click around? Is if you see -- yeah,
 20 pull -- pull the table down a little bit, please -- if
 21 you see where I start at Valdez, I -- I do have a border
 22 that's farther to the east than Bethany's is, because I
 23 wanted to use a strong piece of infrastructure and
 24 geography there for my border, so I used TAPS. I came
 25 up and then cut over to the Mat-Su Valley.

Page 191

1 I did not intend to take Cantwell in. If
 2 Chairman or other members feel strongly about it based
 3 on public testimony, we -- we can consider doing that.
 4 But all other requests from the Mat-Su Borough are
 5 honored in this version, plus a little more.
 6 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Mr. Chair?
 7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.
 8 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: I recall that
 9 Houston had asked for their other district portions to
 10 go northward, so...
 11 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Mat-Su Borough.
 12 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: The -- the borough
 13 requested that?
 14 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Yeah.
 15 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Okay. Well,
 16 somebody requested it, and this does that. And I like
 17 on this that portion near Valdez goes up the Richardson
 18 Highway a reasonable amount before it cuts over. And I
 19 think that Cantwell should go into 36, since that seems
 20 to be what Cantwell wants. You said it was inadvertent,
 21 but that was left out, so...
 22 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: And -- and I just
 23 say I'm in favor --
 24 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: (Indiscernible).
 25 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: While I agree with

Page 192

1 you, I'm in favor of Cantwell going into 36, but for
 2 socioeconomic reasons. Not because it's what a
 3 community wants. That's my feeling. They gave good
 4 sound socioeconomic arguments for why they should be
 5 paired in 36 as opposed to kept with the borough.
 6 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I think it's part
 7 of the Ahtna, ANCSA, isn't it, in that sense?
 8 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yes.
 9 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: It puts
 10 socioeconomic --
 11 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yes.
 12 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- ANCSA
 13 affiliation.
 14 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Right. But what
 15 I'm saying was it wasn't just because --
 16 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Right.
 17 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- they said where
 18 they preferred --
 19 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Right.
 20 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- because we have
 21 to look at those criteria.
 22 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: That's right.
 23 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I thought that
 24 they made a valid point.
 25 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Mr. Chairman, if

Page 193

1 that's the will of the Board, I'm happy to explore that,
 2 and maybe someone can just start mapping it, because
 3 it's very --
 4 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
 5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Can I ask a question? I
 6 want to just make sure along that corridor, because I
 7 think the pipeline is on both sides of the Richardson
 8 Highway there. If we use TAPS, that we didn't
 9 inadvertently take some -- okay. So you moved off them?
 10 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: I did a little
 11 bit, and that was -- thank you, Mr. Chairman, for
 12 that -- with -- with Bethany, her and I mapped
 13 extensively together --
 14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
 15 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: -- throughout
 16 this entire process. And in my original v.4, I did
 17 follow TAPS all the way up, so I -- sorry. Muscle
 18 memory, I keep referring to that boundary as TAPS -- but
 19 she's even better at zooming in on where the population
 20 is on than I am, and said, "Can we move the boundary a
 21 little bit more to the west to get both of the -- both
 22 sides of the road?" Because my first attempt at this
 23 didn't do this as well, and she was instrumental in
 24 helping me capture that whole population.
 25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. So all of that

Page 194

1 population is 36?
2 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME0: Yes.
3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: It's not in 25 --
4 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME0: Correct.
5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- all of the highway
6 communities?
7 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME0: Yes.
8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
9 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME0: Yes. And I
10 had -- I had a lot of trouble around that lake, too, and
11 she -- she found all of those extra people and put them
12 right where they needed to be.
13 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: So 36 is on some
14 green stuff. Is that the national park? Is that why
15 that's a different color?
16 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
17 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: So it's all part of
18 36?
19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Should be, yeah.
20 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: That's the map
21 overlay that we have.
22 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: St. Elias.
23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: It's the --
24 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME0: St. Elias.
25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

Page 195

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKE LSON: Okay. So
2 would you like me to draw Cantwell in? Is that the
3 desire?
4 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I would like to
5 propose that that doesn't have to be done during --
6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Right. I think we're --
7 I think there's consensus on that.
8 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: We did it with our
9 map yesterday.
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah, we can --
11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKE LSON: Okay.
12 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: It takes five
13 minutes --
14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- the final version,
15 you can duplicate --
16 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- (indiscernible)
17 to continue on.
18 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME0: Is somebody
19 making a note to add Cantwell?
20 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yes.
21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKE LSON: I actually
22 already have it drawn on the master map. It's just
23 around the --
24 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME0: Okay.
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Do we have a

Page 196

1 consensus around this for the Mat-Su, then? Okay?
2 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME0: And,
3 Mr. Chairman, I'd also like to commend Bethany, because
4 when I presented the first time, my map had very high
5 deviations compared to hers, and I wouldn't have this
6 compactness in the borough without her helping me with
7 27. It was a two-day exercise. We didn't think it
8 would be that long, but the census blocks in the Knik
9 and Fairview area were very hard to smooth out and to
10 comply with what the borough had requested. So I just
11 wanted to acknowledge her help.
12 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you.
13 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Thank you.
14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Do we want to
15 start, maybe to see about consensus in the VRA
16 districts?
17 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROME0: Sure.
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I think Budd mentioned,
19 and I know I would like to look at maybe others'
20 recommendation we had in public testimony about seeing
21 if there is an opportunity to move some of the -- in
22 District 38, pulling some from 38 down, at least one
23 community down into 37 -- excuse me -- 39 down into 38,
24 and then pushing a few villages, probably three villages
25 from 38 into 37.

Page 197

1 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Or even just one.
2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Or just one, yeah.
3 Can we take a look at that?
4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKE LSON: Sure. I
5 might have our deputy director drive for a little bit.
6 I'm going to take this --
7 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
8 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: While he's doing
9 that, we did get a packet of testimony from -- this
10 morning, and Ana Hoffman has provided some written
11 testimony and she's from that district. She's the
12 co-chair of Alaska Federation of Natives, and...
13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Also CEO of Bethel
14 Native Corporation.
15 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: CEO of Bethel
16 Native Corporation.
17 So in -- let's see. Let's -- so we've got one
18 from Fairbanks, one from Anchorage, the one that's not
19 labeled. There's a last page to that not labeled one
20 and then her testimony. She doesn't weigh in on the
21 matter of moving any of the Goodnews Bay or Platinum
22 communities, but she does -- do you want me to just
23 read it really quickly?
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.
25 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Okay.

Page 198

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I was just looking for
 2 it. I haven't seen it yet.
 3 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: It's -- we just
 4 got it right after --
 5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. This is the new
 6 one I just got.
 7 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: The tab in the
 8 upper hand corner. So after Anchorage
 9 (Indiscernible) --
 10 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
 11 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Should I just read
 12 it, and that way the public also has the benefit of
 13 hearing it?
 14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Yeah. Go ahead,
 15 please.
 16 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: It says: Board
 17 Version Map 4. Public comment. Thank you for your
 18 service and commitment to ensuring this redistricting
 19 effort is accomplished with integrity and transparency.
 20 I'm writing in support of the Board Proposed Plan
 21 Version 4, which addresses the constitutionally mandated
 22 considerations.
 23 The towns and villages in v.4 are contiguous,
 24 compact, and socioeconomically integrated. One example,
 25 showing the socioeconomic connection occurred very

Page 199

1 profoundly this summer. On the Yukon River, there was a
 2 terrible sound collapse and the villages located near
 3 the mouth of that river were unable to harvest salmon
 4 there. As a result, people from the villages along the
 5 Yukon boated up to the Norton Sound area in search of
 6 fish. The KYUK news article with the late posted below
 7 describes this situation. Essentially, when the local
 8 resource for food security was lost, the members of
 9 communities went to the next closest point of access,
 10 fishing with their neighbors to the north.
 11 Another meaningful example is the likeness and
 12 exchange of Yupik songs and dance between those
 13 communities during the Cama-i Dance Festival in Bethel,
 14 dance groups from Stebbins often joined the dance groups
 15 from Emmonak, (Indiscernible), Kotlik on stage to share
 16 songs, beat drums, and move seamlessly with one another.
 17 The interconnectedness of the communities
 18 represented in Board -- Board v.4 takes the
 19 socioeconomic and spirit, all connections into
 20 consideration appropriately and fairly, be honored to
 21 your work and before putting my comments in this
 22 process.
 23 I will, however, point out that when we were
 24 in Bethel, we also heard from -- that it would not be
 25 -- that it wouldn't be a socioeconomic move backwards

Page 200

1 if we were to move Goodnews Bay and Platinum into
 2 District 37 because they do have some socioeconomic
 3 connectedness in terms of they share -- they receive
 4 their regional health -- the regional hub for their
 5 healthcare system is in Dillingham. So I just wanted
 6 you all to be aware of that as we consider any changes
 7 to the VRA districts.
 8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Could -- yeah, could we
 9 start to get some of the communities and see what
 10 population? I believe in the public testimony, they
 11 were talking about Chevak. Maybe not Hooper and
 12 Scammon, but Chevak. I think that's maybe -- is that
 13 600? 739. It's right next to Hooper Bay. It's my
 14 recollection it was about 600, wasn't it?
 15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In Chevak?
 16 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Chevak is 1,000,
 17 actually. 900. About 900.
 18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Which one is -- one of
 19 them is six -- is it Scammon?
 20 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: No. Hooper Bay is
 21 about 1,238.
 22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So it must be Scammon,
 23 is the smallest one, then.
 24 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah. The Chevak
 25 --

Page 201

1 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: We can't get that --
 2 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Can we get a list
 3 of their populations? Or at least for the three and the
 4 two that were -- and maybe even Quinhagak, we should --
 5 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
 6 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: What's the idea if
 7 we take one of those out and we move something else down
 8 at the other end?
 9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. I think that's
 10 what they were saying.
 11 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: As long as it
 12 improves the socioeconomic.
 13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: If we could shift -- I
 14 think he mentioned testimony of Platinum, Goodnews, and
 15 Quinhagak, the next one up.
 16 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah. It is
 17 easier to take just Goodnews and Platinum is what I
 18 found. I tried -- I tried this several --
 19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.
 20 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- times, and --
 21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: But the numbers are
 22 smaller.
 23 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- Quinhagak has
 24 another 1,000 or so people, so it makes it quite a
 25 bit...

Page 202

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. It's just -- just
2 those two, you don't get enough population, as I recall,
3 to offset any of those other three.
4 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Any of the other
5 three.
6 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: And we have good
7 test- -- testimony about Goodnews and Platinum
8 connections with Dillingham, so there's -- there's a
9 reason to do that.
10 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Mr. --
11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: But I think, also, as I
12 remember in Myron Naneng's testimony, he did discuss
13 Kwigillingok, Kongiganak as well going in that --
14 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yes. Right.
15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- as well as going in
16 that other district.
17 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Mr. Chairman?
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.
19 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: I've -- I've
20 tried to play around with these numbers as well. I will
21 say that before we start doing extensive work on 38,
22 that we have to be extremely careful, because right now
23 that district is sitting at a negative 699 deviation.
24 It's our -- it's our highest lowest at 3.81 now on our
25 map. It is a VRA district, and that's why that

Page 203

1 deviation is defensible.
2 **A lot of the villages in the YK Delta, as you**
3 **know, Mr. Chairman, are clustered together, so when we**
4 **start to pull them apart from each other, there's**
5 **going to be a rippling effect in the surrounding**
6 **villages as well. So we're going to have to go in**
7 **with surgical precision if it's the Board's wishes to**
8 **start that process this -- this late.**
9 **And I -- I'll also say that when I tried to do**
10 **this, I attempted to exchange Goodnews and Platinum**
11 **for the Upper and Lower Kalskag villages. It's not an**
12 **even horse trade in population, and it makes the**
13 **deviations in 38, in my opinion, indefensible, even**
14 **with the VRA protection over it.**
15 **So just -- just a little food for thought.**
16 **I've done this for hours, so I'll just...**
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. And I've worked
18 on it before. I think we all have, but I think there
19 was compelling testimony. We've worked hard to try and
20 find a solution here. And I think there was a bit of a
21 compromise that was -- that was offered by Andrew Guy,
22 the CEO of Calista, and I think we owe it to him to make
23 another attempt to do it. Maybe it works. Maybe it
24 doesn't. But I think we should give it a shot.
25 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Can I clarify

Page 204

1 something first? I was -- as you were talking, I was,
2 like, I'm going to go back and read my notes. I think I
3 heard differently today, which was that the request was
4 not the issue of moving -- and this is -- you know, I'm
5 typing away here as people are talking -- not the issue
6 of moving Scammon Bay, Hooper Bay, or Chevak. It's
7 about giving Calista villages, even one, he said, into
8 District 37. So I think just by virtue of moving either
9 Goodnews or Platinum into District 37 is part of the
10 socioeconomic integration, that those communities be
11 integrated. That's what my --
12 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I'm not -- I'm not sure
13 I heard it that way, but...
14 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: It does say that
15 (indiscernible).
16 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: And the easier
17 one can be Platinum, and that one is such a small one.
18 I know they (indiscernible) heavily on AVCP and YCHC,
19 which are headquartered in Bethel.
20 So of -- of the two, it would not be my
21 preference to take Platinum, but I don't know how
22 you've --
23 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Separated this --
24 yeah. I just wanted clarification on what the ask was,
25 maybe.

Page 205

1 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: And remember,
2 Bethany, this was our exercise that one day that led, at
3 one point, to splitting Kodiak in two.
4 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah.
5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Here's the written
6 testimony that came in today that came in from Andrew
7 Guy. I'll just try and see if it speaks to that.
8 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yeah. That's a
9 good idea. I have notes on his verbal testimony.
10 (Reading from notes.)
11 And then he did agree that Stebbins, St.
12 Michael, Unalakleet have socioeconomic ties with
13 communities in that region.
14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. So here's the --
15 I think this is the essence of it. He says to reduce
16 the 2020 census excess population in District 38, the
17 Southwestern Calista villages of Kwigillingok,
18 Kongiganak, Quinhagak, Goodnews Bay, and Platinum are
19 assigned to District 37.
20 So I think what he's saying is take those,
21 one, two, three, four, five lowest Kuskokwim Delta
22 Calista villages, move them from 38 to 37 to help the
23 underpopulation in 37.
24 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Is 37 current
25 underpopulated in our map?

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD MEETING
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD MEETING on 11/05/2021

Page 206

1 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: It was. That's
2 when we made changes to the Kenai Borough.
3 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Right.
4 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: That's what was
5 mentioned today, was that --
6 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: To strengthen the
7 VRA -- to strengthen the VRA considerations.
8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Nanwalek? Was that
9 Nanwalek and --
10 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yes. Nanwalek and
11 Port Graham out of --
12 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: And what is the -- what
14 is the deviation -- what is the deviation now with those
15 in 37?
16 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: 4.56 is where we
17 were at. By adding Port Graham and Nanwalek, we were
18 able to bring it to 2.83, I believe.
19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Two-point something.
20 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: 2.33.
21 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Sorry. 2.33. I
22 apologize.
23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Still negative.
24 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: The other
25 consideration for the Board, too, is if we add that 400

Page 207

1 back to that Homer district, it's going to be really
2 high within the borough, because that -- that --
3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: What district was that?
4 Let's just take a quick peek at that. Is that...
5 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Kenai. The Kenai
6 area. It's --
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.
8 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Could -- could you
10 scroll on the chart to six so I can see the deviation,
11 please?
12 So it's pretty tight right now.
13 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: It is, and it's
14 going to push us to 500, which will be upwards of just
15 shy of (indiscernible) over. So that was my second
16 rationale for suggesting those -- those villages.
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Those, yeah.
18 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: 37 is still low,
19 though; right? Minus 427 people? So if we were to take
20 one of those communities, one of the --
21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Well, what if we
22 took double that amount and you go up by that amount?
23 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah. Like, for
24 example, Goodnews Bay and Platinum together I think are
25 only -- only 400...

Page 208

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: No. You have to go up,
2 as he suggests here, into Quinhagak (indiscernible) --
3 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: My concern about
4 just keep going up north is -- did he give any
5 socioeconomic beneficial reasons if we make that change
6 to Quinhagak?
7 I understood the testimony in Bethel about
8 Goodnews and Platinum, they're receiving their
9 healthcare services from Dillingham. Our regional
10 healthcare systems are a big socioeconomic component
11 in the state, not just in rural Alaska.
12 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: So here's --
13 here's the other big concern, because if you're going to
14 try and add more people to 38, if you're taking them
15 away, we're already at negative 700. So the only place
16 for 37 to grow from is from 38, and that's our lowest
17 deviation.
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We're already 700 under
19 it?
20 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: We're already 700
21 under. This is our lowest deviation now on the map.
22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Is 38?
23 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Is 38, but
24 this --
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So --

Page 209

1 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: -- deviation is
2 justifiable because it's a VRA --
3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Right. But what if we
4 did take one of those villages, then, down into 38 to --
5 to help that?
6 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: You need to take
7 it -- oh, you're trying to take these two?
8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: No, no.
9 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: No, no, no. The other
11 way around, because you're saying -- you're saying we're
12 short in 38?
13 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: But here's -- you
14 guys, 38 is where Goodnews and Platinum is. It's our --
15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Right.
16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, no.
17 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: -- lowest
18 deviation at 300 -- 3.8. If you take Goodnews and
19 Platinum out, that deviation is going to go up higher
20 to --
21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. But if we move
22 Scammon, Chevak, and Hooper in --
23 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: It might allow one
24 of those villages to move --
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Exactly.

Page 210

1 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- into the Bethel
 2 region.
 3 And I'd like to start with just Goodnews Bay
 4 and Platinum as a starting point, because that's where
 5 socioeconomic --
 6 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Exactly.
 7 Integration.
 8 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- integration.
 9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. So should we try
 10 that? Let's just try putting that over in 37, see what
 11 it does to the numbers, and see if we can pull one down
 12 from 39 and get a little better deviation in 38, and see
 13 what it does to 39, then.
 14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: So we said Platinum
 15 and Goodnews?
 16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yep.
 17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: Okay.
 18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: From 38 to 37.
 19 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: So Platinum's
 20 population is 55, and Goodnews Bay's is 258. Chevak's
 21 is 951. Hooper Bay's is 1,375, and Scammon Bay's is
 22 600, just so you guys are starting to think of the math.
 23 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Let's see what that
 24 looks like. That's kind of...
 25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. Goodnews, yeah.

Page 211

1 There we go. That's just water, yeah.
 2 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
 3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: 37.
 4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. That improves 37.
 5 Okay. I don't think --
 6 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: That makes 37 less
 7 than one percent deviation.
 8 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Then you have to
 9 adjust 38; right?
 10 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: So let's look at
 11 that.
 12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: Platinum and
 13 Goodnews.
 14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. So let's go up to
 15 Scammon and --
 16 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Can -- can you
 17 show me how much 38 is underpopulated by now?
 18 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: A thousand.
 19 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: A thousand.
 20 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: A thousand. There you
 21 go.
 22 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: So, like I said --
 23 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Chevak -- Chevak
 24 is 900.
 25 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- Chevak is 951.

Page 212

1 Hooper Bay city is 1,375. Scammon Bay is 600.
 2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So Hooper's been the one
 3 that's been the most consistent, in testifying from the
 4 very beginning -- let's just try Hooper.
 5 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Well, and then
 6 geographically, I need to make sure that we're being
 7 contiguous too.
 8 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah.
 9 Contiguously, Chevak is the -- Chevak is the --
 10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Well, let's see what the
 11 blocks look like.
 12 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: We did get -- I
 13 don't know if everyone recalls, we did get a resolution
 14 from Chevak as well requesting to be moved.
 15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: So, yeah, if we
 16 move a thousand people into 38, 39 will then be
 17 commenced for only 1,000 people underpopulated.
 18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Right. And -- but
 19 they're overpopulated now?
 20 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: No. 39 is not.
 21 39 is under, so...
 22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Oh, they are under,
 23 yeah.
 24 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: To do that -- it
 25 seems like you would pick the smallest village.

Page 213

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Let's pick
 2 Chevak, then. Let's pick Chevak.
 3 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Or Scammon Bay is
 4 600.
 5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Scammon is going to be
 6 -- we could do --
 7 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
 8 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: What's the
 9 population of Scammon that you have?
 10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: 600.
 11 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: 600. So that
 12 would be better.
 13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. That would be
 14 closer.
 15 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Actually, Chevak
 16 is all one (indiscernible).
 17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah, it's just --
 18 it's...
 19 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: (Indiscernible).
 20 It's a big space, but it's --
 21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.
 22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. But it works.
 23 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: You can see it
 24 there now.
 25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. It doesn't look

Page 214

1 bad.
 2 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: But now look at
 3 39.
 4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: And then 39 is under
 5 1,300.
 6 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Now you've got to
 7 go break the Northwest Arctic Borough.
 8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: No, we don't.
 9 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: No?
 10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We -- we could -- what
 11 if we -- what if we take some back. I know this is
 12 getting convoluted, but if we take Lower and Upper --
 13 Lower and Upper Kalskag.
 14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: Kalskags are in 37
 15 currently.
 16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Correct. And 37 is
 17 over; right?
 18 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
 19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Well, let's just try
 20 Lower and Upper and see what happens.
 21 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Upper and Lower
 22 Kalskag is not a huge population, so I don't think it
 23 will --
 24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Oh, Russian Mission on
 25 the Yukon is now in 38? Hold on. Well, let's -- just a

Page 215

1 second, before you do that, TJ, let's go back.
 2 Could you zoom out just a little bit? I
 3 didn't realize Russian Mission was in 38. That should
 4 go with Marshall, anyhow, in 39. They're adjacent on
 5 the Yukon. No. Russian is pretty small. Yeah.
 6 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Russian Mission,
 7 421.
 8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: That helps. Let's put
 9 that with 39.
 10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: 39, 884...
 11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: That's closer.
 12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: And you kind of
 13 did -- 37 used to be that 4.82 range now, so all you did
 14 is switch the Aleutians high deviations, which is fixed
 15 for now, with 39's --
 16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I don't -- do you think
 17 that there's any problem with that kind of deviation in
 18 a VRA district, Matt?
 19 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: Do you think that's the
 20 best you could get in -- in light of the constitutional
 21 requirements to draw a compact, contiguous, and
 22 socioeconomically-integrated district? If so, I think
 23 it's fine.
 24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: That would be my -- I
 25 would say so.

Page 216

1 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I thought --
 2 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: We have tinkered --
 3 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I thought we had
 4 better deviations.
 5 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: -- with both
 6 directions down -- every domino you've marked over, we
 7 have put one back, right, so...
 8 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Can we compare
 9 what our deviations were before we made these changes?
 10 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: I can --
 11 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: You -- you just
 12 basically --
 13 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: -- tell you.
 14 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: -- swapped.
 15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.
 16 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: No. Not -- not
 17 necessarily.
 18 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I thought we had
 19 pretty low deviations in all of the VRA districts.
 20 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: 37 was pretty low.
 21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: Until Port Graham
 22 and Nanwalek.
 23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Nanwalek, yeah.
 24 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Yeah. So when
 25 we -- when we just took Port Graham and Nanwalek, we

Page 217

1 only tinkered with one of the four, and it cut our
 2 deviation in half.
 3 So this, you're right, goes back to the original
 4 deviations. I'm wondering about your question, though,
 5 is this the best that we can do in light of compactness
 6 and everything else and with deviations.
 7 When I --
 8 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: It seems like what you're
 9 solving for here in the last half hour is socioeconomic
 10 integration, you know, and in particular it seems
 11 important to me to put Russian with Marshall, Yukon
 12 River, and then you're largely trying to address
 13 requests of local people in Calista with regard to that
 14 district. So I -- I'm not -- I'm not going to lose any
 15 sleep tonight about that deviation, if that's what you
 16 want.
 17 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: What I see an
 18 improvement of over our original Board Version 3 and 4
 19 is the Voting Rights Act improvement by bringing in the
 20 two villages, Nanwalek and -- what was the other one?
 21 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Port Graham.
 22 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Port Graham into
 23 37, which gave us some room to improve further
 24 socioeconomic integration for communities in 38 by
 25 bringing in some more.

Page 218

1 And we have justification for the communities
2 that we pushed out of 38 into 37. We have testimony
3 that suggested that -- that makes socioeconomic sense
4 for them.
5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I would agree with you.
6 Okay.
7 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I do feel like
8 this is the best that we can do socioeconomically,
9 compact, contiguous.
10 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: And it's an
11 improvement from our previous draft.
12 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: It's -- exactly.
13 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Can -- can I see
14 it zoomed out? I think the only person who is more
15 married to deviations than Bethany is me.
16 Let me see what it looks like.
17 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
18 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: It's amazing how
19 many zero deviation districts he was able to achieve.
20 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I -- I like this.
21 Personally, I appreciate us taking the time to try and
22 do this. I think it's --
23 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: I think it's an
24 improvement.
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- significant. It's an

Page 219

1 improvement and it's significant to the people that live
2 there. I -- I -- I'm proud of us, if we can accomplish
3 this.
4 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: And I think we did
5 it in a way that doesn't diminish socioeconomic
6 integrity --
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: No. It improves it.
8 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- in any of the
9 communities; however, we did have to sacrifice some
10 deviation in 39, but that deviation existed in Board
11 Versions 3 and 4 anyways before we added --
12 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Right.
13 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- the other two
14 communities, so we're making improvements.
15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Great. Where to
16 next?
17 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I'm really glad we
18 took the time to do this.
19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah, I do too. I
20 appreciate that.
21 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Thank you guys for
22 being willing to (indiscernible) in this.
23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.
24 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: So once we lock this
25 in...

Page 220

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.
2 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Budd's, like,
3 ready.
4 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Let's just move on,
6 though. What do you say we move on?
7 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Okay.
8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
9 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Mat-Su? Oh, we
10 did Mat-Su.
11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We did Mat-Su.
12 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Okay.
13 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Can we go to 36?
14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: 36?
15 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Or should we just
16 stay down on the coast?
17 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: 37.
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Should we do --
19 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Oh.
20 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- five, six, seven,
21 eight --
22 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: But 37 is part
23 of --
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- which we've done
25 before.

Page 221

1 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- part of that
2 already.
3 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Okay. So we're
4 done with 30 -- do you guys all feel like we've got some
5 consensus on 30 -- the VRA districts?
6 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Yeah.
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yes. Yes.
8 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Okay.
9 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: So the VRA
10 districts are done.
11 Chair- -- Chairman's prerogative. Do you want
12 to go to the coast or --
13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Let's go to -- let's go
14 to Southeast.
15 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Okay.
16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Get that locked in.
17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: This is your Board
18 consensus that you guys had been working on, so it's
19 good to note that -- that the map that we're working on
20 right now is the one that you guys did come to some
21 level of --
22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.
23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: -- consensus, so
24 what you're looking at is the closest to where you get,
25 so...

Page 222

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
2 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Can I ask a
3 question on that? So we now have the highest deviation
4 of 4.8. What's our lowest deviation, and what's our --
5 what's our --
6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: (Indiscernible).
7 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- spread?
8 (Indiscernible background conversations.)
9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: So, Southeast?
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Southeast.
11 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: So I'll just remind
12 people very briefly, a couple of small tweaks we've made
13 in this from previous versions.
14 We grabbed a couple of small communities on
15 the eastern shore of Prince of Wales Island and
16 brought them in with the District 1, the Ketchikan,
17 Wrangell District, which just evened out the
18 deviation, removed it. And then if you want to move
19 north...
20 You can see we still have Petersburg and Sitka
21 paired as, certainly, the main towns within District
22 1, or 2, rather. Then moving north, we preserve that
23 switch in Juneau for the south end, basically downtown
24 and part way out to the Valley, Douglas.
25 And then we've redrawn that line where the

Page 223

1 cursor is to smooth it out as best we can. We have
2 eliminated the little bump where it was pointed out
3 that there was a representative which -- removed, not
4 because of that, but because it -- it was a weird
5 little appendage that had not been intended in our
6 earlier version. And you can see we actually moved,
7 like, miles away from that. It wasn't just a surgical
8 excise. The whole thing moved.
9 If you go out a bit, the boundaries there are
10 the Juneau Borough, and -- and on the north end, it's
11 the Haines and Skagway along those -- those pick up --
12 well, Haines Borough includes Excursion Inlet, the
13 bottom there. Gustavus is not in the borough, is
14 not -- and we picked that up in District 3, to pick up
15 some population in recognizing that,
16 socioeconomically, Gustavus is just basically a little
17 tourist town, a gateway to Glacier Bay National Park,
18 not a traditional Native village as our -- most of the
19 other places in District 2. So it makes sense to put
20 that in with District 3, which are Haines and Skagway.
21 So if there aren't any questions, I think
22 we've been over this a few times. We don't need to
23 beat it to death.
24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: (Indiscernible).
25 We'll save this for Peter.

Page 224

1 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: I'll mention, too, I
2 did have communications with the Chairman of Sealaska
3 Corporation, which is exactly co-extensive with
4 Districts 1 through 4, that they approved
5 (indiscernible). Sealaska represents 22,000
6 shareholders.
7 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Were there any
8 changes that we needed to make? Or I thought we had
9 consensus on this city.
10 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: We've re-visited
11 this a couple of times --
12 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Okay.
13 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: -- and so I think --
14 I think --
15 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: This one last --
16 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: -- we've thought
17 about it as good as we can get it.
18 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Okay.
19 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Mr. Chairman, do
20 we have consensus on this map and note that for the
21 record and move to another region, unless anybody has
22 any objections? I mean, I'm not hearing anything.
23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I'm not hearing any
24 objections, so let's --
25 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yeah. Let's keep

Page 225

1 moving around the state.
2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- let's move on up to,
3 let's see, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, or just 8?
4 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: (Indiscernible).
5 Yeah, 5 through 8.
6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: 8.
7 TJ, do you want to walk us through that one,
8 or...
9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: 5, currently, the
10 Gulf Coast area, you've got Tatitlek, Chenega, and
11 Cordova, and of course the change that we made
12 yesterday, (indiscernible), Seward, the City of Seward
13 is part of the Cordova, Tatitlek, Chenega District.
14 Then of course we go down to the south side, like the
15 island of Kodiak, District 5, and then we've got 372
16 over.
17 You'll recall from yesterday, the Board spent
18 quite a bit of time playing with this and determining
19 whether or not going outside the city boundary of
20 Seward into Bear Creek was doable, but of course,
21 since your District 5 is already 372 over with the
22 city, that is what precluded the Board from going
23 further north past Seward. So that's where you guys
24 ended yesterday with District 5.
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD MEETING
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD MEETING on 11/05/2021

Page 226

1 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMELO: Mr. Chairman, if
2 the Board doesn't have any objections, I'd like to move
3 that we've reached consensus on 5.
4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: No objection here.
5 Okay. Let's move to 6.
6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: 6 is your Homer,
7 South Kachemak District from the south. So of course we
8 removed Port Graham and Nanwalek, as discussed, went to
9 37. In the South Kachemak area, we've kept Seldovia,
10 Seldovia Village, Halibut Cove, Homer, of course, Fritz
11 Creek and Fox River.
12 Uh-oh. We're getting "Zoom Bombed."
13 (Technical difficulties.)
14 (Off record.)
15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: Okay. So we're
16 going to slowly and cautiously continue.
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: So we've got Homer
19 on the south end, Prince Creek back into the Kenai
20 Peninsula Southern District. The north part of this
21 district goes all the way up to Kasilof, Kalifornsky.
22 Lots of discussion about that yesterday. That is your
23 District 6.
24 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: So I'll state that
25 we had a great deal of testimony in Homer, in

Page 227

1 particular, concerning keeping the Kachemak Bay
2 communities together in -- in that district, and
3 especially the Fritz Creek and Fox River, east -- east
4 end of the Homer communities connected with Homer. And
5 we worked on this extensively and at great length to
6 figure out a way to do this. It has ramifications for
7 other areas, such as Seward and Kodiak and everywhere in
8 the region, but we were able to come up with a solution
9 for that, and pleased we did because I really wanted to
10 pay attention to what those people were telling us about
11 their economic and -- and social interactions within
12 that region.
13 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMELO: And their work
14 ethic. They're very hard workers. I wanted that noted.
15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Any objection?
16 Let's move on to 7 and 8.
17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: District 7 is your
18 Kenai District, so you've got Kenai at the top, Soldotna
19 down here. It borders with Kalifornsky almost, but it
20 does begin the City of Kenai. It does take on the City
21 of Soldotna, District 7.
22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELOSON: Could you
23 turn off the...
24 So I was error checking this last night, and I
25 found a line that went straight to a house --

Page 228

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELOSON: -- so I
3 made a material change here to have a 30-person effect,
4 so I want to call it to your attention.
5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELOSON: It's the
7 difference between -- I added in this -- do you see the
8 city boundary goes right here? I filled that in. That
9 gained 40. If you zoom out a little bit, it was a split
10 house right in there, and I gave those back. It was,
11 like, a negative 70, so it was a net deviation change of
12 30 persons but we're no longer splitting with the house
13 in half.
14 So the Board's amenable to that, we can keep
15 it. If not, I've got the whole version
16 (Indiscernible).
17 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
18 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Those are really
19 good.
20 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah, those are tight.
21 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: All good.
22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Any objection?
23 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Thanks for
24 catching it, Peter.
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.

Page 229

1 No? No objections. What's left? Fairbanks?
2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: District 8.
3 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: District 8.
4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Oh, District 8, sorry.
5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: Yep. Which is
6 going to be the rest of your peninsula district.
7 Okay. So, of course, Sterling, Moose Pass,
8 Cooper Landing, Bear Creek, all of --
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Peter, maybe you can do
10 Fairbanks, navigate Fairbanks when you -- when we get to
11 it. Sorry. Yeah.
12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: Nikiski, and that's
13 District 8.
14 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Any objections to
15 District 8?
16 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMELO: No.
17 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: No.
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Consensus. So...
19 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMELO: Fireworks.
20 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah, fireworks.
21 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: I guess what's
22 important here is that map is contiguous with the Kenai
23 Peninsula and not move that into south --
24 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: (Indiscernible).
25 Right, right.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD MEETING
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD MEETING on 11/05/2021

Page 230

1 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Yeah.
2 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Borough
3 boundaries. We'll fix Beluga and Tyonek, note that
4 Beluga and Tyonek are part of the borough, but they were
5 put into District 37.
6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: And as noted with 5,
7 unfortunately we couldn't go north from Seward to the Y,
8 as was requested by the people in Seward.
9 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Correct.
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: The population deviation
11 just did not work to allow that to happen. We got as
12 far as we could, which is Seward.
13 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: And Budd made some
14 really good points about how, you know, with Fritz
15 Creek, people are driving through Fritz Creek to get to
16 places on the other side. Seward really is the end of
17 the road there, so we kept the places that were most
18 physically contiguous to Sterling and Cooper Landing in
19 with that area, so then there's a natural break there
20 when you get to Seward. So that was an excellent point
21 you made, Budd. Thank you.
22 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Is it screen sharing
23 there?
24 STAFF MEMBER JULI LUCKY: We're also -- yeah,
25 I'm getting a black screen.

Page 231

1 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: The screen sharing
2 is not working. Thanks, David.
3 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: Let's take an
5 at-ease, if that's okay, Mr. Chair?
6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Say again?
7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: We'll take an
8 at-ease, if that's okay?
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Yeah.
10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR TJ PRESLEY: For technical
11 difficulties.
12 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Technical issues. We're
13 going to take a brief at-ease. We'll still be on the
14 record here, but...
15 (Off record.)
16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: You guys
17 ready? Okay.
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Yeah, let's move
19 on to Fairbanks. Yeah, that's good.
20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Okay. Do
21 you want a different (indiscernible), maybe?
22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I think that's probably
23 okay.
24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON:
25 (Indiscernible), perhaps?

Page 232

1 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I think we should put
2 the Steese Highway and the Elliott Highway in there if
3 you're going to do highways.
4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Yeah. They
5 don't -- for whatever reason, they don't show. They're
6 there, but they're not...
7 I guess this is a good of time as any, but in
8 reconciling, holding the master in the background --
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.
10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: -- I found
11 that our Mat-Su did not have Healy with it, neither does
12 the borough -- neither does the N -- FNSB version or 36.
13 So right now in the master map, Healy is unassigned.
14 There's about 500 people there.
15 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Where does it make
16 the most socioeconomic sense --
17 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Healy is -- Healy
18 is on the --
19 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Nenana?
20 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Healy is in the
21 Denali Borough.
22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: I'm sorry.
23 Nenana.
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Nenana. Yeah, yeah,
25 yeah, yeah, yeah.

Page 233

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Nenana.
2 This --
3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I thought Nenana was in
4 36?
5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: This white,
6 we choose to put it there, but in the composite I'm
7 building, it just wasn't assigned.
8 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Peter, so the
9 Mat-Su that we just adopted, though -- or --
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: We had Nenana in 36.
11 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- or did not have
12 Nenana in it. So Nenana would not be in the Mat-Su. It
13 would be in --
14 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: It's in -- it's
15 in the --
16 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: --
17 (indiscernible).
18 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: -- 36.
19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: That's what it showed in
20 your Mat-Su --
21 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Let's make sure. So
23 your numbers...
24 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah. The version
25 that I did had it in there, and the numbers were fine

Page 234

1 for 36.
2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: There's
3 about five --
4 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yeah. 36 is under
5 right now, so...
6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: There's
7 about 500 people in Nenana in this area --
8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So it's slightly over.
9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: -- so it's
10 going to be --
11 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
12 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I think it makes
13 more socioeconomic sense to put it in 36.
14 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Tentatively in
15 Fairbanks.
16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Peter, do you
17 want to kind of walk us through, if you want to put
18 in -- I think the census shapes --
19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: You like
20 the census shapes?
21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- are helpful.
22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: Okay.
23 Sure.
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Because they really
25 define --

Page 235

1 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah, what happens
2 to different shapes.
3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- that portion
4 that's --
5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: Right.
6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- that's moved into 36
7 of the borough.
8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: Right. So
9 the Fairbanks North Star Borough started in the center.
10 33 is the City of Fairbanks is shown here with this
11 black. Let me turn off this census so we can see that a
12 little bit better.
13 So this is the City of Fairbanks. The City of
14 Fairbanks, blackout line. The City of Fairbanks
15 proper doesn't have quite enough for two full seats,
16 so you have to go outside of the city boundary
17 somewhere to get some population.
18 So in this, it moves to the -- the excess
19 population is found to the east, and just to smooth
20 this line out here just a little bit, there's -- I
21 think there was a hundred people or something in this
22 little portion here. So that's 33.
23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So that boundary, the
24 boundary of 33 on the north is the city boundaries?
25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: City

Page 236

1 boundary.
2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: On the west is city
3 boundaries, except for the Noyes Slough, which defines
4 the outer edge of the northwest corner of District 33,
5 and then the city boundaries completely for the balance
6 of that.
7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: And the
8 Steese Highway made a really nice line here, the eastern
9 boundary.
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: And the difference, the
11 military base, Fort Wainwright, is primarily on the east
12 of the Steese Highway, and the city proper is on the
13 west of the highway. So there -- it's not intersecting
14 any neighborhoods, where the Steese Highway goes north
15 and south.
16 And to refresh board members, in a court case,
17 I believe it was in 2013 proclamation or 2011,
18 required boards to get two seats out of Fairbanks and
19 one Senate seat.
20 Is that correct, Matt?
21 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: Yeah. Litigants
22 challenged and made that argument. The Court remanded
23 and pointed out that's something the Board should look
24 at. The Board adopted a plan, then, that included
25 two -- two Fairbanks seats. So it didn't -- there 's

Page 237

1 not actually a Supreme Court case that --
2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I see.
3 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: -- (indiscernible), but
4 those arguments (indiscernible) and the Board accepted
5 that it had some merit, so...
6 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Would it be
7 accepted that we could then compare the rural Interior
8 with District 32?
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Correct.
10 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: I'll file that
11 away for Monday. Thank you.
12 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
13 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Mr. Chair, I have
14 a question for you.
15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.
16 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Since you're most
17 intimately connected to this part of the state since you
18 live there, given all of the testimony that we heard
19 today, do you think that we can improve upon this
20 socioeconomically and still maintain all of our
21 constitutional requirements in any way after -- I mean,
22 I want to -- we looked at improvements that we can make
23 in 37, 38, and 39, so I want to give you that same
24 opportunity.
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I think as, you know,

Page 238

1 counsel has guided us, that the entire borough is
2 socioeconomically integrated. The reason that we're
3 finding ourselves in this difficult position, really, is
4 because it's been made abundantly clear by the elected
5 body that represents all the people in the borough that
6 they want the borough to be at equal representation for
7 the population that they have, and that's going to
8 require about 4,000 people to meet that, 4,000 people
9 being moved out of the borough into an adjacent
10 district. And it's tough to do. It's tough to find
11 4,000 people in one area to move out into an adjacent
12 area.

13 And we've looked at this area, kind of to the
14 north of Fairbanks on the northern end, western northern
15 end of Fairbanks. We took -- really, we followed a line
16 that's basically the census block line. I think that's
17 the Alaska Railroad, as I recall.

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: The
19 railroad is there, yeah, it's a good portion of it.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. It -- it stays
21 inside of the road, so it captures both sides of the
22 road, similar to what we did coming up the Richardson
23 Highway.

24 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Some of the
25 testimony we heard today, it seemed like also continued

Page 239

1 to suggest that the possibility of JBER being moved into
2 36. I don't know what that --

3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: It's --

4 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- or Eielson.
5 I'm sorry --

6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.

7 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- sorry -- I
8 don't know what that population is, if that would
9 accomplish the need for "one person, one vote."

10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: I'm going
11 to stop screen share for one second to edit the --

12 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Sure.

13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: --
14 (indiscernible) setting.

15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. You bet.

16 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: There was some
17 testimony I heard --

18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.

19 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- that suggested
20 that the military might be more socioeconomically with
21 36 than Goldstream, but I don't know if the
22 population --

23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I think you have to take
24 more than Eielson.

25 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- accomplishes

Page 240

1 that.

2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I don't have the Eielson
3 numbers off the top of my head.

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: I seem to
5 recall Eielson's in the 2,200 range, 2,600 range, I
6 think.

7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So you have to take more
8 than Eielson to get to that 4,000.

9 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: I -- I'd take
10 Salcha too --

11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah, Salcha,
12 Harding-Birch.

13 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: -- and Harding
14 Lakes.

15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: All of that community --

16 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: South.

17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- that is Eielson and
18 south and east going down. Shape-wise, as we've seen
19 from some of the proposals, when you zoom way out, when
20 you -- zoom out a little farther, Peter, if you could --
21 you really -- 36, then, comes around and up --

22 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah.

23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- the Richardson
24 Highway to capture that, versus this where you can see
25 just at the top, the top, the north, that portion of the

Page 241

1 borough is the outline, dotted outline, and that portion
2 goes up into 36.

3 It looks a little more compact to my eye,
4 rather than making the intrusion around. It's -- I
5 know Goldstream, the people in the Goldstream consider
6 themselves, as you've heard the testimony, very
7 closely associated to the university, which is to the
8 west to Fairbanks, to downtown. I think all people in
9 the borough consider themselves close to Fairbanks in
10 the town, and it's unfortunate to have to move 4,000
11 people into an adjacent district. And nobody's going
12 to be happy. Nobody in our testimony came forward and
13 said "move me."

14 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Right.

15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: And --

16 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: We just need to
17 track fourteen more thousand residents to the Fairbanks
18 North Star Borough, and then you'd have a whole
19 nother --

20 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Right. Well, that would
21 be great, and, you know, maybe the next census we'll be
22 able to be in that position, but it's unfortunate that
23 we're not. And my hope was that we could keep the
24 borough whole, even though it overpopulated each
25 district slightly, but at least it would allow us to be

Page 242

1 together as a borough, vote together, have all of our
2 opportunities at the LIO -- in Fair- -- LIO office in
3 Fairbanks, but it's just not the will of the people in
4 that area.
5 And it's still possible. There could be a
6 representative from Goldstream that is elected in
7 District 36. It's not out of the question at all.
8 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: And just for the
9 record too, I get that the borough is all identified as
10 socioeconomically integrated, but then when we look at
11 (indiscernible), the same consideration would apply
12 which of these areas are more socioeconomically
13 integrated with 36 than the others, and we feel like
14 this is our best work.
15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I think it's a judgment
16 call. I think there's -- you know, you can make -- when
17 you look at the -- 36, it's very diverse as well; you
18 know, there's a lot of differences between Glennallen
19 versus some of their remote villages on the
20 (indiscernible), or you look at Tok that's on the
21 highway system or Delta on the highway system. Those
22 are different communities, completely, in many of the
23 rural communities out north and -- and out west.
24 And so it's difficult to say, socioeconomically,
25 you know, that 36 is homogeneous. It's very different,

Page 243

1 and you can find different areas of Fairbanks that
2 related to different areas of District 36. So it's hard
3 to make a generalization.
4 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: It's not black and
5 white.
6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: It's not. It's a very
7 difficult judgment call. I mean, I -- my desire would
8 have been for the Assembly, the Borough Assembly to give
9 guidance on that, to say, "this is what we think is the
10 best fit for the -- the 4,000 people that need to go
11 into the adjacent district." They know -- they know --
12 they're elected by the people. They know them the best.
13 And it's -- it's -- it's tough for them to not be
14 willing to make that decision and then pass it on to the
15 five of us to make that decision. So I was disappointed
16 in that.
17 I think they tried to give us some guidance in
18 some of the whereases. As I -- you know, I can read
19 through these whereases in their resolution, you know,
20 the first one is really about the overpopulation and
21 making certain that we got down to equal --
22 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: And I've read the
23 resolution.
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.
25 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I appreciate that.

Page 244

1 I -- I want to express appreciation to you for taking
2 into consideration the necessity to break that borough
3 boundary per their request to -- as close as possible to
4 achieve "one person, one vote." I know that was a
5 difficult decision for you.
6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Thank you. I appreciate
7 that.
8 And -- and we did make some other changes as
9 well, respecting what we had heard in public
10 testimony. We kept North Pole together and the North
11 Pole area together. You can see in green there,
12 that's 35. It incorporates all of the City of North
13 Pole, as well as the surrounding areas and goes north.
14 We also changed District 32. We heard that in
15 testimony. People were concerned that lived on the
16 west side of Fairbanks near the university that in the
17 original Version 3 it wrapped around down towards
18 North Pole, and so people were considered that they
19 couldn't drive from one side of 32 to the other side
20 of 32 without going through the downtown districts.
21 And so we pulled that around; you know, 32 now
22 really is bounded by the Tanana River, which there 's
23 not any population south of the Tanana River. It's
24 part of the borough, and that's why it comes all the
25 way down there. But there's -- that's a military

Page 245

1 reservation there. There's no population in that area
2 at all.
3 And so I think we tried to respect that,
4 the -- what we heard in testimony, to pull that
5 District 32 back around to the west so that the
6 concentration of people were -- really around the
7 university were on Chena Ridge, Chena Pump Road, all
8 of those areas to the west.
9 I'm trying to think of anything else that was
10 covered here. We had -- I know that in a lot of the
11 testimony we've received, both written in and in
12 verbal testimony today, it was -- and there might be a
13 misperception, and maybe it's because it's our fault
14 because we didn't get that map out and people haven't
15 had a chance to really look at this, but the concern
16 was that the people in Eielson, Salcha, Harding-Birch
17 Lake down the highway are closer to Tok and Delta than
18 the people up in Goldstream. But I don't think that
19 people really had a chance to see the whole map as you
20 zoom out and see that it really is contiguous with 32,
21 probably more so than taking that portion of the
22 southeast and putting it into 32.
23 And there are two major roads that go north
24 right up into the District 36. There's the Elliott
25 Highway, the Haul Road that goes up towards Livengood,

Page 246

1 right where the cursor is right there, which goes
2 right through the extension of 36 right up into that
3 -- that district, and then also the Steese Highway
4 that goes up to the Yukon River, up near Birch Creek
5 and Circle. It would be up to the right, right --
6 yeah. There's Circle right there, and you can see
7 Birch Creek. So there's a highway that goes that way
8 as well out of the borough.
9 So there's two highways. People focused on
10 the highway going to the Southeast and going to Delta
11 and Tok, but there are two other highways that really
12 take off from that part of the district and go up into
13 36, so -- and then it's all contiguous, the Parks
14 Highway to the East -- excuse me -- to the West is
15 contiguous with that as well.
16 So, you know, just -- it's -- I'm as open to
17 other ideas, but we really didn't get from -- other
18 than saying, you know, take Eielson, Salcha -- we
19 didn't hear anybody from that area say, "Take us out
20 that way, but other people were opining that
21 those people who live in that area should be put in
22 District 36.
23 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Mr. Chairman, I
24 have a little bit of confusion over the Fairbanks North
25 Star Borough's position on where we should take --

Page 247

1 because I thought Assembly Member Gary Newman testified.
2 I wasn't sure if he was doing it in his official
3 capacity. And then the newly elected Assembly Member
4 Fletcher, she did not identify herself with the
5 Fairbanks North Star Borough; was a subsequent caller
6 who did.
7 But the things that Assembly Member Newman
8 said is, you know, if we wanted to re-visit where --
9 where the break occurs, is that Eielson is,
10 essentially, a closed community. It has gates. They
11 also have their own schools and their own power plant,
12 and there's a lot less integration, he was saying,
13 around that part of town versus Goldstream.
14 And then I was just unclear about whether or
15 not the newest assembly member was speaking on behalf
16 of her district when she voiced her concern about
17 breaking the Goldstream part of town.
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Well, with regards to
19 Eielson, I think Gary is correct. I mean, they do have
20 a gate. It's restricted access onto the Base, as is the
21 post at Fort Wainwright or the missile base in Greely,
22 or Clear Air Force Base. Any of them there --
23 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Right.
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- that's common with
25 military bases.

Page 248

1 I think people in Eielson, and I would say
2 people in Fairbanks North Star Borough, pride
3 themselves on being in a community that really
4 integrates the military into their community. I think
5 we're very proud of that, and we talk about that a
6 lot. The military talks about it. There are liaisons
7 between the military and the civilian community --
8 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Right.
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- the advisory boards.
10 There's a lot of social interaction. The Chamber of
11 Commerce. And -- and I know Luke Hopkins, who
12 testified today, Former Borough Mayor, very involved in
13 really trying to welcome the military, have them a part
14 of our community. I don't feel like they're this island
15 that is not a part of our community and that we could
16 easily just take them and put them in another area.
17 The military itself is very hesitant. I don't
18 think they do that as a matter of policy. They
19 wouldn't -- you wouldn't hear the base commander come
20 on and --
21 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Testify.
22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- testify as to where
23 they should be in this process, because they are just
24 people (indiscernible). But the people in -- in Eielson
25 and Wainwright consider themselves part of the

Page 249

1 community. And I think we had testimony, Former
2 Representative Doug Isaacson, former mayor of North
3 Pole, talk -- testified about that as well, very
4 articulate about it.
5 It's a tough one. It's a tough, tough
6 decision.
7 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: I agree.
8 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: As a matter of law,
9 everyone in the borough is socioeconomically integrated.
10 That's -- that's the definition of Title 29. So to the
11 degree that this discussion is, you know, an exploration
12 of who's not integrated in the borough is kind of a
13 fool's errand. It's --
14 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Right.
15 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: -- it's not -- they
16 all -- everybody --
17 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
18 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: You have to make a hard
19 choice.
20 So I would encourage the Board to consider,
21 you know, following the other requirements of making
22 compact districts contiguous and as close to equal
23 population as possible, because you -- you can't make
24 a determination that one of your neighbors in your
25 borough is integrated into the borough and the other

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD MEETING
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD MEETING on 11/05/2021

Page 250

1 is not. It's just not -- that's not -- as a matter of
2 law, everybody is integrated.
3 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEIO: I just wanted to
4 mention that we did hear from two assembly members, and
5 they waited quite --
6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.
7 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEIO: -- a long time,
8 five-plus hours and lost power, the whole nine yards,
9 had to recharge and call back in.
10 That said, you have offered very rational
11 reasons as to why you disagree with their position,
12 and that part of your rationale is based on
13 compactness. That's what I'm hearing, which is why
14 I'm willing to support the break being as where you
15 need to put it, instead of where two members of the
16 Assembly suggest it should be, especially since I'm
17 unclear about whether or not they were speaking in
18 their official capacity, one of them for sure never
19 identified herself as an assembly member.
20 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: And we --
21 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEIO: And with that,
22 I'd like to move the Fairbanks North Star Borough
23 forward as consensus reached.
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. I think that
25 leaves --

Page 251

1 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEIO: And I
2 simultaneously move the Interior region, 36.
3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Sure. You bet. I'm
4 fine with that.
5 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I don't have any
6 objection --
7 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Put Nenana into --
8 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- with that. I
9 think the only --
10 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: -- (indiscernible).
11 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- yes. The only
12 change that we've made is we --
13 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
14 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: And we have -- we
15 have a bump up along the Richardson from Southeast, that
16 carves out...
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. We've already got
18 that in this map, I think.
19 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: I mean, you put
20 Valdez out of 36, so...
21 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: So just summarizing
22 some of those.
23 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yeah. Thank you.
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Can -- can we just go
25 down, again, Cantwell --

Page 252

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: Sure. I
2 just --
3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- when you get a
4 chance?
5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: -- want to
6 demonstrate that I went ahead and put --
7 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEIO: Nenana.
8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: --
9 (indiscernible) deviation is plus 223.
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: 1.22. It's still -- and
11 the Fairbanks districts are pretty tight as well.
12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: Yeah.
13 We've got -- yeah.
14 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEIO: And now you're
15 going to go add Cantwell?
16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: So I did.
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I think it's in there.
18 Yeah, it's in there.
19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: Yeah, yeah.
20 This is not the master. This is the example. The
21 master is sitting over here and has other work done on
22 it, so I'm debating to get it --
23 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEIO: Okay.
24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELSON: -- but I
25 just wanted to demonstrate -- I'm going to go do this in

Page 253

1 there, and I just wanted you to see the deviations,
2 since you haven't actually seen 36 once Nenana is added.
3 It's plus 223, 1.22.
4 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Can I just ask
5 Counsel a quick question?
6 Do you have -- in the light of the fact that
7 we have noted the socioeconomic reasons for taking
8 Cantwell out. Obviously it is not a compact change,
9 right, so do you have any concerns about the
10 compactness, or do you believe that in this instance,
11 for socioeconomic reasons that we took Cantwell out of
12 the borough probably are sufficient to overcome the
13 compact -- the loss of compactness with that removal?
14 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: I -- I don't have -- I
15 mean, I agree that it's -- it is -- 36 becomes a little
16 less compact as a result of putting Cantwell in, and
17 it's sort of a coin toss as to whether that makes sense.
18 But you're -- but you're balancing constitutional
19 concerns.
20 And you've heard testimony, and a specific
21 request from the ANCSA Regional Corporation to include
22 Cantwell with the other Ahtna villages, and the Board
23 has -- with District 36, it's really sought to create a
24 Doyon district. So it's -- it's consistent, and I think
25 it's within your discretion.

Page 254

1 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Thank you.
2 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Counselor, and to
3 add on to that, I think what I heard you say earlier was
4 relative compactness comparable to other maps, and if
5 you look at relative compactness compared to the other
6 36 that we have, 36 is so large that the percentage that
7 we're adding compared to its size, in my mind, is -- if
8 you look at it as a percentage as the overall size of
9 the district, it's not a significant change in
10 compactness, in my opinion. I heard compelling
11 socioeconomic justification.
12 Sorry. It's getting late, and, I mean,
13 English is my second language, so I'm translating in
14 my head before I speak here.
15 So -- so that's -- I just wanted that on the
16 record.
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. I think that --
18 Nicole?
19 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Thank you,
20 Mr. Chairman.
21 We just got a message from Gary Newman. I
22 misstated that he serves on the Fairbanks North Star
23 Borough, so I apologize for that. It is getting late.
24 And then he mentioned that he was part of the Golden
25 Valley co-op utilities; however, he serves in that

Page 255

1 capacity. Somehow I translated it to the Assembly.
2 So I apologize for overstating or understating his
3 qualifications.
4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Well, he gave great
5 testimony.
6 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: He did.
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I was impressed with it,
8 did an excellent job, and this is for you, Gary. I
9 appreciate it. We think of you often.
10 Okay. So I think we're ready to tackle
11 Anchorage.
12 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: So I'm wondering,
13 Mr. Chair, if we can get a printout. I think it was
14 suggested earlier --
15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.
16 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: -- that we could
17 get a printout of the state without any districts drawn
18 within Anchorage, a big large one, so we can take the
19 30,000 view of this, and then the two Anchorages side by
20 side so that we can compare for compactness, contiguity,
21 all of that. Or do you want to just keep on moving?
22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: I would just assume keep
23 on moving. I think -- I -- I've got a good visual
24 picture of it.
25 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Okay. Let's keep

Page 256

1 moving, then.
2 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: This is everything,
3 but...
4 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yeah, I think so.
5 I think it's down to Anchorage, which is not to say --
6 that's last but not least, because Anchorage is
7 40 percent of the state's population, 40 percent of the
8 house district. So definitely maybe last but not least.
9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELOSON: Would like
10 to see Anchorage brought up on the screen?
11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. Maybe we
12 should --
13 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
14 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Do you think this
15 is going to be a lengthy discussion? If so, can I use
16 the restroom?
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Let's -- let's take a
18 little break, a little restroom break while he gets the
19 maps set up. Members can be a little more relaxed,
20 maybe.
21 (Off record.)
22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. I think we're
23 going to come back into session. I think we've been
24 online all along, but hopefully folks following us on
25 the Zoom meeting portion can see the two different

Page 257

1 versions of the 16 districts within Anchorage, and
2 inset, in each of those screens, are the deviations,
3 both high and low, for the two different maps. And
4 that's really what's before us right now, looking at
5 these maps and choosing one or the other. And once we
6 have that done, I think we've pretty much got -- got the
7 state wrapped up, and then we can talk about finalizing
8 the whole map.
9 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Mr. Chair?
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah, Melanie.
11 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Given the
12 information that we've been provided in terms of
13 compactness, contiguity, socioeconomic integration, the
14 minimal deviations in both the VRA analysis that was
15 also conducted, I'm feeling that Board V.4 Best is the
16 best job that we could do to meet all of those
17 constitutional requirements and the Federal Voting
18 Rights Act. So I'm going to move that we accept Board
19 v.4 Best.
20 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. There's a motion
21 before us to accept v.4 Best, which is one of the
22 versions up here.
23 Is there a second to the motion?
24 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: I want to discuss
25 before seconding or ruling.

Page 258

1 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: We have to second
2 before we can discuss.
3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. There --
4 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: (Indiscernible).
5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- there either has to
6 be a second --
7 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Then I will second
8 it for purposes of this session.
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. There's a motion
10 before us and seconded.
11 Discuss on motion.
12 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Mr. Chair, we've had
13 a lot of testimony and discussion about these districts,
14 some of it more helpful than others. People have said,
15 for example, that portions of, particularly v.3, are
16 unconstitutional. I do not find that to be the case. I
17 believe that either of these versions could be -- or
18 could be used, let's say, particularly if they were
19 independent of each other and not -- you know, not
20 delved up as a pair, where we have to make that kind of
21 binary choice, but we're not in that position.
22 I found myself thinking strongly about the
23 deviation of being smaller on v.3, tighter, whatever
24 the -- the correct adjective is, and that is a
25 numerical objective standard that you can look at and

Page 259

1 say, okay, well, that's -- that's just lower, so
2 that's a thing.
3 I also looked at the compactness, which I find
4 to be a very important factor as well, and just by
5 eyeball. But I think, objectively, too, the v.4
6 version is more compact. Just to my eye, the
7 districts are kind of more square and fewer, kind of,
8 corners and things like that, which is only stated in
9 the context that I think both of them are okay that
10 way. So I'm not criticizing the other. I'm just
11 saying what my eyes see. And at the same time, it has
12 a little bit higher deviation.
13 I think that had we had more time based on
14 when the census data came in and all of the other
15 obligations we've had to show this throughout the
16 state, if we had another month or something to look at
17 this, we probably could have tweaked both of these up
18 and came up with a single version that was probably
19 more pleasing to all of us, but we don't have another
20 month. We have now. So it's forced -- forced upon us
21 the need to make a decision and move forward.
22 And so given -- well, and -- and then I think
23 the clincher for me is we've -- we've had a lot of
24 testimony. We've heard, kind of, both sides of all of
25 it. I need to go with the one that I think is most

Page 260

1 legally sustainable in the event we're challenged, and
2 when I parse that out, I come to v.4, because overall,
3 the combination of good deviations not quite as good
4 but good enough deviations, and cleaner lines and
5 compactness, that's where I land.
6 So, Mr. Chair, that's -- that's what I'm going
7 to support.
8 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: That's what you
9 want, (indiscernible) v.4?
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. I think, for me,
11 I kind of have the same tests, but when I look at the
12 subject-- subjectivity compactness, I think I look at
13 either of those, and I think either of those is
14 defensible as well. And so I kind of weigh that
15 equally. And then I look to deviation, and I see a
16 little tighter deviation on v.3.
17 So all things considered, my weight goes
18 slightly to v.3, and so I'm going to oppose the
19 motion.
20 Any other members want to discuss the motion?
21 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I'll just say, the
22 reason that I was willing to work on a consensus map for
23 Anchorage is because I -- I have no -- there's no
24 political anything involved with the map that I drew. I
25 have no political knowledge of who, where -- the

Page 261

1 people -- which people live there or who lives where,
2 regardless of what many people have said. I believe
3 that the map I put together, particularly considering
4 the very recent legal information that we were
5 provided -- it would have been very helpful if we had
6 that information earlier in the process. It's no one's
7 fault that we didn't, necessarily. But provided that we
8 got that information very late, I believe that map
9 Version 3 is absolutely the -- the best balance between
10 compactness and the requirement that we have for "one
11 person, one vote."
12 And so I'm going to oppose the motion as well.
13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Any further discussion?
14 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Mr. Chairman,
15 I'll be supporting v.4, and I'd like to call the
16 question.
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. There's a request
18 to call the question on the motion.
19 Is there any objection to calling the question
20 on the motion? Hearing none. The motion is before
21 us.
22 We should probably do it with a roll call
23 vote, I think would be appropriate.
24 Peter, if you could do that, please. And the
25 motion is to accept Version 4.

Page 262

1 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEIO: 4 Best.
 2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: 4 Best, the one
 3 presented before us.
 4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: Member
 5 Bahnke.
 6 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yes.
 7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: Member
 8 Borrromeo.
 9 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEIO: Yes.
 10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: Member
 11 Binkley.
 12 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: No.
 13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: Member
 14 Simpson.
 15 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Yes.
 16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: Member
 17 Marcum.
 18 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: No.
 19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: Three to
 20 two. The motion passes.
 21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Three to two. The
 22 motion passes. So the Board has accepted Version 4.
 23 And now I think we really have the entire plan
 24 before us. Is there anybody that wants to comment on
 25 the whole plan, or the Chair would be willing to

Page 263

1 accept a motion regarding the full plan as we've
 2 presented it.
 3 Are there any areas we've missed, Peter, or...
 4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: Not that
 5 I'm aware of. I'm going to be building, obviously,
 6 (indiscernible), a total composite. If there's any
 7 problems, we'll certainly be touching on them. I'm not
 8 aware of any problems that would prevent you from
 9 adopting the final map at this time.
 10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. So, Budd?
 11 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: So, Mr. Chair, I
 12 think as part of our next step, we should ask staff to
 13 carefully review --
 14 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yes.
 15 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: -- everything, make
 16 sure there aren't any empty spots, holes left
 17 inadvertently due to the mapping program or otherwise,
 18 if they -- or -- and use their own judgment and
 19 intelligence to advise us if they find anything like
 20 that.
 21 We have to come back, as I understand it, on
 22 Monday to do the Senate pairing, which is going to be
 23 probably more of a project than it sounds like on --
 24 on its face. But at that time, we can have a report
 25 from staff as to any changes they find or mistakes

Page 264

1 they recommend fixing and so forth.
 2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: More of a technical --
 3 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Yeah.
 4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- exercise in making
 5 certain that everything is as we anticipated it in the
 6 motion that we expect coming up.
 7 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: And this should give
 8 enough for now to forward it for the metes-and-bounds
 9 description, because basically we've done the whole
 10 state. So by Monday, we should, basically, have
 11 everything we need for the Senate pairings.
 12 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So if we could get a
 13 motion that --
 14 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I would just like
 15 to -- you know, I have the expectation we'll be done by
 16 Monday; you know, the Department of Labor, Eric
 17 Sandberg, originally said that, you know, 48 hours was
 18 the minimum he needed. So I -- I do think that we
 19 should keep in mind that, you know, even if he works
 20 very hard over the next, you know, 48 hours, the
 21 metes-and-bounds part may not be done yet, and since we
 22 don't actually have to have that until the
 23 proclamation --
 24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Exactly.
 25 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- which is due

Page 265

1 Wednesday, let's make sure that we give them time to do
 2 that sufficiently and properly instead of trying to
 3 hurry that along over the weekend.
 4 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Yeah. Good point.
 5 Because we don't need that to do --
 6 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah. Exactly.
 7 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: -- the Senate
 8 pairing. We have what we need --
 9 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Correct.
 10 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: -- to do the Senate
 11 pairing.
 12 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Exactly.
 13 So if we can get a motion to get a plan that
 14 will kind of layout, make sure the public understands
 15 what the process is and the availability to the maps,
 16 how they can interact with them, when we're going to
 17 have public testimony, and what the next steps are.
 18 So we'd be looking for a motion at this point.
 19 I think there's a suggestion on there, if anybody
 20 wishes to make it.
 21 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I'll
 22 move that we adopt the redistricting map, which has been
 23 labeled as Board Consensus v.7. I don't see that...
 24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: I think --
 25 I think we should probably name it whatever assignment

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD MEETING
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD MEETING on 11/05/2021

Page 266

1 you want to call it.
2 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Why don't we call
3 it --
4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Well, I think it should
5 be --
6 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: -- v.7. Just
7 v.7.
8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Just call
9 it v.7?
10 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: v.7.
11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: It can for purposes of
12 the motion, but I think it should be then converted to
13 final.
14 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Yeah.
15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: The final map. This is
16 for the purposes of the motion. This is the v.7, but it
17 will become, if this motion passes, the final --
18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: I see what
19 you're saying.
20 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- map.
21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Okay.
22 Great. Thank you.
23 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: So I'll take that as
24 a friendly amendment, that it's currently labeled Board
25 Consensus v.7, but we'll eventually get a better name,

Page 267

1 such as "final map" as the final redistricting map, with
2 the allowance that staff may make minor changes to
3 facilitate metes-and-bounds, and we'll return a report
4 of recommended change -- changes to the Board for review
5 prior to final proclamation adoption.
6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Is there --
7 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: (Indiscernible).
8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- is there a second to
9 the motion?
10 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: I second that.
11 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Motion before and
12 seconded.
13 Does everybody -- well, have any discussion on
14 the motion? Does everybody understand the motion?
15 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Yes.
16 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Is there any objection
17 to the motion?
18 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Mr. Chairman, I am
19 going to go ahead and object. There are parts of this
20 map that I think are very good, but in all good
21 conscience, I know there are parts that are not the best
22 that they can be, so I am going to -- not in favor of
23 this map, but I completely understand and appreciate
24 many of the parts of the map, and I appreciate everyone
25 who contributed to making their contributions to this

Page 268

1 map.
2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Since there is an
3 objection, I think we should do another roll call vote
4 on the final version.
5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON:
6 (Indiscernible).
7 Member Simpson.
8 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Yes.
9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Sorry.
10 (Indiscernible).
11 Member Marcum.
12 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: No.
13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Member
14 Binkley.
15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yes.
16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Member
17 Borromeo.
18 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Enthusiastically,
19 yes.
20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Member
21 Bahnke.
22 BOARD MEMBER MELANIE BAHNKE: Yes.
23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Four to
24 one. The motion carries.
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. The motion

Page 269

1 carries.
2 And now, just to talk a little bit about the
3 process, as Budd pointed out, the staff will now begin
4 working on making sure all of the technical aspects of
5 the plan are in place. Our demographer or topographer
6 in Juneau will be working on describing every district
7 by metes-and-bounds so that we physically have that.
8 That will be going on this weekend as well.
9 If that's not completed by Monday, they can still
10 continue to do that. Even if staff doesn't have all
11 of the technical aspects done by Monday, they can
12 still be working on completing that.
13 But we will, probably by this evening -- give
14 me a time that you estimate, Peter, that this will be
15 online where people can look at it and drill down into
16 it?
17 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: I was going to
18 say tomorrow --
19 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
20 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: -- I don't think
21 tonight.
22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: It --
23 it's...
24 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: I would

Page 270

1 really like to fully error check --
2 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Error.
3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: -- before
4 we publish it --
5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. I think that's --
6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: -- in light
7 of our experiences --
8 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah, yeah.
9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: -- earlier
10 in this process. And so while I know the public is
11 going to be interested to get a Google map interaction
12 of this, but we really want to do it right, so I
13 recommend we have it -- say, like, maybe tomorrow, seems
14 look a reasonable time frame for that.
15 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: That's really fast,
16 actually.
17 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Is there a screenshot or
19 something that people can generally look at?
20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Sure. I
21 think we could make some screenshots available in the
22 next couple of hours. We'll --
23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: -- post
25 them to the homepage of the website. Be sure to hit

Page 271

1 "refresh" because your browser is crashing that
2 homepage. Hit "refresh," and we'll send out a blast to
3 our e-mail list --
4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: -- when
6 it's updated. Hit that page, hit "refresh," and we'll
7 just have some screenshots so people can start to digest
8 it.
9 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: And then it'll be
10 labeled draft (indiscernible) --
11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Yeah, yeah.
12 And they're going to be fairly low resolution.
13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. It'll be -- this
14 is the final, just so it's not confused that this is a
15 draft, it's the final map --
16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: It's the
17 final map.
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- but --
19 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: What they're seeing
20 isn't the final, final.
21 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Well, it's not the --
22 it's not in Google whatever...
23 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Aside -- aside
24 from error checking, it is.
25 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah.

Page 272

1 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Yeah.
2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: The errors
3 that we're shooting for would not be visible at this
4 resolution.
5 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Right.
6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: So it's
7 okay to call them final --
8 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Okay.
9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: -- because
10 the errors we're -- like I found so far are just tiny
11 little block fragments. So we'll call them final, and
12 we'll post them as soon as we can.
13 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: And by "tiny
14 little blocks," you meaning, like, ones that have zero
15 population --
16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Yeah, yeah,
17 yeah.
18 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- not ones that
19 affect anything?
20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Yeah.
21 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I know there's --
22 there's a process in the system that finds those easily,
23 so --
24 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: (Indiscernible).
25 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: -- you have to

Page 273

1 correct them as you go, so...
2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: And it is tedious. I
3 mean, there are 28,000 -- over 28,500 of these little
4 blocks, very tiny, and we need -- staff needs to go
5 through and make certain every one of those is in the
6 correct spot, and that's the process they'll be doing.
7 So hopefully by noon tomorrow, that's what
8 we're shooting for, that people can get the full
9 resolution map where they can start to drill down, see
10 block by block, area by area where the different
11 district lines are.
12 And then we will plan oncoming back into
13 session at 9:00 on Monday morning. The first thing we
14 will do, regardless of any other issues, is we'll take
15 public testimony so the public knows that that is the
16 time certain. Again, our apologies for today, getting
17 into other areas before we went to public testimony,
18 and consequently people had to wait long, long hours,
19 and we apologize for that.
20 The purpose of the testimony on Monday will be
21 to talk about Senate pairings. That is the next step
22 that we have. We have to take these 40 house seats
23 and then pair them up into Senate districts that are
24 composed of two contiguous house districts, and then
25 we'll be -- be determining that after we take public

Page 274

1 testimony on Monday.
2 So we would ask that the public testify really
3 on the Senate pairings. That's what we'll be looking
4 for your guidance on, not comments on the final plan,
5 whether you like it or not or have complaints about
6 it. It's really the purpose, and what we'll be asking
7 you for, are guidance on how you see those districts
8 going together.
9 Each of those districts will have a number, 1
10 through 40. Those are not the final numbers that we
11 will use, because those will help us when we start to
12 put the pairings together. We may move some of those
13 house numbers from one district to another.
14 But if so, if you look at the map and have
15 comments on the Senate pairings, be prepared to use
16 the numbers that are on the maps that you will see
17 this weekend. So if it's District 15 and you think it
18 ought to be paired with District 9, they need to be
19 contiguous, but they may be numbered 9 and 15. So
20 that's the reference that you can use. We'll be
21 looking at it on a map as well so we can tell what
22 you're talking about when you say "pair this district
23 with this district."
24 And then after we take public testimony, we'll
25 go back into a work session, where we'll start the

Page 275

1 process of working on those Senate pairings to -- to
2 get to 40 house districts and to 20 Senate districts.
3 Once we have all of those pairings, then there's
4 another step that the staff has to go through to
5 determine how those districts have changed for current
6 Senate members in those areas. I'm not sure exactly
7 how that works, but Peter has a better understanding
8 and can maybe explain it --
9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: Sure.
10 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: -- if you could, please.
11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: Sure.
12 So the Alaska law requires that a senate term
13 be truncated, reduced from four years to two years,
14 and the senator must run again in the next election if
15 the underlying voter constituency has substantially
16 changed. And so we'll be running a mathematical --
17 it's called a cross tabulation -- for every census
18 block and figure out how many people in the new Senate
19 seat had a chance to vote for that senate member, and
20 that -- based on that percentage, we can calculate how
21 much change has occurred to that Senate seat. Then
22 the Board will have to determine what is a substantial
23 change, and once they've decided that, then there will
24 be a certain number of Senate seats which must be
25 truncated and will be required to run again in the

Page 276

1 next election in 2022.
2 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So in addition to that,
3 then we have to start determining what the -- the cycle
4 for the Senate seats are. Some will be up in 2022.
5 Some will be up in 2024. In addition to the truncation,
6 the existing seats, so that will be another equation
7 that we are -- a decision point that we have to come up
8 with, is which seats run in 2022 and which are on the
9 2024 circle.
10 And -- and sometimes the consequence of that
11 is that senators have to run in 2022, then they have
12 to run again in 2024.
13 And is there a case where it could run again
14 in 2026? I don't think so. It could have been that
15 they run in 20 --
16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: Not --
17 not -- not usually, but subject to court cases, it has
18 happened.
19 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Oh, that's true. That's
20 true. Yeah, that's right.
21 So after we've got all that done, then we have
22 the final proclamation, and that is the final plan
23 that is submitted to the public that has all 40 house
24 districts, all 20 Senate districts, and the terms that
25 they run under, and that's submitted. And then that

Page 277

1 starts the 30-day process by which the public has an
2 opportunity to challenge that proclamation in our
3 court system.
4 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: The precinct
5 drawing, does that happen after the proclamation, or --
6 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
7 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Yeah. Go ahead, Peter.
8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKELESON: So as you
9 may be aware, every voter in Alaska is assigned to a
10 precinct, and because the precinct boundaries must lie
11 exactly and precisely within the new legislative
12 district lines, the Division of Elections, who we'll
13 been in continual contact with, must redraw all -- all
14 the precincts and then re-card voters. So you'll get a
15 new voter card in the mail that has your new district
16 number, new Senate seat assignment, new precinct number,
17 and may have a different voting location.
18 The Division of Elections will be undertaking
19 that effort as soon as we get our work completed. So
20 that's something that the Division of Elections is
21 aware of and we're talking with them about it, and
22 they have the means and staff ready to do that.
23 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: So I would suggest you
24 keep track of the website so that you can see when that
25 fully accessible version is. I don't know exactly what

Page 278

1 you call it, the Google...
2 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: The Google
3 interactive version.
4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Google -- Google
5 interactive version is available.
6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: If you're
7 interested, please sign up on our website. You hop on
8 the website, akredistrict.org, click the "stay
9 informed," give us your name and e-mail address, and
10 you'll get an e-mail the moment that gets uploaded. So
11 that's the fastest.
12 You don't have to keep hitting "refresh."
13 Just have the e-mail on your phone. It'll pop up and
14 you can hit the map right there.
15 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: There you go.
16 Okay. Is there anything else for the good of
17 the order here this evening?
18 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Question: So is
19 staff going to give us the report or give us the
20 information on Monday regarding errors that we find? Is
21 that the plan?
22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Yeah. My
23 intention would be to bring a report forward on Monday.
24 We'll know a lot more then. In the event there's a
25 split house or any type of population --

Page 279

1 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: (Indiscernible).
2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: -- we'll
3 have screenshots. We'll explain it. We'll give the
4 opportunity to say "yes, we want to do it," "no, we
5 don't."
6 And so we'll have that on Monday. It's my
7 intention. Although I expect most of it to be
8 (indiscernible)...
9 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: Okay. Quick
10 question on -- on the term -- can we identify, kind of,
11 a number that we consider substantial without knowing
12 who it applies to, if you know, create a threshold?
13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Previous
14 boards have used 15, 20, and 25, I believe.
15 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: I think he's
16 asking for it to be masked without names, but --
17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Yeah, no,
18 we're not -- no, no, no. This is all about Senate
19 seats. There will be no --
20 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: Yeah. No names --
21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: -- names.
22 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- attached at
23 all.
24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: No names.
25 The report will be Old Senate, A through R, I think, and

Page 280

1 then A through T, and then New Senate, A through T, and
2 it'll just be all anonymous. (Indiscernible).
3 BOARD MEMBER BUDD SIMPSON: I don't think
4 that's --
5 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: No. I think Budd is
6 maybe saying should we adopt a number.
7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Oh, a
8 number.
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Former boards have used
10 a different number, but they looked at it and then come
11 up with a number, or do they set a number and say, you
12 know, one over that is -- goes this way and one under
13 that goes this way?
14 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Mr. Chairman.
15 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: I'd like to give the
16 Board legal advice about that. I can do it in
17 writing --
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
19 ATTORNEY MATT SINGER: -- and I can send you an
20 e-mail about it. It's not detailed. It's not something
21 we necessarily --
22 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay.
23 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: That's what I was
24 going to say. I was also going to suggest that Bethany
25 wasn't the only one who was up all night mapping, and if

Page 281

1 some of this housekeeping stuff can be moved to Monday,
2 I think that her and I would appreciate some sleep.
3 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Housekeeping stuff.
4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Yeah, no,
5 you're --
6 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: You're off.
7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: --
8 you're -- you're off --
9 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Okay.
10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: -- until
11 9:00 a.m. Monday.
12 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Oh, we're done?
13 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: No. Peter is going to
14 do the housekeeping.
15 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Oh, okay.
16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER TORKEKELSON: Yeah.
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: You know, I'm -- I'm
18 going to do some vacuuming around here, just to --
19 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Oh, my God.
20 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
21 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- send out the
22 Senate pairings information, the legal information that
23 we got, I don't know, maybe if it was like two and a
24 half weeks ago --
25 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)

Page 282

1 BOARD MEMBER BETHANY MARCUM: -- there's some of
2 it in there, and it was a pretty good e-mail with some
3 of the (indiscernible) analysis.
4 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Anything else?
5 If not, we'd like for a motion to adjourn.
6 Or no, should we stand in recess or adjourn?
7 I guess we could adjourn? Adjourn?
8 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)
9 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Okay. Motion to
10 adjourn. Is there a second?
11 BOARD MEMBER NICOLE BORROMEO: Second.
12 CHAIRMAN JOHN BINKLEY: Discussion on the
13 motion? Any objection to the motion?
14 We're adjourned.
15 (Off record.)
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Page 283

1 TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE
2
3 I, Kasidy Lomeli, hereby certify that the
4 foregoing pages numbered 1 through 282 are a true,
5 accurate, and complete transcript of the proceedings
6 transcribed by me from a copy of the electronic sound
7 recording to the best of my knowledge and ability.
8 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my name
9 this 22nd day of December, 2021.
10
11 *Kasidy Lomeli*
12
13 KASIDY LOMELI, CA CSR No. 14046
14 My Commission Expires 8/25/2024
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16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

	18,220 9:22 19:17	22,000 224:5
-	18,335 17:11	220 30:20
-220 10:2	18- 9:25	220-people 30:5
-o0o- 2:2 282:16	188 18:5	223 252:9 253:3
	19 20:12 30:25	23 37:2 78:9,10 79:10
1	1980s 88:3,23 89:2 90:11	23-year 61:19
1 53:3 169:10,13 170:20 222:16,22 224:4 274:9	199 11:11	24 10:23 11:8,15,16,17
1,000 8:19 200:16 201:24 212:17	1995 87:25	25 113:7 135:7 140:11 194:3 279:14
1,238 200:21	1996 164:3	258 210:20
1,300 214:5		26 37:1
1,375 210:21 212:1	2	27 196:7
1.08 9:14	2 97:6 129:9,10 170:21 222:22 223:19	28,000 273:3
1.2 30:4	2,000 179:4	28,500 273:3
1.22 252:10 253:3	2,200 240:5	29 249:10
1.7 17:13	2,600 240:5	2:30 146:5
10 32:1 57:7 70:8 73:18 77:9,17	2.33 206:20,21	
10,000 149:12	2.74 18:12	3
10-30 138:10	2.83 206:18	3 5:25 12:6 32:21 37:21,24 38:14,15, 17,19,22,23 45:20 46:9 51:22 62:17 63:14 73:3 75:2,22 78:4,7,21 79:9 95:11 106:12,15,17 108:14 109:21 117:21 118:15 131:6,8,12 137:14 150:21,22 155:16 182:5,18 185:3 186:13,14,16,19 217:18 219:11 223:14,20 244:17 261:9
100 126:18 189:20	20 54:4 57:7 73:10 78:5,11 80:15 101:10 119:19 167:12 275:2 276:15, 24 279:14	3.8 209:18
10th 35:19	200 11:3,17 18:18	3.81 202:24
11 31:10 32:1 75:3,4	2001 153:6	30 26:16 154:25 165:15,17 221:4,5 228:12
110 189:20	2003 119:5	30,000 255:19
11:00 22:23	2010 120:3	30-day 277:1
12 92:22 169:22	2011 236:17	30-person 228:3
13 76:1	2012 119:19	300 159:14 209:18
14 8:2 75:4	2013 120:13 153:6 236:17	31 111:22
15 20:3 21:16 26:3,18,20,23 70:8 74:20 75:17,22 77:9,17 165:6,10,12 274:17,19 279:14	2018 141:2	312 18:6
15-minute 165:8	2019 119:5	32 237:8 244:14,19,20,21 245:5,20,22
15th 16:20,21	2020 205:16	33 235:10,22,24 236:4
16 13:15 16:15 20:3,12,15 23:20 26:4, 18,25 29:4 30:24 74:19 119:5 257:1	2021 61:17	35 139:11 244:12
17 61:21 159:5,6	2022 276:1,4,8,11	36 96:2 108:12 131:5 138:13,24 139:21 140:3 147:5 148:22 149:7,15
170 30:6	2024 276:5,9,12	
176 8:9,19 11:5,10,19	2026 276:14	
18 51:24	21 13:13 26:2 29:12,14 30:24 73:10 78:4,6,11,21 179:10	
	21st 68:15	

159:25 163:12 191:19 192:1,5 194:1,13,18 220:13,14 232:12 233:4,10,18 234:1,4,13 235:6 239:2,21 240:21 241:2 242:7,13,17,25 243:2 245:24 246:2,13,22 251:2,20 253:2,15,23 254:6	44.62.310(c) 185:3	
37 131:5,8 132:14 159:3,8 161:1,2,6,10,13,17 162:8 196:23,25 200:2 204:8,9 205:19,22,23,24 206:15 207:18 208:16 210:10,18 211:3,4,6 214:14,16 215:13 216:20 217:23 218:2 220:17,22 226:9 230:5 237:23	444 189:19	8
37's 159:12	452 189:20	8 225:3,5,6 227:16 229:2,3,4,13,15
372 225:15,21	47 19:19	8-24 138:10
38 119:11,19 131:5 132:13 161:22 162:3,7 196:22,23,25 202:21 203:13 205:16,22 208:14,16,22,23 209:4,12,14 210:12,18 211:9,17 212:16 214:25 215:3 217:24 218:2 237:23	48 264:17,20	80s 164:2
39 138:22,25 139:3 161:23 162:5 196:23 210:12,13 212:16,20,21 214:3,4 215:4,9,10 219:10 237:23	5	844-586-9085 48:23
39's 215:15	5 9:8 19:18 170:21 225:3,5,9,15,21,24 226:3 230:6	884 215:10
4	5,000 139:14	9
4 17:9,12 32:20 34:22 38:15 45:17,21,23 52:8,9,11,14,23 62:18,20 65:19 72:24 74:18 75:12 76:4 78:5 79:11 87:10 95:12 105:4 106:16,17,18 108:13 109:20 117:19 118:15 121:4,9,13,16 131:6,12 149:20 150:5 172:7,11,22 174:3,10 175:21 179:8 181:13,21 182:17 185:3 186:10 198:17,21 217:18 219:11 224:4 261:25 262:1,2,22	5.2 97:6 147:3	9 74:22 138:9 163:11 169:22 225:3 274:18,19
4,000 97:1,7 148:2 189:3 238:8,11 240:8 241:10 243:10	50 98:4,5,6 148:20 159:7	9-17 138:10
4.56 206:16	500 17:24,25 207:14 232:14 234:7	90 8:8
4.8 222:4	500-difference 13:6	900 200:17 211:24
4.82 215:13	500-person 12:9 18:6 30:11	951 210:21 211:25
40 167:12 169:10,13,17 228:9 256:7 273:22 274:10 275:2 276:23	501(c)(3) 103:3	97 8:8,18,24 10:3,4,10
400 206:25 207:25	55 210:20	9:00 2:5 50:24 85:1 99:16 105:20 110:7 112:11 166:10,11,12 167:7,15 169:2 273:13 281:11
421 215:7	563-9085 48:20	9th 16:18
427 207:19	586-9085 48:21	A
44.62.310 3:5	5:00 85:1 105:20	a.m. 22:23 112:11 281:11
	6	abandon 123:1
	6 139:18,19 143:7 225:3 226:5,6,23	Abbott 74:20 75:3,6
	60 107:15 156:10,11	ability 85:2 96:16 116:15 120:6
	600 200:13,14 210:22 212:1 213:4,10,11	about-face 37:10
	64 154:24	absolutely 59:23 63:5 135:10 136:7 171:6 172:25 176:25 183:3 261:9
	699 202:23	absurd 63:4
	6th 61:17	abundantly 42:10 238:4
	7	accept 147:6 257:18,21 261:25 263:1
	7 8:18 225:3 227:16,17,21	accepted 237:4,7 262:22
	70 228:11	access 46:8,21 68:10,22 143:22 199:9 247:20
	700 208:15,18,20	accessible 68:3 277:25
	739 200:13	accident 89:7
	7702 80:2	accommodate 41:5 145:12

accommodates 72:25
accomplish 161:10 182:13 219:2 239:9
accomplished 67:1 198:19
accomplishes 239:25
account 53:12 91:22 121:10,15 177:10,25
accumulate 159:13
accurately 84:14
achieve 14:9 71:16 91:19 97:3 185:23 218:19 244:4
achieved 12:11 186:1
achievement 124:4
achieves 94:9
Achilles' 183:21
acknowledge 188:16 196:11
Act 53:4 103:17 104:23 181:13 217:19 257:18
action 171:17
activities 150:24
actual 18:14 85:23
adamant 139:2
add 25:21 66:7 106:19 195:19 206:25 208:14 252:15 254:3
added 34:11 219:11 228:7 253:2
adding 206:17 254:7
addition 13:16,18,20 66:10,13 276:2,5
additional 22:21 28:6 43:17 114:11 127:20 145:6 155:22
Additionally 70:16
address 7:17 12:4 14:2 15:6 28:24 92:25 128:16 129:2 130:19 140:3 152:24 158:24 159:18 217:12 278:9
addressed 28:24 29:9,11,13 31:6 38:5 39:19
addresses 198:21
addressing 32:13
adequate 146:7
adequately 147:12 160:5
adjac-- 80:24
adjacent 80:18 81:8 215:4 238:9,11 241:11 243:11
adjective 258:24
adjourn 282:5,6,7,10
adjourned 282:14
adjust 6:8 23:19 27:1 160:3 211:9
adjusted 53:24
adjustments 3:22 27:4 80:21
admit 61:18,22
adopt 2:11 93:21 265:22 280:6
adopted 123:19 233:9 236:24
adopting 263:9
adoption 267:5
advice 2:21 3:3 64:19 171:20 172:1 182:19 184:12,18 280:16
advise 76:17 263:19
advised 7:6 41:6
advising 113:22
advisory 248:9
advocacy 98:23 144:21
advocate 52:22 163:13
affect 61:8 124:25 144:23 161:23 272:19
affected 5:24 29:19 39:5 41:22 159:24
affects 117:2 125:21 128:22
affiliated 177:6 188:23
affiliation 192:13
AFFR 56:2 57:2,4,6 65:18 71:9,14 78:23 79:12 102:2 106:16,18 114:5
AFFR's 57:22 72:11
afoul 53:13 104:22 172:12,14 176:16 181:8,12,17
African 103:25
afternoon 50:19 58:21,24 67:6 69:18 72:1 92:16 102:25 138:6 142:3 146:6 150:17 151:8 152:20 166:25 169:4
agenda 145:2
aggressive 36:25
agree 2:24 44:15 96:25 102:1 103:6 113:8,10 170:5 191:25 205:11 218:5 249:7 253:15
agreed 4:22 36:21 50:2
agreement 112:18
ahead 2:16 3:1 17:6 20:10 31:8 39:16 41:5 76:12 115:25 121:1 142:2 146:21 156:18 168:3 171:11 198:14 252:6 267:19 277:7
Ahtna 188:23 192:7 253:22
air 71:2,4 100:3 143:18 147:17 149:3 179:2 247:22
airport 75:25
AKPIRG 64:15 65:17
akredistrict.org 278:8
alarmed 59:2
Alaska 48:11,19 53:21 59:15 70:10 84:13 86:4,10 87:24 89:12 92:21 95:3 96:17 97:13 98:12,19 100:3 103:2,3,25 107:17 108:3 119:8,14,16 122:2 128:19 133:18 143:10 145:23 147:25 148:7 149:5 153:12,20 185:3 197:12 208:11 238:17 275:12 277:9
Alaskans 48:21,22 72:4 112:10 139:14 148:21 158:20
alerts 125:23
Aleutians 215:14
Alex 120:23,25 121:2,25
align 125:11
aligned 16:24 130:2
alignment 51:15 61:12
alike 114:3
all-volunteer 61:7
Allard 134:13,15,17,19 135:1
allocation 102:15
allowable 56:21
allowance 267:2
allowed 22:22 28:6 155:23
allowing 89:1 103:21 112:6 123:14 156:1

alluded 143:2 147:11

Alt 46:9 62:17 73:3 78:4 82:12 181:19
182:6,18

alteration 4:20

altered 172:2

Alternative 35:23 55:8,9 75:2,22
78:22 124:23 125:15 172:2 186:17

alternatives 4:16

Alyssa 100:22 101:1 102:20

amazing 65:5 124:4 218:18

Amdur-clark 128:8,10,11,15 131:3
132:4,6 133:9,12 134:9

amenable 228:14

amend 41:21

amendment 266:24

Americans 103:25

amount 23:10 44:23 57:23 116:9
191:18 207:22

Ana 197:10

analysis 7:14 16:6 257:14 282:3

analysts 38:14

analyzing 53:3

Anchorage 4:18 5:10,16,22,25 6:18,
22 7:1 9:22 11:23 12:24 15:7 17:12
27:25 28:19 32:17,19 35:22 36:13,19
37:7 39:23 40:4,25 41:4,13 43:5,7
47:6,17 48:20 51:16,18,21 53:1,18,19,
24 54:5 58:15 59:13,15 61:19,20,21
62:5 63:4 66:22 67:11 68:2,7,12 69:16
71:21 72:6,12 73:3,6 74:17,18,19
75:1,11,22 76:5 78:24 79:6,20 80:12
87:21,25 93:15,19,22 94:5,7 95:6
99:22,24 100:2 102:22 103:11,20,24
104:3,9,10,16,17,18,20,24 105:1,2,6,
7,25 108:15 109:17 110:13 118:12
120:23 121:5 122:18,21 123:23
124:23 125:12,13 126:10,15,18,21,24
127:1,2 129:24,25 130:1,3 135:5,10,
13 136:5,8,10,12,18,20,21,22,23
137:8,9 138:13 142:10 150:14,15
151:5,12,22,24 152:2,4,19,22 154:23
156:16,23 157:11 158:7,9 171:25
172:1 173:13 177:24,25 179:9,19
185:22 197:18 198:8 255:11,18 256:5,
6,10 257:1 260:23

Anchorage's 53:16,17,20 124:1

Anchorage-centric 99:19

Anchorage's 255:19

ANCSA 128:21 192:7,12 253:21

Anderson 163:15

Andrew 87:20,21,23 89:22,25 90:1
91:15,16 92:9 203:21 205:6

Ann 150:14,15,17 151:4

Annapolis 178:21

anonymous 280:2

anticipate 2:10

anticipated 167:6 264:5

anymore 111:10 182:21 188:3

apartment 74:4

apologies 146:10,15 166:9,16 185:17
273:16

apologize 15:16,17 16:1,12 34:25
64:11 81:2 134:10 137:13 206:22
254:23 255:2 273:19

apparent 138:8

apparently 20:13 133:25

appearance 148:15

appeared 118:13 139:1 147:6

appears 122:12 139:18 148:16,17

append 41:20

appendage 74:12 223:5

appendages 38:2 77:4,5

applaud 138:15

applied 6:4,8 90:12

applies 10:4 279:12

apply 125:11 139:20 242:11

appreciated 50:1 58:13 72:16 81:20

appreciation 244:1

appreciative 166:9

approach 79:13

appropriately 199:20

approve 147:2

approved 12:25 61:16 224:4

approximately 97:5

Arctic 214:7

area 4:18 5:15 7:1 29:8 31:5 39:4,11
44:4 51:22 59:12 61:20 70:8 73:24
75:5 76:1,2 78:5 79:9 84:6 86:11,17
89:3 91:7 92:24 94:18 107:19 108:11,
15 109:5,10 113:7,24 117:23 124:25
125:3,4,6 128:21 130:23 131:4,9
139:15,17,25 140:14 142:7,24 143:4,
8,17 145:25 147:10 148:12,22 151:18
152:25 154:1,20 159:24 181:4 196:9
199:5 207:6 225:10 226:9 230:19
234:7 238:11,12,13 242:4 244:11
245:1 246:19,21 248:16 273:10

area's 187:13

areas 14:20 25:7 32:16 36:14 41:14
42:23 43:4,8 53:17 74:8 80:18 84:16
87:8 103:5 104:21 108:1,20,24
127:15,21 135:14,15 136:17 148:23,
25 149:5 152:14 164:20 175:18 177:3
227:7 242:12 243:1,2 244:13 245:8
263:3 273:17 275:6

argue 156:25

argument 139:2 236:22

arguments 192:4 237:4

Arm 74:22

Army 81:1 179:2

arrives 18:6

art 153:9

article 139:18 199:6

articulate 249:4

articulated 44:17

ascribe 55:3

ascribed 169:21

aspect 43:22 123:15

aspects 4:12 44:7 95:24 269:4,11

assembly 70:18 96:25 107:4 108:20
114:7,10 119:3 136:23 142:22,23
143:2,3 157:10,12,16 243:8 247:1,3,7,
15 250:4,16,19 255:1

Assembly's 149:19,21

assigned 159:24 160:2 170:1 205:19
233:7 277:9

assignment 265:25 277:16

assistance 27:8

associate 109:8 110:8 125:1
Association 129:17
assume 160:3 255:22
assumes 138:17
assure 135:24
at-ease 83:14,17 231:5,8,13
Athabaskan 147:13
attached 279:22
attacking 134:23
attempt 24:12 109:22 140:12 154:17
193:22 203:23
attempted 41:21 122:22 132:20
203:10
attempts 62:24
attend 135:21 136:13,21
attended 86:25 97:11
attention 28:23 29:5 173:8 227:10
228:4
ATTORNEY 11:8,16 168:14,16
169:5,8,15 170:4,19 171:4,8 215:19
216:11,14,20 217:8 236:21 237:3
249:8,15,18 253:14 280:15,19
audience 3:18 50:6 166:12
audio 27:13
author 121:9
availability 265:15
AVCP 204:18
avenue 16:19,20 156:14
avoid 137:9
aware 28:18 108:18 131:1 182:16
200:6 263:5,8 277:9,21
AWWU 74:10

B

back 2:4 4:2,4,7,10 15:10 20:3 21:9
22:9,24 23:17 25:6,9 27:1,15 28:1
33:11,21 35:17 37:3,5 38:6,10,16
41:15 45:1 49:4,17 51:2 57:7 63:9
64:3 69:4 83:7 89:17 92:3 99:25
105:13 152:18 154:8 155:19 156:3
165:4 166:3 167:6 204:2 207:1 214:11
215:1 216:7 217:3 226:19 228:10

245:5 250:9 256:23 263:21 273:12
274:25
background 5:1 27:22 222:8 232:8
backwards 199:25
bad 89:3 178:15 214:1
Bahnke 3:11 7:9,12 10:7,15 11:11
15:13,21 17:1,4,7,14,17,23 18:2,10,
13,18,22 19:8,12 21:21 22:2,8 23:2,7
24:1,6,11 25:3,5,16 27:11,14 31:9
32:17,22 33:17 34:23 35:14 38:13
41:1,24 42:2,8 45:5,8 46:3,12,17
47:23 69:10,14 77:25 78:3,10,14,19
79:15,18,22 81:23 82:5 90:1,3,20,25
91:2,10,13,25 111:18,21 112:21
131:14 132:5,17,24 133:3,11 160:11,
14,17 165:13 167:20,24 168:25
171:12,15 174:1,19,22 175:2,6,10
176:10 181:1,22,25 182:7,10,14
183:14,22,25 184:7,13,17,23 185:9
186:10,14,17,20 191:22,25 192:8,11,
14,17,20,23 197:8,15,25 198:3,11,16
201:11 202:4 205:8 206:6,10 207:5
208:3 209:23 210:1,8,19 211:6,16,19,
22,25 212:5,20,24 213:3 214:2 215:6
216:1,3,8,18 217:17,22 218:7,12,18
219:4,8,13 220:7,9,12,17 221:3,8
224:7,12,15,18,25 228:18 229:17
232:15,19 234:4,12 237:13,16 238:24
239:4,7,16,19,25 241:14,16 242:8
243:4,22,25 248:21 250:20 251:5,8,
11,19,23 254:2 255:12,16,25 256:4
257:9,11 262:5,6 268:21,22

Baker 120:23,24 121:2
balance 8:13,20 11:25 13:8 14:13
29:22,23 30:3,15 173:22 236:5 261:9
balances 8:5
balancing 253:18
banking 136:9
Bartlett 67:21 68:11,21 135:21
base 14:3 59:17 71:2,5 80:23,24 81:7,
8,9 135:4 143:18 147:18,22 149:3
178:20 179:6 236:11 247:20,21,22
248:19
based 5:19 14:6 20:13 32:12 35:6
40:22 81:4 107:6 121:10 173:2,22
191:2 250:12 259:13 275:20
bases 80:5 177:1 247:25
basically 92:25 216:12 222:23
223:16 238:16 264:9,10

basis 156:13
bathroom 112:4
batteries 168:10
battery 105:22
Bay 119:15 128:23,24 130:20,21
132:10 159:1,16 197:21 200:1,13,20
204:6 205:18 207:24 210:3 212:1
213:3 223:17 227:1
Bay's 210:20,21
Bear 225:20 229:8
bearing 22:6 180:9
beat 199:16 223:23
bedroom 164:8
Begich 122:24
begin 49:19 128:12 227:20 269:3
beginning 55:20 132:6 212:4
begs 94:5 128:19
behalf 56:1 58:25 67:10 69:20 121:3
138:19 158:25 247:15
belongs 154:3
belt 96:18
Beluga 230:3,4
beneficial 171:25 208:5
benefit 43:21 57:15 166:19 171:20
198:12
Bering 90:6,14
bet 146:18 153:22 239:15 251:3
Bethany 4:17,19,22 5:1 7:11,15 8:25
9:3,7,11,16,21 10:1,3,9,13,20 11:4,7,
18 12:21 14:1,6,11,18,25 15:15 16:7,
20,22 17:18,25 18:3,12,16,19 19:3,10,
13,25 20:11,18,21 21:19 22:11,19,21
23:13,15,18,22 24:9,20 25:2 26:5,14,
19,23 27:7 28:3,7,9,12 29:2 30:20
31:11 33:10 34:19 37:11,16,18,19
38:25 39:3,13,20,22 40:7,15,19,22
41:2,7,19,25 42:20,21,22 43:24 44:1,
11 58:3,5,8,12 69:13 76:9,12,13
77:11,14,16,23 83:8 112:16 130:11,
14,15,16 131:20,22,24 133:23,24,25
134:5 138:15 140:2 151:19 168:6,12
170:7 171:2,6 172:21,24 174:11,21,24
175:4,23 176:1,7,21,24 178:10,13
179:13,17 181:3,21 183:2,12,17,23

184:4 188:4,8 189:17 192:6,9,12,16,
19,22 193:12 194:20 195:4,8,12,16
196:3,13 197:1 200:16,20,24 201:16,
20,23 202:14 203:25 204:23 205:2,4
206:1,4 207:18,23 210:6 211:8,18,23
212:8,12 213:8,11,15,19,23 214:21
217:21 218:15 219:17,21 220:2,13,15,
19,22 221:1 222:2,7 224:19 225:4
228:21,23 229:3,24 230:2,9,13 231:1
232:17,20 233:8,11,16,24 235:1
240:22 253:4 254:1 258:1,4 260:8,21
262:18 263:14 264:14,25 265:6,9
267:18 268:12 271:23 272:5,13,18,21
277:4 278:2,18 279:1,15,20,22 280:24
281:21 282:1

Bethany's 17:5 134:3 175:18 186:8
190:22

Bethel 91:19 128:25 133:9 140:16
141:12,13 161:5 197:13,15 199:13,24
204:19 208:7 210:1

Bicentennial 73:21

big 29:10 174:9 208:10,13 213:20
255:18

bigger 179:11

biggest 84:8 85:3

biking 136:15

Bill 117:14,16

binary 258:21

Binkley 2:3,16,23 3:1,9,13,21 4:4,20,
24 10:6,11 11:6,13 14:22 16:14,21,23
17:3,6 19:23 20:2,9 21:14 22:10,13,18
23:14,16 24:5 25:4,13,22 26:7,9,17,
21,24 27:9,19,24 28:11 29:1 30:23
31:8 32:9,19 33:24 34:4 35:7,15 36:4,
7,10,17 37:18 39:2,16 40:9,17,21
42:12,21 43:9,18,25 44:2,12 45:7
46:1,5,14,23 47:7,10,13 48:3,8,14,16
49:3,8,13,17 50:7,11 51:10 52:1,7,9,
14,19 54:25 55:5,9,13,18 57:21 58:4,
7,11,14,17,19 59:20,25 60:4,7,10,12,
15,18,24 63:25 64:10 66:2 67:4,8
69:1,7,15,18 71:20 75:13,19 76:11
77:22 78:2,11,15 79:24 81:15 82:12,
16,18,24 83:10,16,20,25 85:6 87:19
89:21 91:14 92:9,16 93:14 94:14
95:16 96:1,24 97:16,20,23,25 100:21,
24 102:19,24 105:11,16 106:22
109:25 110:5 111:3,8,14,17,20 112:7,
15,17,24 113:4 114:14,19,22 115:1,5,
8,10,12,16,19,24 117:13,16 118:18,24
120:22,25 121:25 122:3 124:8,17,18

125:25 126:6 128:7,14 130:7,13
131:21,23 132:15,22 133:1,5,21,24
134:2,7,11,16,18 137:24 138:4 140:5,
8 141:23 142:2 143:4 144:10,15
146:9,18,21 150:13,17,19 151:4,8
152:17 154:5 156:7,18 158:5,14,17
160:7,13,16,19,23 161:5,14,19,22,25
162:2,5,9,11,14,16,18,20,22 163:3,7
164:25 165:7,16 166:1 167:23 168:1,
11,13,15,18,22 169:1,6,12,16 170:18
171:10,14 175:9,13 180:11,15,18,22
181:18,23 182:3,9,12 183:16 184:3,6,
8,16,19 185:11,21 186:9 188:2,7
189:16,25 190:15 191:7 193:5,14,25
194:3,5,8,19,23 195:6,10,14,20,25
196:12,14,18 197:2,13,24 198:1,5,14
200:8,18,22 201:9,13,19,21 202:1,11,
15,18 203:17 204:12 205:5,14 206:8,
13 207:3,7,9,17,21 208:1,18,22,25
209:3,8,10,15,21,25 210:9,16,18,25
211:4,14,20 212:2,10,18,22 213:1,5,
10,13,17,22,25 214:4,8,10,16,19,24
215:8,11,16,24 216:15,23 218:5,20,25
219:7,12,15,19,23 220:1,5,8,11,14,18,
20,24 221:7,13,16,22 222:1,6,10
224:23 225:2,6,25 226:4,17 227:15
228:1,5,20,22,25 229:4,9,14,18,20
230:6,10 231:6,9,12,18,22 232:1,9,24
233:3,10,19,22 234:8,16,21,24 235:3,
6,23 236:2,10 237:2,9,12,15,25
238:20 239:3,6,12,15,18,23 240:2,7,
11,15,17,23 241:15,20 242:15 243:6,
24 244:6 247:18,24 248:9,22 250:6,24
251:3,17,24 252:3,10,17 254:17
255:4,7,15,22 256:11,17,22 257:10,20
258:3,5,9 260:10 261:13,17 262:2,11,
12,21 263:10 264:2,4,12,24 265:12
266:4,11,15,20 267:6,8,11,16 268:2,
14,15,25 269:24 270:5,8,18,23 271:4,
13,18,21,25 273:2 275:10 276:2,19
277:7,23 278:4,15 280:5,9,18,22
281:3,6,13,17 282:4,9,12

BIPOC 103:12

Birch 246:4,7

Bishop 110:1

bit 7:18 13:12 21:11,25 28:4 41:20
73:1 100:13 115:25 128:1 165:22
188:9 190:20 193:11,21 197:5 201:25
203:20 215:2 223:9 225:18 228:9
235:12,20 246:24 259:12 269:2

black 103:2,3,4,12 230:25 235:11
243:4

blackout 235:14

blast 271:2

bleeding 87:15

blend 56:4,13

blind 124:3

blindly 12:19

block 14:24 31:14 238:16 272:11
273:10 275:18

blocks 12:19 14:19 173:16 196:8
212:11 272:14 273:4

board 2:15,17,24 3:2,4,11,19 4:6,19,
22 5:1 7:9,11,12,15 8:22,25 9:1,3,5,7,
9,11,12,16,20,21,24 10:1,2,3,7,9,13,
15,20 11:2,4,7,11,12,18 12:13,21
13:11,19,24 14:1,5,6,7,11,18,25
15:13,15,21 16:7,20,22 17:1,4,7,8,12,
13,14,16,17,18,20,23,25 18:2,3,10,12,
13,16,18,19,22 19:3,8,10,12,13,25
20:8,11,18,20,21 21:13,17,19,20,21,
24 22:2,5,8,11,16,20 23:2,4,7,15,22,
23 24:1,2,6,9,11,12,20,23,25 25:2,3,5,
7,11,14,16,18,20,23 26:5,8,10,14,19,
23 27:7,11,14 28:9,12 29:2 30:18,20,
22 31:1,9,11 32:7,14,17,22,24,25
33:7,10,14,17,18,21 34:3,6,8,22,23
35:14,20 36:9,15,18,22 37:15,16,19
38:13,14,15,17,18,22,23,25 39:3,13,
17,20,21,22 40:1,7,15,19,22 41:1,16,
19,24,25 42:2,5,8,9,14,20,22 43:1,15,
24 44:1,11 45:5,8,17,20,23 46:3,12,17
48:19,24 49:6 51:5,14 52:11,16 54:20
55:8,15 57:25 58:3,5,8,12,25 60:2
61:11 65:4,21 66:3 67:2,24 69:10,13,
14,19 70:17,19 71:1,15 72:2,9,18
76:9,13,17 77:11,14,16,23,25 78:3,4,
9,10,13,14,17,25 79:15,18,22 81:23
82:5 83:8 85:17,24 86:8 87:9 88:7
89:13 90:1,20,25 91:2,10,13,25 92:18
93:6,8 94:13 99:7 101:5,7,22 108:5
111:13,15,18,21 112:5,7,9,14,16,21
115:22 121:3,8,9,13,15 122:4,8
123:13,15 124:5,19 125:10 127:9,25
129:21,22 130:1,3,11,16 131:6,7,11,
14,20,22,24 132:3,5,9,17,24 133:3,11,
16,23,25 134:5,24 135:24 136:23
137:21 138:10 139:1 144:21,25 147:1,
2,6 148:14 149:8,12 150:2,4,5,7
155:21 159:19 160:11,14,17 165:5,11,
13 167:5,20,24 168:6,12,20,25 169:10
170:2,7 171:2,6,12,15,18 172:7,8,11,
22,24 173:7 174:1,3,10,11,14,16,19,
21,22,24 175:2,4,6,10,15,21,23,24

176:1,5,7,8,10,11,21,23,24 178:7,10,
12,13,14 179:13,16,17 180:5,8,14,17,
20 181:1,13,22,25 182:7,10,14,16,18
183:2,12,14,17,22,23,25 184:4,7,13,
17,23,25 185:2,9 186:7,10,12,14,15,
17,18,19,20 188:4,8 189:17 190:1,17
191:6,8,11,12,14,15,22,24,25 192:6,8,
9,11,12,14,16,17,19,20,22,23,25
193:1,10,15 194:2,4,7,9,13,17,20,22,
24 195:4,8,12,16,18,24 196:2,13,17
197:1,8,15,25 198:3,7,11,16,20
199:18 200:16,20,24 201:1,2,6,11,16,
20,23 202:4,6,10,14,17,19 203:25
204:14,16,23 205:1,4,8,24 206:1,3,4,
6,10,16,20,21,24,25 207:5,13,18,23
208:3,12,20,23 209:1,6,13,17,23
210:1,6,8,19,23 211:6,8,10,16,18,19,
22,23,25 212:5,8,12,20,24 213:3,8,11,
15,19,23 214:2,6,9,21 215:6 216:1,2,
3,5,8,10,13,16,18,24 217:17,18,21,22
218:7,10,12,13,18,23 219:4,8,10,13,
17,21,24 220:2,7,9,12,13,15,17,19,22
221:1,3,6,8,9,15,17 222:2,7,11 224:1,
7,10,12,13,15,16,18,19,25 225:4,17,
22 226:1,2,24 227:13 228:18,21,23
229:3,16,17,19,21,24 230:1,2,9,13,22
231:1 232:15,17,19,20 233:8,11,14,
16,18,24 234:4,12,14 235:1 236:16,
23,24 237:4,6,10,13,16 238:24 239:4,
7,16,19,25 240:9,13,16,22 241:14,16
242:8 243:4,22,25 246:23 247:23
248:8,21 249:7,14,20 250:3,7,20,21
251:1,5,7,8,10,11,14,19,21,23 252:7,
14,23 253:4,22 254:1,2,19 255:6,12,
16,25 256:2,4,14 257:9,11,15,18,24
258:1,4,7,12 260:8,21 261:14 262:1,6,
9,15,18,22 263:11,14,15 264:3,7,14,
25 265:4,6,7,9,10,21,23 266:2,6,10,
14,23,24 267:4,7,10,15,18 268:8,12,
18,22 269:17,20 270:2,15 271:9,19,23
272:1,5,8,13,18,21,24,25 275:22
277:4 278:2,18 279:1,9,15,20,22
280:3,14,16,23 281:9,12,15,19,21
282:1,11

Board's 27:3 36:20 72:20 94:10
148:13 149:20,25 203:7 228:14

boards 236:18 248:9 279:14 280:9

boated 199:5

body 117:2 238:5

Bombed 226:12

Boniface 178:25

border 95:14 96:4 131:4 132:13,14

190:21,24

borders 39:24 133:19 227:19

born 93:18 152:23 154:23

borough 69:23 70:2,18,21,24 86:24
94:18,24,25 96:21,25 97:2,7,9,12
101:15 107:4 108:8,9,20,21,22 109:1,
8,13 119:3,4 129:11,15 138:16,17
139:15 142:22,23 143:1,2,3,9,22,24
147:4,7,10,23 148:7,9 149:1,16,18,19,
22 150:2,8 154:2 155:2,8,14 159:23
160:2 187:21 188:17,18 190:12,14
191:4,11,12 192:5 196:6,10 206:2
207:2 214:7 223:10,12,13 230:2,4
232:12,21 235:7,9 238:1,5,6,9 241:1,
9,18,24 242:1,9 243:8 244:2,24 246:8
247:5 248:2,12 249:9,12,25 250:22
253:12 254:23

Borough's 94:19 161:11 246:25

boroughs 77:4

Borr- 105:3

Borromeo 12:13 13:11,19,24 14:5,7
17:13,16,20 22:20 23:4 25:11,14,20,
23 26:8,10 28:14 33:12 34:3,6 36:9,
15,18 40:1 52:11,16 55:8,15 60:2 66:3
67:2 78:9,13,17 111:13,15 112:9
115:22 165:5,11 168:20 172:9 173:10
175:15,24 176:5,8,11,23 178:7,12,14
179:16 180:8,14,17,20 184:25 186:7,
12,15,18 189:25 190:1,17 191:11,14
192:25 193:10,15 194:2,4,7,9,24
195:18,24 196:2,17 198:7 201:2
202:10,17,19 204:16 205:1,24 206:3,
16,21,24 207:13 208:12,20,23 209:1,
6,13,17 214:6,9 216:10,13,16,24
218:13,23 221:6,9,15 226:1 227:13
229:16,19 233:14,18 234:14 237:6,10
240:9,13,16 246:23 247:23 248:8
249:7,14 250:3,7,21 251:1 252:7,14,
23 254:19 255:6 256:14 261:14 262:1,
8,9 266:2,6,10 267:10,15 268:17,18
269:17,20 270:2 272:25 280:14,23
281:9,12,15,19 282:11

Borromeo's 39:24 52:23 53:9 54:21
105:4 122:8 188:1,10 189:12 190:4

bother 26:9

bottom 16:24 31:17 223:13

bouncing 146:22

boundaries 12:16 14:15 39:24 51:16
52:24 53:12 54:1 61:3,13,14 67:16,17
68:8 74:24 76:18 77:21 102:11 105:5

107:6 108:23 119:25 120:11 151:17
187:4 190:6,14 223:9 230:3 235:24
236:3,5 277:10

boundary 6:19 56:13 70:3,19 71:11
80:2 125:2 137:3 143:1 144:6 187:8
193:18,20 225:19 228:8 235:16,23,24
236:1,9 244:3

bounded 244:22

box 55:23 64:7

brand-new 37:7 182:18

break 36:3,6 70:2 112:4,19 114:13
120:9 142:11 165:8 166:2 214:7
230:19 244:2 247:9 250:14 256:18

breaking 119:24 190:6 247:17

breaks 71:10

breakup 138:16

breathing 22:24

briefly 138:14 141:12 222:12

bring 43:6 51:14 61:11 91:18 107:2
174:13 186:25 206:18 278:23

bringing 28:22 42:4 137:5 217:19,25

broken 70:19 93:7

Brooks 96:6

brother 153:8

brought 29:5 41:4,10 53:4 173:4,7
188:4 222:16 256:10

Brown 150:14,15,16,18,20

browser 271:1

Bryan 92:13,14,17,20 93:14

Budd 2:15,16,17,24 3:1,2,19 8:22 9:1,
5,9,12,20,24 10:2 11:2,12 20:8,11,20
21:8,17,24 22:5,16 24:12,25 25:6,15,
18 30:18 31:1 32:7 35:20 38:19 39:17,
21 42:5,9,12,14 43:13,15 44:15 49:6
112:14 191:6,8,12,15,24 194:13,17,22
196:18 201:1,6 202:6 204:14 206:20
210:23 211:10 216:2,5 218:10 219:24
222:11 224:1,10,13,16 226:24 229:21
230:1,13,21,22 251:7,10,14,21 256:2
257:24 258:7,12 262:15 263:10,11,15
264:3,7 265:4,7,10,21 266:14,23
267:7 268:8 269:3 270:15 271:9,19
272:1,8,24 279:9 280:3,5

Budd's 26:25 220:2

build 159:9
building 153:13 233:7 263:5
buildings 74:5
bulk 79:3
bump 31:19,23,25 223:2 251:15
bunch 31:3
burdensome 61:6 64:21
burn 139:25
BURNS 115:3,6
bus 86:22
business 136:7 137:5,11
button 4:3

C

C-A-S-O-R-T 83:10
cabins 147:12
calculate 275:20
Calista 87:21,23 88:1,4,14,22,23
90:6,7,17,18 91:4 92:6 113:16 158:25
159:2,3,8 203:22 204:7 205:17,22
217:13
call 2:4 22:25 48:12,19,20,21 64:24
105:17 110:7 111:6 127:11,25 128:3
146:4 151:1 154:11 156:2 167:18
228:4 242:16 243:7 250:9 261:15,18,
22 266:1,2,8 268:3 272:7,11 278:1
call-ins 127:20
called 6:1 40:5 107:18 162:24 275:17
caller 145:15 247:5
callers 145:6
calling 32:21 35:20 48:21 52:17 85:23
90:2 93:17 103:10 110:10 122:6
144:19 150:20 152:21,22 261:19
calls 53:21 98:9 106:1
Cama-i 199:13
campaigning 99:11
Campbell 73:21
campus 86:25
Canadian 95:13 96:3
Cantwell 187:22 188:18,22 190:11

191:1,19,20 192:1 195:2,19 251:25
252:15 253:8,11,16,22
capacity 247:3 250:18 255:1
caption 108:16
capture 193:24 240:24
captured 132:2
captures 238:21
card 277:15
care 144:22 160:6 179:12
careful 187:7 202:22
carefully 263:13
carries 268:24 269:1
carve 62:25 94:5
carve-out 179:11
carved 177:17 188:18
carves 251:16
case 29:7 67:18 187:21 236:16 237:1
258:16 276:13
cases 276:17
Casort 82:25 83:5,22 85:8
catch 165:19
catching 228:24
Caucus 103:2,3
cautiously 226:16
Celeste 102:21,22 103:1 105:11,12
census 12:19 14:19,24 159:12
173:16 196:8 205:16 234:18,20
235:11 238:16 241:21 259:14 275:17
center 235:9
centering 65:5
centers 75:23 76:4 119:23
CEO 103:2 197:13,15 203:22
ceremonies 91:11
Chair 2:15 3:2 17:1 20:8 25:3 31:1
69:18 76:23 77:15 78:19 100:6,14
111:13 168:16 181:2 191:6 231:5
237:13 255:13 257:9 258:12 260:6
262:25 263:11
Chair's 48:24 171:1 174:17

Chair- 221:11
Chairman 2:3,16,23 3:1,9,13,21 4:4,
20,24 10:6,11 11:6,13 14:22 16:14,21,
23 17:3,6 19:23 20:2,9 21:14 22:10,
13,18,20 23:14,16 24:5 25:4,13,22
26:7,9,17,21,24 27:9,19,24 28:11 29:1
30:23 31:8 32:9,19 33:10,24 34:4,7
35:7,15 36:4,7,9,10,17 37:16,18 38:25
39:2,16 40:9,17,21 42:12,20,21 43:9,
18,25 44:2,12 45:7,14 46:1,5,14,23
47:7,10,13 48:3,8,14,16 49:3,8,13,17
50:7,11 51:10 52:1,7,9,14,19 54:25
55:5,9,13,18,25 57:21 58:3,4,5,7,11,
14,17,19 59:20,25 60:4,7,10,12,15,18,
24 63:25 64:10 66:2 67:4,8 69:1,7,15
71:20 72:1 75:13,17,19 76:9,11 77:22
78:2,11,15,18 79:24 81:15 82:12,16,
18,24 83:10,16,20,25 85:6 87:19,22
89:20,21 91:14 92:9,16 93:14 94:14
95:16 96:1,24 97:16,20,23,25 100:21,
24 102:19,24 105:11,16 106:22
109:25 110:5 111:3,8,14,17,20 112:7,
9,15,17,24 113:4 114:14,19,22 115:1,
5,8,10,12,16,19,24 117:13,16 118:18,
24 120:22,24,25 121:25 122:3 124:8,
17,18 125:25 126:6 128:7,10,14
130:7,13 131:21,23 132:15,20,22
133:1,5,21,24 134:2,7,11,16,18
137:24 138:4 140:5,8 141:23 142:2
143:4 144:10,15 146:9,18,21 150:13,
17,19 151:4,8 152:17 154:5 156:7,18
158:5,14,17 160:7,13,16,19,23 161:5,
14,19,22,25 162:2,5,9,11,14,16,18,20,
22 163:3,7 164:25 165:7,16 166:1
167:23 168:1,11,13,15,18,22 169:1,6,
12,16 170:18 171:10,14 175:9,13,15
180:11,15,18,22 181:18,23 182:3,9,12
183:16 184:3,6,8,16,19 185:2,11,21
186:9,22 188:2,7 189:16,25 190:15,18
191:2,7 192:25 193:5,11,14,25 194:3,
5,8,19,23 195:6,10,14,20,25 196:3,12,
14,18 197:2,13,24 198:1,5,14 200:8,
18,22 201:9,13,19,21 202:1,11,15,17,
18 203:3,17 204:12 205:5,14 206:8,13
207:3,7,9,17,21 208:1,18,22,25 209:3,
8,10,15,21,25 210:9,16,18,25 211:4,
14,20 212:2,10,18,22 213:1,5,10,13,
17,22,25 214:4,8,10,16,19,24 215:8,
11,16,24 216:15,23 218:5,20,25
219:7,12,15,19,23 220:1,5,8,11,14,18,
20,24 221:7,13,16,22 222:1,6,10
224:2,19,23 225:2,6,25 226:1,4,17
227:15 228:1,5,20,22,25 229:4,9,14,
18,20 230:6,10 231:6,9,12,18,22
232:1,9,24 233:3,10,19,22 234:8,16,
21,24 235:3,6,23 236:2,10 237:2,9,12,

15,25 238:20 239:3,6,12,15,18,23
240:2,7,11,15,17,23 241:15,20 242:15
243:6,24 244:6 246:23 247:18,24
248:9,22 250:6,24 251:3,17,24 252:3,
10,17 254:17,20 255:4,7,15,22
256:11,17,22 257:10,20 258:3,5,9
260:10 261:13,14,17 262:2,12,21
263:10 264:2,4,12,24 265:12,21
266:4,11,15,20 267:6,8,11,16,18
268:2,15,25 269:24 270:5,8,18,23
271:4,13,18,21,25 273:2 275:10
276:2,19 277:7,23 278:4,15 280:5,9,
14,18,22 281:3,6,13,17 282:4,9,12

Chairman's 221:11
Chalkyitsik 96:5
challenge 277:2
challenged 236:22 260:1
challenges 149:10
challenging 85:12 155:17
Chamber 248:10
champions 103:4
chance 84:24 105:22 106:20 158:22
159:21 167:9 245:15,19 252:4 275:19
change 6:17 7:22 19:16,22 28:4 32:2
39:11 59:22 136:7 157:10 208:5
225:11 228:3,11 251:12 253:8 254:9
267:4 275:21,23
changed 6:16 38:5 53:6 59:3,6 66:23
86:20 148:1 151:14 244:14 275:5,16
changing 55:11
characterized 147:9
charge 117:9 150:9 180:18
chart 207:10
charted 11:20
charter 185:5
check 101:14 114:22 270:1
checked 46:9 55:23 144:11
checking 144:12 227:24 271:24
checks 167:4
Chena 86:3,17 87:2,3 98:11,12
143:17 245:7
Chenega 225:10,13
Chevak 91:18 128:23 130:20 132:10
133:8 159:1 161:20 162:10,12 200:11,
12,15,16,24 204:6 209:22 211:23,25
212:9,14 213:2,15
Chevak's 210:20
child 70:12
children 136:21 163:24
children's 95:1
Chilean 135:2 137:17
choice 93:23 94:8 116:2 249:19
258:21
choices 72:9 143:18 180:23
choose 26:21 137:7 233:6
chooses 137:3
choosing 257:5
chopped 53:25
chose 171:17
chosen 78:25 135:18
Chris 71:21 79:25 80:2 81:15 82:18
Christ 144:20
Christian 180:3 183:9,10
Christianity 180:9
Christmas 59:1
chron- 170:14
chronological 170:12
Chugach 73:11,23 74:2,11
Chugiak 6:25 124:14,20 125:16
135:4,22 154:25 155:4
Chugiak/eagle 125:4 154:20
chunk 73:23
chunked 54:4
circle 119:16 246:5,6 276:9
circled 34:11
cities 187:5
citizens 116:23 121:11
citizenship 117:1
city 6:7 74:9 76:18 94:19 107:6
143:12 153:8,18 155:9,11 157:13
173:13 187:7,12 190:6,7 212:1 224:9
225:12,19,22 227:20 228:8 235:10,13,
14,16,24,25 236:2,5,12 244:12
city-specific 190:6
civil 118:3
civilian 81:1 150:23 248:7
Claman 122:23
clarification 95:17 204:24
clarify 203:25
clarity 81:24
classes 153:9
clean 21:16 165:14
cleaned 38:1
cleaner 260:4
cleaning 37:23
clear 5:5 42:10 46:23 47:9,16 56:13
93:23 95:7 97:1,25 121:12 122:11,18
129:12 131:25 133:14 141:17 163:15
164:5 185:18 238:4 247:22
Clear/anderson 139:16 164:6
Clergy 144:20
click 47:17 190:19 278:8
clicks 20:17,21 21:10
Cliff 67:5
clincher 259:23
Clinton 100:22,23,25 101:1
close 38:8 80:24 123:22 135:12
147:22 158:8 165:2 241:9 244:3
249:22
closed 36:24 147:17 185:25 247:10
closely 55:20 62:22 82:6 177:1 187:4
241:7
closer 38:10 51:15 61:12 172:22
213:14 215:11 245:17
closest 137:4 199:9 221:24
closing 166:22
clumping 106:7
clustered 203:3
co-chair 197:12
co-extensive 224:3
co-op 254:25
coalition 69:21 128:9 129:15,16
130:10 188:25

coast 86:14 107:17 119:14,18 128:21
220:16 221:12 225:10

coastal 5:7 139:7

coasts 164:8

cognizant 124:1,3

cohesive 79:21 87:1 157:1,22 158:2

coin 253:17

collaborate 104:6

collapse 199:2

color 103:13,15 104:1 137:16 194:15

combination 25:1 84:15 90:6 260:3

combine 84:17 136:11

comfortable 3:20 24:23 29:23 30:7
34:21

commander 248:19

commenced 212:17

commend 88:7 121:14 150:10
159:19 196:3

comment 24:13 36:15 44:5 50:5 57:2
62:6 64:16,20 65:6,12 84:19 85:13
109:12 155:24 156:15 167:5 198:17
262:24

commenting 85:14

comments 17:5 31:3 42:6 54:19 57:9
88:16 97:18 108:5 109:9,21 125:1
155:22 199:21 274:4,15

Commerce 248:11

commissary 179:1

commission 62:3 80:13,21 81:11
94:20

commitment 198:18

commitments 65:3

common 73:8 74:12 96:19,21 116:12
247:24

communicated 16:1

communications 224:2

communities 37:1 53:1 56:13,14
65:1,10 66:16,18,20 70:21 71:17
72:13 76:22 86:16 91:7 92:3,6 93:8,10
95:5 96:17 99:4,10 101:11,13,24
102:5,10,14 103:15 104:1,24 107:5,
11,13 111:1 118:13 120:1 126:20

127:10,24 139:7 145:1,7,10,18,21
151:18,24 152:1 154:17,18,19,21,22
155:4,5 156:22,24 157:1,2,5,9,19,24
163:14,22 164:7,8,15,22 194:6 197:22
199:9,13,17 200:9 204:10 205:13
207:20 217:24 218:1 219:9,14 222:14
227:2,4 242:22,23

community 51:4,6,13,19 52:21 56:5
60:21 61:4,10,13,17 66:11 67:10,15,
18,21,23 68:4,6,8,14,16,19 80:16,22
81:18 84:9,12,15 85:5 92:23 93:2
98:13,22 101:1,8 104:7 105:9 113:11,
14 116:13 119:12 120:4 121:5,12
126:10,11,14,21 129:25 135:6,11,25
136:2,10,13 137:6 145:20,21 148:5,11
149:17 151:17 152:10 153:3 154:1
155:10 164:3,4,14 192:3 196:23
240:15 247:10 248:3,4,7,14,15 249:1

community's 116:15

commuters 136:6

compact 8:2,3,4,20 12:15 13:1,14
14:10,12 21:7 24:3,15 26:2 27:2 30:1
33:3 34:15 37:23 38:2 52:24 53:10
56:18,20,25 62:22 66:18 74:24 77:7,
10 84:11 86:15 94:2 95:8,25 107:10,
25 122:12 123:9 138:25 163:20,21
173:23 189:6 198:24 215:21 218:9
241:3 249:22 253:8,13,16 259:6

compacted 76:6

compactness 8:6,14,16 11:25 12:12,
23 13:9,12 14:13 17:7 25:8 29:16,25
30:16 34:5,17 41:15 77:2 138:12,20,
23 139:19 140:3 172:10,14 174:5
182:23 196:6 217:5 250:13 253:10,13
254:4,5,10 255:20 257:13 259:3
260:5,12 261:10

comparable 254:4

compare 10:8 216:8 237:7 255:20

compared 13:2 78:4,5 196:5 254:5,7

comparing 78:6

comparison 93:22 147:14

compelling 147:8 203:19 254:10

compete 102:14

complain 106:12

complaints 274:5

complete 28:20 116:14

completed 46:9 169:4 269:9 277:19

completely 38:12 62:16 81:3 103:19
140:17 151:20 236:5 242:22 267:23

completing 269:12

complicated 60:11 65:23

comply 97:8 196:10

component 208:10

composed 273:24

composite 233:6 263:6

comprise 167:12

compromise 172:5 203:21

con- 54:8

concentration 245:6

concept 54:16

concern 15:16,19,21,24 16:3,13 17:8
20:13 41:14 56:8 59:5 65:16 84:8
108:4 122:6,8 151:22 175:19 181:3,7,
11 188:20 208:3,13 245:15 247:16

concerned 13:4 15:16 16:2 34:13
56:23 98:8,9 101:4 107:8 108:7
175:25 244:15

concerns 5:2 7:5,8 15:11 16:8,17
54:14 59:6 108:24 172:6,23 174:4,10
175:8,21 176:13,15,20 181:16 182:1,
23,24 183:1,5 253:9,19

conclude 123:23 165:1

concludes 140:4

conclusion 170:6

condo 80:15

conduct 136:6,7 137:11

conducted 257:15

conducting 137:4

confidential 3:6 185:5

confidently 153:1

confirmation 17:21

confused 82:3 101:22 271:14

confusion 42:6 132:18 246:24

congratulations 92:1

connected 70:10 83:18 114:4 135:10
153:4,7,22 155:13 170:25 227:4
237:17

connectedness 200:3
connecting 73:22
connection 198:25
connections 109:6 145:7 153:15
199:19 202:8
connects 95:19,22
conscience 37:6 267:21
consensus 28:14 32:15 42:23 91:20
130:22 132:3,9 133:17 152:25 166:24
169:11 185:24 186:1 195:7 196:1,15
221:5,18,23 224:9,20 226:3 229:18
250:23 260:22 265:23 266:25
consequence 276:10
consequences 120:2
considerable 187:1
consideration 3:7 36:20 67:16
154:16 178:18 184:15 185:6 199:20
206:25 242:11 244:2
considerations 76:24 127:17 198:22
206:7
considered 63:6 129:21 130:25
142:16 155:15 157:6 244:18 260:17
consistency 42:24
consistent 68:2 75:15 166:17 212:3
253:24
consists 61:4
consolidate 49:24
constantly 178:22
constituency 137:2 275:15
constituents 68:3
constitution 53:21 63:14 64:1
120:13 140:20 141:17 170:22 176:17
181:12 182:15
constitutional 8:5 22:24 33:7 35:6
72:11,21 77:10 122:25 123:13,16,21
131:19 138:20 147:17 150:6,9 181:8
215:20 237:21 253:18 257:17
constitutionally 33:6 53:8 54:22
56:21 198:21
constraints 28:17 41:22 44:20
constructive 43:3
contact 277:13
contained 61:15 173:13
context 101:5 157:6 259:9
contiguity 34:17 174:5 182:23
255:20 257:13
contiguous 7:19 33:3 34:15 54:8
93:24 94:2 95:7,23 107:10 108:1
157:22 163:15 170:11,16,23 173:24
189:6 198:23 212:7 215:21 218:9
229:22 230:18 245:20 246:13,15
249:22 273:24 274:19
Contiguously 212:9
continual 277:13
continue 23:8 27:20 32:15 44:19
67:20 109:21 127:20 129:1 183:6
185:23 195:17 226:16 269:10
continued 55:19 238:25
continuing 2:9 27:24 28:1 65:7 88:11
continuous 84:12
contrast 139:7 148:2 149:2
contributed 148:10 267:25
contributions 267:25
conversation 71:3 187:1
conversations 27:22 99:12 222:8
converted 266:12
convince 181:21
convoluted 214:12
Cooper 229:8 230:18
coordinate 61:7
Coordinator 80:8
copy 12:2 120:20
cord 134:3
Cordova 225:11,13
core 19:6 190:6
corner 198:8 236:4
corners 259:8
Corporation 87:23 197:14,16 224:3
253:21
correct 8:25 9:3 23:25 91:11,12
131:15 194:4 214:16 230:9 236:20
237:9 247:19 258:24 265:9 273:1,6
corridor 61:15 97:14 139:9 149:13
193:6
corridors 73:16 77:5
council 51:5,6,7,13,19 52:4,21 60:21
61:4,6,10,13,17 67:10,16,19,23 68:1,
4,14,16,20 126:11 136:13
councils 130:1 151:17
counsel 2:6,19 4:13 5:20 7:6 15:5
19:7 28:22 38:3 39:7,8 40:12,23
76:16,17 99:17 171:20 172:1 182:19
184:12 238:1 253:5
Counselor 254:2
counterpart 78:7
country 60:3 81:17 104:21
couple 6:5 20:17,19,25 21:10 37:20
64:23 67:24 76:24 91:17 97:10 112:23
114:16 130:18 188:5 222:12,14
224:11 270:22
court 34:16 73:14 77:2 93:21 119:9
140:22 172:12 236:16,22 237:1
276:17 277:3
courtesy 28:6
Cove 226:10
covered 245:10
COVID 89:4,7,11 92:7
crashing 271:1
crazy 140:14 163:21
create 23:12 24:3 28:14 57:12 74:18
122:20 253:23 279:12
created 38:2 53:25 59:10 80:19
creates 99:7 129:3 145:8
creating 47:15
creation 80:7
credit 123:3
Creek 6:25 56:3 225:20 226:11,19
227:3 229:8 230:15 246:4,7
criteria 94:10 95:10 192:21
critical 65:8 93:2 182:5
criticism 173:3 174:3,8,14 176:6
178:8 179:15 181:2,5,9
criticize 172:25 173:4,9,20 176:4
177:15,21,22,23 178:2 180:2,5 181:15

183:4,12,18
criticized 174:16,17,18 179:14

criticizing 175:3 259:10

cross 96:4 138:22 275:17

crossing 13:25

crosstalk 35:25 47:12 48:2 160:20
161:4 183:11 186:5 193:4 194:16
197:7 198:10 201:5 206:12 207:8
209:9 211:2 213:7 214:18 218:17
220:4 228:17 231:3 233:21 234:11
249:17 251:13 256:13 269:19 270:17
277:6 281:20,25 282:8

crunch 154:14

cry 141:10

Cu'pik 91:8

cultural 88:21 102:5 152:2

culturally 63:11

cumulative 89:10

current 30:4 51:21 52:4 61:3 80:15
98:7,16 108:12 120:16 126:16 138:8
143:7 148:6 150:7 151:15 152:24
155:18 205:24 275:5

cursor 223:1 246:1

curve 51:23 73:12 104:9 151:23

customs 91:11

cut 62:8,25 110:17,25 132:6 190:25
217:1

cuts 191:18

cutting 111:25 122:16

cycle 99:2 276:3

cycles 86:13

D

D.C. 37:4

dance 199:12,13,14

Danea 114:25 115:1,3,5

darn 38:8

dashed 190:13

data 173:5 259:14

date 125:22

David 57:22 69:5,6,8 71:23 72:3
75:13 78:3 79:24 118:20,22 119:2
120:22 140:6,8 141:23 231:2

Dawn 162:25 163:1,10 164:25

day 2:18 31:2 85:2 117:10 152:12
156:4 168:9 205:2

days 6:5 20:25 37:9,20 44:7,16 91:17
97:11 112:11 130:18 188:5

de- 18:19

deadline 22:24 35:19 42:17 44:15
154:14

deal 42:11 226:25

death 223:23

deaths 89:7

debate 111:9 178:8

debating 111:5 252:22

Debevec 111:12 113:1,3,6

decade 88:4 103:14 157:3

decades 89:9,11 92:7

decide 137:10

decided 41:4 63:3 275:23

decipher 124:24

decision 34:24 35:5,13 41:23 48:25
59:8 69:25 243:14,15 244:5 249:6
259:21 276:7

decision-making 169:9

decisions 62:4 64:3,5 65:7 127:17
128:22 166:22 172:13 173:21 182:19

decisive 169:20

declared 119:8,21

decline 159:12,13

dedicate 45:2

deduction 56:8

deeply 65:2

defend 179:21

defense 80:8 139:10

defensible 203:1 260:14

defensive 179:21

deference 148:14

define 234:25

defined 66:20

defines 236:3

definition 62:22 110:23 147:18
249:10

definitive 170:17

definitively 177:10

degree 30:8 178:4 249:11

Del 134:25

deliberating 165:4

deliberation 149:25

Delta 71:5 97:13 98:19,21,25 109:14
114:2 138:18 139:13 153:21,22
162:25 164:10 203:2 205:21 242:21
245:17 246:10

Deltana 138:1,7

delved 258:20

Democratic 118:9

democrats 123:6

demographer 269:5

demographics 102:5

demonstrate 252:6,25

demonstrated 75:9

Denali 138:16 139:15 143:9 155:13
187:21 188:16,18 190:12,13 232:21

denied 103:12

dense 16:4 62:23

Department 264:16

depend 2:12

dependable 167:18

depending 48:24

depends 2:13

deputy 4:2 33:15 35:22 36:1,5 46:2,6,
15,18 47:8 48:6,9,15,17 49:5,12 50:4
82:23 83:13 114:21,24 158:13,15,18
165:9 168:2 197:5 210:14,17 211:3,12
212:15 214:14 215:10,12 216:21
221:17,23 222:9 223:24 225:9 226:6,
15,18 227:17 229:2,5,12 231:4,7,10

derising 106:15

derivative 12:20
describe 167:2
describes 199:7
describing 14:4 269:6
description 264:9
deserve 116:23
deserving 98:23
desire 5:5 195:3 243:7
desires 68:19
detail 73:1
detailed 280:20
determination 249:24
determine 182:14 275:5,22
determined 189:8
determining 225:18 273:25 276:3
detrimental 88:13,22 102:12
deviation 8:7,10,11,12,14,23 9:8,24
12:20 17:11 18:14,20,23,25 19:15,17
29:15,16,19 30:5,7 32:4 34:12 68:9
97:3 102:12 120:6 122:13 123:11,12
172:12 173:5 182:25 189:19 202:23
203:1 206:14 207:10 208:17,21 209:1,
18,19 210:12 211:7 215:17 217:2,15
218:19 219:10 222:3,4,18 228:11
230:10 252:9 258:23 259:12 260:15,
16
deviations 7:25 8:17 12:3,15 17:9
18:11 31:19 33:3 34:9,15 53:9 56:21
71:17 172:8,21 173:16 174:8 175:6
189:9 196:5 203:13 215:14 216:4,9,19
217:4,6 218:15 253:1 257:2,14 260:3,
4
di 64:14
diagonally 104:19
dial 48:22
dialing 48:20
diaspora 59:15
diced 53:18
dices 176:18
dicing 104:25
die 112:12
difference 11:14 12:9 13:7 18:4
21:22 30:5,7,11 139:12 188:9,12
189:19,20 228:7 236:10
differences 6:6 12:22 44:3 139:8
145:12 189:13 190:16 242:18
differently 41:13 177:19 204:3
difficult 15:18 61:6 64:1 88:8 103:7
110:10 137:21 142:15 180:23 238:3
242:24 243:7 244:5
difficulties 95:9 127:24 226:13
231:11
difficulty 100:10,16
digest 271:7
digging 90:17
dilemma 97:4 101:7
Dillingham 200:5 202:8 208:9
diluted 62:15 159:5
diluting 54:15 104:21 126:23
dilution 53:20 181:4
diminish 219:5
diminished 104:4
dinner 136:9
direction 188:10
directions 216:6
directly 61:8 177:2
director 4:2 10:18,22,25 11:9 13:23
14:17 17:22 27:17 33:15 35:22 36:1,5
46:2,6,15,18 47:8 48:6,9,15,17 49:5,
12 50:4,5,9 64:15 80:9 82:23 83:13
114:21,24 126:13 158:13,15,18 165:9
168:2 186:21 189:14,22 190:3 195:1,
11,21 197:4,5 210:14,17 211:3,12
212:15 214:14 215:10,12 216:21
221:17,23 222:9 223:24 225:9 226:6,
15,18 227:17,22 228:2,6 229:2,5,12
231:4,7,10,16,20,24 232:4,10,22
233:1,5 234:2,6,9,19,22 235:5,8,25
236:7 238:18 239:10,13 240:4 252:1,
5,8,12,16,19,24 256:9 262:4,7,10,13,
16,19 263:4 265:24 266:8,18,21
268:5,9,13,16,20,23 269:22,25 270:3,
6,9,20,24 271:5,11,16 272:2,6,9,16,20
275:9,11 276:16 277:8 278:6,22
279:2,13,17,21,24 280:7 281:4,7,10,
16
dis- 73:8
disagree 38:11,21 80:3 136:3 250:11
disallows 53:22
disappointed 108:15 142:8 243:15
disclosure 3:8 185:8
discounted 117:21 118:16
discouraging 155:12
discovered 6:3
discretion 253:25
discriminatory 139:2
discuss 97:17 167:7 202:12 257:24
258:2,11 260:20
discussed 42:23 71:1 77:3 101:23
106:13 142:9 149:8 226:8
discussing 55:10 73:15 77:4
discussion 3:13 4:12 46:21 47:18
139:14 170:5 179:24 185:14 226:22
249:11 256:15 258:13 261:13 267:13
282:12
discussions 178:6
disenfranchise 120:4
disenfranchisement 157:4
disfranchising 120:1
disheartening 100:4,8
disingenuous 37:9 54:12
dismayed 86:6
disparate 65:10
display 34:12
dissertation 57:3
disservice 116:14
distant 170:24
distinct 51:17,20 56:14 75:23 76:3
87:14,15 99:10 104:17 113:11,13,21
119:23 124:1 127:4 145:10
distinctions 113:24
district 6:18 7:2 8:2 12:10 13:6,7,13,
14 15:10 18:7,8,23 19:1,6 21:15 24:16
26:3 29:4,12,14 32:1 51:20 54:3,5,9
67:17,22 68:1,11 70:6 73:7,9,10,12,18
74:4,6,16,19,20,21,22,23 75:3,8,22,23
76:1,4 78:21 79:10,11 86:9,14 91:19

94:22 95:17,22 96:2,11 97:2 99:3,8
101:19 104:3,10,16,19 107:16,20,24
108:12 109:2,4,18 110:18,24 117:24
119:10,11,19,21,22 122:20,24 123:19
125:12 126:23 128:25 129:10 131:5,8,
13 132:13 135:16,21 136:12,21 138:8,
9,13,22,24,25 139:2,21,24 140:3,13,
25 141:5,11,15 142:21 143:7,11,19
144:3 145:11 147:5 148:22 149:7,9,15
153:14 154:2 155:13 157:13 159:3,10,
12,15,17,25 161:13 163:11,12,18,21,
24 164:1 169:22,25 170:20 179:10
187:9,15,23 188:11,24 190:8,9 191:9
196:22 197:11 200:2 202:16,23,25
204:8,9 205:16,19 207:1,3 215:18,22
217:14 222:16,17,21 223:14,19,20
225:13,15,21,24 226:7,20,21,23
227:2,17,18,21 229:2,3,4,6,13,15
230:5 236:4 237:8 238:10 241:11,25
242:7 243:2,11 244:14 245:5,24
246:3,12,22 247:16 253:23,24 254:9
256:8 269:6 273:11 274:13,17,18,22,
23 277:12,15

district's 150:8

districted 125:8 189:8

districts 6:13 8:1,7 10:16 12:18 13:1
24:4 25:23 30:2 31:13 34:16 39:4
53:11,25 54:6,7 59:12 61:5 62:25
65:14,15 74:18,23 75:4 76:5 77:6,9,16
88:24 89:15 104:15 107:11 110:19
119:6 122:15 123:7 127:4 139:23
144:7 149:23 155:12 157:12,16
164:18 167:12,13 169:17,24 170:24
173:12,23 175:22 187:18 189:6,21
196:16 200:7 216:19 218:19 221:5,10
224:4 244:20 249:22 252:11 255:17
257:1 258:13 259:7 273:23,24 274:7,9
275:2,5 276:24

diverse 103:24 104:21,24 120:7
126:18 135:5,19 136:19 157:5,23
242:17

diversity 105:8 152:2

divide 144:25 157:21 187:7

divided 78:24 156:25

Dividend 147:25

divides 73:5 93:24

dividing 124:2 155:11

divisible 158:1

Division 277:12,18,20

divisions 122:17

doable 225:20

documents 47:5

dodecahedron 146:25

Dome 148:24

domino 216:6

Donna 67:6,9 69:1

door 28:18

doors 99:10

dotted 241:1

double 12:11 207:22

double-check 83:14 128:12

Doug 249:2

Douglas 222:24

downshift 40:2

downtown 7:6,21 15:11 16:1 21:1,4,
5 23:21,24 24:14,22 177:12,16,19
222:23 241:8 244:20

Doyon 90:7,15 128:8,21 129:16
130:9,23 131:1,25 133:13 143:10
188:24 253:24

dozens 86:1

draft 67:13 218:11 271:10,15

drainage 96:7,8 138:21 139:3,6,9

draw 20:25 89:16 132:20 173:11,15,
16 177:23 181:6 195:2 215:21

drawing 25:7 37:7 41:16 95:9 120:17,
18 177:19 277:5

drawn 76:21 118:5 179:18 190:11
195:22 255:17

drew 123:24 177:12,24 181:3 260:24

drill 269:15 273:9

drive 63:4 86:21 104:14 110:21
123:14 137:9 152:11 197:5 244:19

driven 148:13

driving 54:5 230:15

Drummond 122:23

drums 199:16

dry 147:12

due 62:2 63:1 114:9 135:13 263:17
264:25

dumping 189:3

Dunsmore 72:1,3 75:17,21 76:14,23
77:13,15,18 78:19 79:17,19

duplicate 195:15

duties 33:8

duty 138:20 139:20

dwelling 73:22

dynamic 59:21 148:1

E

e-mail 125:23 271:3 278:9,10,13
280:20 282:2

Eagle 6:18,20,23,24 31:5 32:13 56:5
67:22 80:11 105:6 122:21 125:16
126:25 134:13 135:1,2,4,9,13,18,21,
23,24 136:3,5,6,14,18,20 137:2,4,5,7,
11 151:22 152:7,11,13 155:4 177:5

ear 105:21

earlier 14:4 23:9 28:5 34:1 35:9 50:17
102:2 146:10,14 171:16 172:4 223:6
254:3 255:14 261:6 270:9

early 50:24 118:10 121:6 146:5

earthquake 154:24

ease 49:14

easier 109:14 117:12 201:17 204:16

easily 161:11 248:16 272:22

east 31:15 51:16,17,21 53:1,16,18,20
73:3,5 74:19 79:20 93:19 95:7,20
102:7 103:20 104:9,16,18,20,24,25
105:2,6 122:21 126:9,18,21,24 127:2
136:8,12 143:16,22,23 145:16 151:22
152:4,7 159:25 160:4 179:9 187:18
190:22 227:3 235:19 236:11 240:18
246:14

eastern 67:20 109:12 132:13 222:15
236:8

eastside 143:18 176:17

easy 15:9 19:16 64:12 141:9 150:11

eat 165:6,17

echo 101:3 115:25 129:15 150:21

economic 98:21 103:5 140:18 147:7, 15 227:11
edge 236:4
edit 121:22 239:11
edits 172:10
educate 150:2
education 57:24 103:5 104:7
effect 22:13,14 89:10 177:7 203:5 228:3
effective 53:19
efficiency 129:7
efficiently 128:18
effort 7:18 32:10 57:9,20,22 58:4 59:16 65:20 86:8 94:12 198:19 277:19
efforts 136:16 150:1 154:13 156:6
egregious 105:1
Eielson 71:2,4 84:16 98:25 101:17 138:18 139:11 143:18 147:6,15,17 149:2,14,23 163:14 164:4 239:4,24 240:2,8,17 245:16 246:18 247:9,19 248:1,24
Eielson's 240:5
Eisemam 97:20,21,22,24 98:2,3
Eiseman 110:9
elect 105:7
elected 123:17 238:4 242:6 243:12 247:3
election 63:16 275:14 276:1
Elections 277:12,18,20
electronics 112:12
elementary 116:6
Elias 194:22,24
eliminate 24:13
eliminated 223:2
elimination 56:7
Elliott 95:20 148:24 232:2 245:24
Elmendorf 29:14 135:4
else's 173:1
Elyse 110:3 111:8
emergency 102:15
Emmonak 119:17 199:15
empathize 91:23
employee 81:1
employees 70:12
Employer 80:9
empty 155:1 263:16
enable 168:7
encourage 154:1 155:21 164:10,22 249:20
end 2:18 14:9 15:3 31:2,18 63:19 64:25 76:1 85:21 93:3 99:14 109:16 115:4 134:12 173:15 201:8 222:23 223:10 226:19 227:4 230:16 238:14, 15
ended 21:6 225:24
ends 12:9 123:9
engage 148:4
engaged 36:25 81:18 149:17
engine 98:21 147:7,15
English 163:25 254:13
enjoy 136:14 149:3
enrichment 153:16
ensure 11:22 16:11 103:16 127:2 128:2
ensuring 15:6 23:11 29:23 198:18
enter 185:2
enthusiasm 139:21,22
Enthusiastically 268:18
entire 98:22 116:25 125:20,21 127:23 153:7 164:2 193:16 238:1 262:23
entities 155:15
entity 61:7
envy 94:12
equal 63:16,18 88:9,10,12 238:6 243:21 249:22
equally 260:15
equation 276:6
equitable 102:16 158:21
equivalent 148:2
Eric 264:16
Erin 93:15,16 94:14
errand 249:13
error 227:24 270:1,2 271:24
errors 272:2,10 278:20
ESGR 80:10
Eskimo 90:13
essence 205:15
essentially 70:7 153:17 199:7 247:10
establish 43:10 45:11
established 172:9
Ester 84:5 86:3 87:2 92:21,24 95:4 98:5,11 107:19
estimate 269:14
ethic 227:14
ethics 183:19
European 164:12
evened 222:17
evening 40:12 106:3 156:9 166:25 269:13 278:17
event 260:1 278:24
events 86:25
eventually 266:25
evident 148:20
evolves 121:13
evolving 121:21
exact 77:21 185:1
excellent 30:15 47:22 53:9 128:15 163:9 230:20 255:8
excess 70:4 205:16 235:18
exchange 199:12 203:10
excise 223:8
exclude 148:16
excluded 148:8
exclusion 148:12
Excursion 223:12
excuse 3:21 4:24 97:23 124:14 126:1

131:8 196:23 246:14
excuses 166:14
execute 139:20
executive 2:20 3:4,16,24 4:1,11
10:18,22,25 11:9 13:23 14:17 17:22
27:17 50:5,9 64:14,20 99:18 126:12
171:20 182:20 184:10,20 185:2,12,16,
20 186:21 189:14,22 190:3 195:1,11,
21 197:4 227:22 228:2,6 231:16,20,24
232:4,10,22 233:1,5 234:2,6,9,19,22
235:5,8,25 236:7 238:18 239:10,13
240:4 252:1,5,8,12,16,19,24 256:9
262:4,7,10,13,16,19 263:4 265:24
266:8,18,21 268:5,9,13,16,20,23
269:22,25 270:3,6,9,20,24 271:5,11,
16 272:2,6,9,16,20 275:9,11 276:16
277:8 278:6,22 279:2,13,17,21,24
280:7 281:4,7,10,16
exercise 24:10 34:2,7 35:11 177:21
196:7 205:2 264:4
exhausted 23:11
exist 20:14
existed 219:10
existing 71:15 107:5 276:6
Exit 135:23,24 136:3
expand 72:7
expanded 61:14
expect 264:6 279:7
expectation 35:3 264:15
expense 34:15 172:13,14
experience 57:15 67:23 70:12 79:14,
19 99:13 103:8 109:7 153:3
experiences 270:7
experiencing 89:6,11
expertise 58:9
experts 33:2 38:20 59:7 127:14
expired 160:22
explain 31:9 58:1 186:3 275:8 279:3
explained 40:15,20
explaining 72:19
explanation 171:16 172:4,17 188:3
explicit 182:23

exploration 249:11
explore 193:1
express 103:10 122:6 244:1
expressed 181:7 182:3 183:4
Extend 119:17
extends 96:3 187:20
extension 246:2
extensive 166:8 202:21
extensively 193:13 227:5
extent 105:25
extra 90:14,15 194:11
extracurriculars 153:9
extremely 13:1 148:18 152:12 202:22
eye 12:14 241:3 259:6
eyeball 259:5
eyes 259:11

F

F-15S 149:6
F-35S 149:7
face 263:24
facilitate 267:3
facing 101:7,8
fact 38:9 61:25 63:2,8 106:16 136:13
143:3 157:9 179:7 180:6 183:9 188:16
189:4,5,8 253:6
factor 76:25 88:13 259:4
factors 88:6,19,21 147:1
facts 187:25
fails 147:16
fair 41:25 43:7 45:12 63:16,18 72:4
84:15 94:7 102:16 112:13 120:12
145:23 146:7 154:21 158:21
Fair- 242:2
Fairbanks 69:23,24 70:2,8,11,15,18
71:10,15 83:2,4,6 84:5 85:5,9 86:4,6
87:2,5,6,13,16 92:20,22 93:3,11
94:15,17,22,24 95:3,4,6,19,23,24
96:21 97:5,8,15 98:4,8,9,13,22 99:8,9
100:13 101:2,3,19 102:6,7 105:13

106:6,10 108:9,11 109:1,5,10,13,19
110:10,12,16,18,25 111:1 113:21,23
116:3,11,14,20 117:1 118:12,21
119:3,13,16 120:15 121:18 127:6,8
129:7,11,13,17,18 140:6 141:2,13,19,
20,24 142:7,12,16,20 143:5,9,17,21
144:4,16 145:8,13,16,25 146:13
147:3,4 148:3,13,15,20 152:23 153:1,
4,8,14,16,18,19 154:2 159:18 197:18
229:1,10 231:19 234:15 235:9,10,13,
14 236:18,25 238:14,15 241:8,9,17
242:3 243:1 244:16 246:24 247:5
248:2 250:22 252:11 254:22
fairly 86:7 199:20 271:12
Fairview 66:16 93:25 121:3,11
122:16 156:22 158:1 196:9
fall 149:12
falls 84:25
false 54:14
familiar 157:10 164:5
families 68:12 80:17,23
family 86:18,22 95:1 135:9,19 153:5,7
154:25
Farmers 126:12
farther 151:24 190:22 240:20
fashion 89:16 106:2
fast 55:11 270:15
fastest 278:11
father 153:12
fault 245:13 261:7
favor 51:25 52:6 56:16 188:17 191:23
192:1 267:22
feasible 128:24
federal 88:19 181:12 257:17
Federation 197:12
feedback 121:22
feel 33:1 34:23 56:24 65:1 94:4,6
100:4 112:5 117:25 140:18 152:6
153:22 172:21,25 176:25 177:4,5,9
178:5 183:8,17 191:2 218:7 221:4
242:13 248:14
feeling 35:5 192:3 257:15
feelings 86:2

feels 54:11,14 167:11 173:10
Felisa 58:21,24 60:4
fellow 101:3 153:24 171:18 178:3
180:5
felt 8:16 62:9 100:13 153:7 172:11
174:7 177:17 188:22
fend 101:16
Festival 199:13
fewer 118:10 259:7
Fields 122:1,2,3 124:9
Fierro 134:25
figure 227:6 275:18
figured 172:18
figuring 166:15
file 237:10
filled 228:8
final 2:11 35:15 67:13 86:5 91:21,22
106:6 109:22 122:7 150:21 166:23
167:3,4,10 169:3 171:21 180:19
195:14 263:9 266:13,15,17 267:1,5
268:4 271:14,15,17,20 272:7,11
274:4,10 276:22
finalized 59:10
finalizing 257:7
finally 89:17
find 5:4,21 8:20 13:8 14:20 26:2 30:3
40:24 41:9 53:2 97:4 106:11 107:25
108:19 109:6,12 111:1 136:3 142:13
148:17 155:18 173:23 203:20 238:10
243:1 258:16 259:3 263:19,25 278:20
finding 15:5 238:3
finds 272:22
fine 24:17 132:12 134:5 151:9 167:20
215:23 233:25 251:4
finger 73:15
fingers 77:5
finish 14:23 104:12 178:15 183:16
Fireweed 20:6
fireworks 229:19,20
firm 168:3
fish 101:15 199:6

fishing 149:4 199:10
fit 54:15 149:14 243:10
five-board 62:3
five-plus 250:8
fix 15:18 120:14 230:3
fixed 20:16 168:7 215:14
fixing 264:1
Fletcher 83:2,3,23 84:3,4 110:9
114:10 247:4
flow 8:23
fly 37:3,5 72:5 149:6 166:15
FNSB 232:12
focus 25:17 34:16 63:18 147:15
focused 246:9
fold 92:3
folks 49:7,9 64:23 65:11 84:7 101:3
113:9 139:12 153:25 158:22 159:14
160:4,5 188:22 256:24
follow 31:20 55:12 123:13 124:21
131:20,22 134:6,7 151:17 193:17
follow-up 17:2
food 199:8 203:15
foods 164:12,13
fool's 249:13
Foothills 51:6,13,18 73:11,23 74:2,11
151:12
force 71:2,4 139:16 143:18 147:18
149:3 179:2 247:22
forced 123:1 259:20
forces 120:8
forcing 120:5,11
form 31:4
Fort 6:21 7:2 14:15 71:5 80:6 139:11
163:14 164:1 236:11 247:21
forum 183:7,18
forward 28:16 34:22 45:1 64:5 125:20
180:24 241:12 250:23 259:21 264:8
278:23
found 61:25 108:20 147:7,13 171:22
173:5 194:11 201:18 227:25 232:10
235:19 258:22 272:10

fourteen 241:17
Fox 226:11 227:3
fragments 272:11
frame 24:18 270:14
frames 44:25
frankly 140:20
Frazier 162:25 163:2,5,9,10
Fred 86:23
frequently 178:25
Friday 2:4
friendly 266:24
friends 95:1 116:7 137:1
Fritz 226:10 227:3 230:14,15
front 68:17 89:23
frontier 160:1
frustrated 62:1 85:11 99:15 111:4
frustrating 62:10 84:21 103:8 106:18
110:11 155:17
frustration 85:11 105:19
frustrations 111:23 117:7
fulfillment 150:8
full 21:5 88:25 98:23 159:19 235:15
263:1 273:8
fully 66:11 70:19 100:10 149:16 187:6
270:1 277:25
functionally 86:20
future 57:10 128:1

G

gained 228:9
gallery 46:25
game 118:7
Gary 146:16,19,21 150:13 247:1,19
254:21 255:8
gas 136:8
gate 147:19 178:23,24 179:3 247:20
gates 59:18 78:25 177:3 178:25
247:10

gateway 223:17
15,17,19,21,23,24 154:2 239:21 241:5
242:6 245:18 247:13,17

gave 188:13 192:3 217:23 228:10
255:4

general 64:18 152:24 169:11 171:11

generalization 243:3

generally 65:11 270:19

generation 135:2 137:17

generous 44:18

gentleman 125:2

genuine 166:15

geographic 74:24 124:2

geographical 63:10 107:6

geographically 78:5 212:6

geography 96:12 190:24

gerrymander 53:16 62:24 105:1
122:19,23 123:5,9

gerrymandering 53:23 63:15 94:6
104:4

gigantic 107:23

give 3:23 22:19 23:18 24:3 27:4 42:16
43:22 48:1 60:22 64:10,19,22 65:12,
13 80:20 101:6 111:10 113:4 114:9
166:19 167:17 175:18 176:2 182:2
203:24 208:4 237:23 243:8,17 264:7
265:1 269:13 278:9,19 279:3 280:15

give-and-take 88:8

giving 27:12 204:7

Glacier 223:17

glad 56:6,10 98:7 142:17,19 219:17

Glennallen 242:18

goal 30:2,12 72:20 123:12

goals 88:11

God 281:19

Golden 254:24

Goldstream 69:22 70:5,7,13,14,22
84:8 85:4 86:2,9,13,18,20 87:2,4
92:24 93:2,7 94:18,21,23 95:2,4,13,18
98:10,18,20 99:3 101:13 106:8
107:14,19,21,22 108:3 109:15 110:17,
25 113:7,9 116:2,3,8,11,17,19,21,23
119:12 140:10,11 141:18 143:20,25
145:6 148:3,12 152:23,25 153:2,3,5,

good 2:6 4:3 30:15 37:6 49:8 58:21,
24 67:6 69:18 72:1 81:9 88:10,11
89:19 92:16 100:18 102:25 120:14
138:4,6 140:9 142:3 150:17 151:8
152:20 156:6 162:23 164:21 168:13,
23 189:12 192:3 202:6 205:9 221:19
224:17 228:19,21 230:14 231:19
232:7 238:19 255:23 260:3,4 265:4
267:20 278:16 282:2

Goodbye 164:24

goodness 168:11

Goodnews 159:16 160:24 161:16
197:21 200:1 201:14,17 202:7 203:10
204:9 205:18 207:24 208:8 209:14,18
210:3,15,20,25 211:13

Google 270:11 271:22 278:1,2,4

gotcha 11:13 46:1

governing 117:2

government 3:7 79:3,6,8 80:4
178:22,24 185:6 187:4

grabbed 222:14

grabbing 69:5

Graham 206:11,17 216:21,25 217:21,
22 226:8

grateful 23:7,10 45:14 146:1

great 32:10 46:17,23 57:23 58:1 62:7
126:7 130:7 135:6 154:5 163:4 169:5
175:19 219:15 226:25 227:5 241:21
255:4 266:22

greater 70:23 179:9

greatly 49:25 152:3

Greely 71:5 139:11,13 163:15 164:1
247:21

green 11:1 194:14 244:11

grew 70:13 86:17 116:5

grill 100:15

grocery 136:8 164:11

group 64:15,16 68:15 84:10 135:6
137:19 139:16 145:14 163:16 166:24

grouping 98:24

groupings 145:9

groups 90:24 199:14

grow 208:16

Growing 153:7

growth 92:1

guard 80:9 147:19

guess 22:9 114:11 134:1 137:16
150:4 174:2 177:13 181:10 182:22
188:12 229:21 232:7 282:7

guidance 32:12 43:13 122:25 123:14
243:9,17 274:4,7

guided 238:1

Gulf 225:10

Gustavus 223:13,16

Guttenberg 110:3,4,6 111:4 118:21,
23 119:1,2

guy 87:20,21,22,23 90:10,23 91:1,6,
12 92:2 113:16 203:21 205:7

guys 20:25 24:2 59:7 114:3 128:13
134:21 140:15,21 152:6 156:2 209:14
210:22 219:21 221:4,18,20 225:23
231:16

Gwich'in 91:7

H

habit 178:15

hack 103:23

Haines 223:11,12,20

half 9:2 23:5 24:18 27:4 63:5 89:5
121:20 156:4 160:4 217:2,9 228:13
281:24

Halibut 226:10

Hall 55:25 56:1 65:18

hand 67:12 198:8

happen 91:18 113:19 230:11 277:5

happened 41:2 42:7 56:8,11 89:4
90:18 100:5 121:8 276:18

happening 89:8 125:10,13 127:6

happy 14:1 19:22 21:12,20 22:21
33:11,13 39:8 112:13 176:2,22 193:1
241:12

hard 10:24,25 20:14 55:11 59:1,19
61:24 78:6 91:17 100:11 111:25

113:25 120:16 124:6,24 125:22 130:5
196:9 203:19 227:14 243:2 249:18
264:20

Harding 84:16 99:1 240:13

Harding-birch 240:12 245:16

Harriet 122:23

harvest 199:3

hats 81:20 126:10,14

Haul 245:25

head 185:15 240:3 254:14

headphones 117:9

headquartered 129:18 204:19

heads 3:23 36:5

headway 180:13

health 103:5 200:4

healthcare 200:5 208:9,10

healthy 178:8,23 179:1

Healy 232:11,13,17,20

hear 56:6 62:10 83:24,25 97:24 99:25
100:9,23 105:15 110:4,15 112:2 113:1
115:10,11,13,14,23,24 117:15 118:23,
24 120:24 124:15 126:5 128:13 134:1,
3,17 138:3,5 140:7 142:1 150:18,19
151:9 156:17 163:1,5,20 175:19
176:19 182:22 246:19 248:19 250:4

heard 5:2 7:4,8 15:11,15,23 16:7
20:12 25:1 33:25 44:24 50:12 76:15,
16 85:18 86:1 98:15 99:23 103:9
106:14 108:23,24 113:16,18,23 114:6
116:10 119:9 127:3 129:12 130:2
135:23 138:12,14 139:12 142:11
143:25 145:5 149:20,24 172:6 173:2,6
176:12,15 177:7,8 182:24 199:24
204:3,13 237:18 238:25 239:17 241:6
244:9,14 245:4 253:20 254:3,10
259:24

hearing 3:15 15:17 24:2 54:19 62:9
72:17,19 85:3 98:17 100:13 111:23
117:22,25 121:22 127:5,8 149:19
166:8 198:13 224:22,23 250:13
261:20

hearings 142:18 166:18

heart 137:9

heavily 187:13 204:18

heel 183:21

Heights 29:8

helped 57:24

helpful 43:2 44:9,13 125:23 156:13
176:19 177:21 178:1 179:18 234:21
258:14 261:5

helping 58:1 193:24 196:6

helps 215:8

Hemming 55:22 151:5,7,10,11

hesitant 248:17

hesitate 174:12,13

Hey 101:25

high 8:24 10:8,15,16 18:15 67:21
86:19 116:6 126:19 135:21,22 196:4
207:2 215:14 257:3

higher 18:14,15 19:14 209:19 259:12

highest 9:7 11:3 12:10 17:11 18:5,21
19:18 89:6 202:24 222:3

highlight 14:16

highlighting 15:1

highly 16:4 70:9 71:5 126:20 153:4

highway 5:5 13:25 20:7 31:14,20
71:7,12 84:5 95:21 96:18 138:18
139:9 148:24 149:6,9 191:18 193:8
194:5 232:2 236:8,12,13,14 238:23
240:24 242:21 245:17,25 246:3,7,10,
14

Highway/richardson 97:14

highways 95:21 232:3 246:9,11

hiking 136:16

Hill 79:3,6,8 178:23,24

Hillside 74:7,15,22

hindrance 116:15

historical 157:18

historics 148:24

hit 270:25 271:2,6 278:14

hitting 278:12

Hodge-growden 102:21,23,25 103:1

Hoffman 197:10

hold 112:22 146:4 214:25

holding 232:8

holes 263:16

Holy 96:4 138:22

home 86:22 95:2 127:10 135:14,18

homelands 127:13

homepage 270:25 271:2

Homer 207:1 226:6,10,18,25 227:4

homes 94:25

homogeneous 242:25

honest 16:16 153:20

honestly 87:10

honor 15:11,19 23:6 54:17

honored 191:5 199:20

honoring 29:24 30:8,13 161:11

hook 24:13,19

hooks 20:16

Hooper 91:18 119:15 128:23 130:20
132:10 133:8 161:19 200:11,13,20
204:6 209:22 210:21 212:1,4

Hooper's 212:2

hop 278:7

hope 65:21,24 72:4 100:18 106:10
109:19 125:14 127:16,19 128:1
142:14 144:4,5,7 157:25 241:23

hoped 35:8

hopeful 85:25

Hopkins 106:23,25 107:1 248:11

horse 203:12

horseshoe-sized 163:17

hospital 81:8

Hot 143:17

hour 23:5 24:18 27:4 45:23 59:6,10
100:8 111:25 154:11 176:12 217:9

hours 44:16 63:5 65:12 84:23 103:19
110:21 117:8 203:16 250:8 264:17,20
270:22 273:18

house 61:4 65:14 89:1 104:3 148:6,7
150:8 167:12 169:17,24 227:25
228:10,12 256:8 273:22,24 274:13
275:2 276:23 278:25

housekeeping 281:1,3,14
housing 16:9 74:6 79:5
Houston 187:6,11 188:11 191:9
hub 200:4
Huffman/o'malley 73:13,23 74:7,15,
21 75:5
huge 6:5,15 30:6 98:21 107:20 214:22
hundred 102:1 119:18 235:21
hundreds 29:25 151:20 173:18
hunting 149:4
hurriedly 53:23
hurry 265:3
husband 113:12 135:17 178:18

I

idea 28:18 31:22,24 62:21 88:18
109:3 123:24,25 138:19 149:8 168:6
189:2 201:6 205:9
ideas 88:11 246:17
identical 26:6 31:12 67:14 131:6
identified 25:8 42:3 242:9 250:19
identify 83:7 247:4 279:10
ignores 151:20
Il 179:2
ill-served 74:14
illegal 63:15
illogical 122:15
imagine 119:15 139:5
immediately 62:14
impact 131:9 157:5 159:4 181:4
impacted 8:16 62:13,14
impactful 65:24
impacting 92:8
impacts 65:10 157:19
implied 179:13
implore 56:22 57:1 139:24
implying 147:12 179:5
important 13:10 42:25 59:15 68:2,8,

23 93:5,10 94:21 96:14 97:12 127:9
153:17 154:15 155:6,9 157:4 169:14
177:18 217:11 229:22 259:4
imposed 147:10
impressed 255:7
impression 16:16 159:22
improper 25:1
improve 22:3,5 32:25 33:9 41:16
217:23 237:19
improved 25:8 172:8,22 174:7,9
improvement 21:22 95:12 217:18,19
218:11,24 219:1
improvements 25:10 32:23 33:5,19,
22 219:14 237:22
improves 201:12 211:4 219:7
improving 172:16
inadvertent 191:20
inadvertently 193:9 263:17
inappropriate 74:1 110:17
inclined 181:19
include 96:15 128:24 138:16 149:9,
23 163:18 253:21
included 68:21 69:11 126:25 131:2
188:24 236:24
includes 20:5 80:16,17 123:18
129:16 189:24 190:5 223:12
including 51:16,18 61:13 106:9
122:16 123:6 147:11
income 157:5,23 164:17
inconveniencing 166:16
inconvenient 123:17
incorporated 21:2 148:22 187:5
190:7
incorporates 244:12
incorrect 183:3
incredible 57:23
incredibly 65:23 96:11 99:19 157:3
incumbent 123:17,19
incumbents 123:24
indefensible 203:13

independent 258:19
Indian 90:14
indication 170:2
indigenous 103:13 126:13 127:21
indiscernible 10:14 22:1,17 27:22
33:13 35:25 39:21 47:12 48:2 49:6
50:10 51:19 53:20 58:18,23 68:20
69:9 72:8,21 76:7 78:16 85:10,13
86:16,24 91:1 92:22 93:5 95:25 96:7
98:5 99:11 107:9 109:16 110:14 111:1
114:21 115:14 116:5,7,14,16,24
117:4,5,6,22,24 118:9,12 119:12
120:20 121:18 122:20,21 126:9,16
132:5 133:15 142:5,16 143:6,13,24
144:20 149:23 150:24,25 160:20
161:2,4 162:1 164:12 175:5 176:10
183:11 184:5 186:5 187:16 188:14
190:10 191:24 193:4 194:16 195:16
197:7 198:9,10 199:15 201:5 204:15,
18 206:12 207:8,15 208:2 209:9 211:2
213:7,16,19 214:18 218:17 219:22
220:4 222:6,8 223:24 224:5 225:4,12
228:16,17 229:24 231:3,21,25 233:17,
21 234:11 237:3,4 239:14 242:11,20
248:24 249:17 251:10,13 252:9
256:13 258:4 260:9 263:6 267:7
268:6,10 269:19 270:17 271:10
272:24 277:6 279:1,8 280:2 281:20,25
282:3,8
individual 42:19 55:3 105:5 142:6
individuals 135:20 137:15 148:10
indulge 171:13
inequality 120:12
inevitable 120:9
infection 89:6
influence 159:6
information 19:9 111:10 128:2
257:12 261:4,6,8 278:20 281:22
informed 59:8 278:9
infrastructure 190:23
initially 117:23
Inlet 223:12
input 7:4 64:22 65:13,22 173:21
inquiring 4:13
inset 257:2

inside 238:21
instance 253:10
instances 8:1,4
instrumental 193:23
intact 91:24
integral 153:2
integrate 125:16 145:1,8
integrated 66:22 70:10 71:6 77:6
90:8 94:3,23 95:8 96:22 125:18 129:8
131:16 139:10 147:23 149:17 161:8
179:6 198:24 204:11 238:2 242:10,13
249:9,12,25 250:2
integrates 248:4
integration 71:1,4,13,18 72:22 75:7
76:18,25 90:5,21 96:16 108:7 125:7,
19 128:20 129:3 139:4,17 147:9,16
150:7 174:6 176:25 178:17 182:24
204:10 210:7,8 217:10,24 247:12
257:13
integrity 59:11,17 80:4 198:19 219:6
intelligence 263:19
intend 191:1
intended 122:19 128:17 223:5
intent 40:11 63:13
intention 278:23 279:7
intentionally 71:25
intentions 100:18
interact 68:3 265:16
interaction 180:15 248:10 270:11
interactions 227:11
interactive 278:3,5
interconnected 107:7
interconnectedness 199:17
interest 55:19 64:15,17 65:16 79:23
107:5,11,13
interested 270:11 278:7
interesting 125:6
interests 45:11 72:13 104:5 107:8
116:13 120:8 125:9
interim 105:23

interior 70:6,23 84:13,17 86:10 98:19
101:3,9,21 102:4 113:17 131:13
133:13 143:10,19 147:13 153:20
187:23 237:7 251:2
international 164:14
interrupt 8:23
interrupting 178:15
interruption 39:12
intersecting 236:13
intimately 237:17
introduce 72:19
introduced 37:20
intrusion 241:4
invested 65:2
invitation 181:14
inviting 2:12 174:2
involve 150:24
involved 88:2,4 248:12 260:24
involving 3:5,6 185:4,6
Isaacson 249:2
island 222:15 225:15 248:14
Islanders 104:1
issue 2:19 15:6 23:20 29:10 31:6
32:13 39:18 120:14 130:20 134:12
159:1,2 182:21 204:4,5
issues 15:22 28:23 38:16 61:8 118:2,
11 125:10 144:22 157:8 164:16,18
167:16 231:12 273:14
items 185:12
iteration 38:7 41:3,10
iterations 130:19 173:18 181:15

J

Jack 126:11
Jacqueline 111:12 112:24,25 113:2,6
114:15
jagged 122:16
James 138:1,2,4,7 140:5,6,7,9
Jamie 134:13,14,18,25 137:24

JBER 29:11,14 53:18 58:25 59:11
78:20,23 80:4,6,7,16,18 104:18 125:5,
16 135:11,20 239:1
job 32:10 58:1 62:7 65:5 82:10 88:1
101:10 103:23 123:12 137:22 141:9
181:6 189:12 255:8 257:16
jobs 85:1 94:25
Joelle 55:24 56:1 57:21 65:18
John 2:3,16,23 3:1,9,13,21 4:4,20,24
10:6,11 11:6,13 14:22 16:14,21,23
17:3,6 19:23 20:2,9 21:14 22:10,13,18
23:14,16 24:5 25:4,13,22 26:7,9,17,
21,24 27:9,19,24 28:11 29:1 30:23
31:8 32:9,19 33:24 34:4 35:7,15 36:4,
7,10,17 37:18 39:2,16 40:9,17,21
42:12,21 43:9,18,25 44:2,12 45:7
46:1,5,14,23 47:7,10,13 48:3,8,14,16
49:3,8,13,17 50:7,11 51:10 52:1,7,9,
14,19 54:25 55:5,9,13,18 57:21 58:4,
7,11,14,17,19 59:20,25 60:4,7,10,12,
15,18,24 63:25 64:10 66:2 67:4,8
69:1,7,15 71:20 75:13,19 76:11 77:22
78:2,11,15 79:24 81:15 82:12,16,18,
24 83:10,16,20,25 85:6 87:19 89:21
91:14 92:9,16 93:14 94:14,15,17
95:16 96:1,24,25 97:16,18,20,23,25
100:21,24 102:19,24 105:11,16
106:22 107:3 109:25 110:5 111:3,8,
14,17,20 112:7,15,17,24 113:4,8
114:14,19,22 115:1,5,8,10,12,16,19,
24 117:13,16 118:18,24 120:22,25
121:25 124:8,11,17 125:25 126:6
128:7,14 130:7,13 131:21,23 132:15,
22 133:1,5,21,24 134:2,7,11,16,18
137:24 138:4 140:5,8 141:23 142:2
144:10,15 146:9,18,21 150:13,17,19
151:4,8 152:17 154:5,7,8 156:7,18
158:5,14,17 160:7,13,16,19,23 161:5,
14,19,22,25 162:2,5,9,11,14,16,18,20,
22 163:3,7 164:25 165:7,16 166:1
167:23 168:1,11,13,15,18,22 169:1,6,
12,16 170:18 171:10,14 175:9,13
180:11,15,18,22 181:18,23 182:3,9,12
183:16 184:3,6,8,16,19 185:11,21
186:9 188:2,7 189:16,25 190:15 191:7
193:5,14,25 194:3,5,8,19,23 195:6,10,
14,20,25 196:12,14,18 197:2,13,24
198:1,5,14 200:8,18,22 201:9,13,19,
21 202:1,11,15,18 203:17 204:12
205:5,14 206:8,13 207:3,7,9,17,21
208:1,18,22,25 209:3,8,10,15,21,25
210:9,16,18,25 211:4,14,20 212:2,10,
18,22 213:1,5,10,13,17,22,25 214:4,8,
10,16,19,24 215:8,11,16,24 216:15,23

218:5,20,25 219:7,12,15,19,23 220:1,
5,8,11,14,18,20,24 221:7,13,16,22
222:1,6,10 224:23 225:2,6,25 226:4,
17 227:15 228:1,5,20,22,25 229:4,9,
14,18,20 230:6,10 231:6,9,12,18,22
232:1,9,24 233:3,10,19,22 234:8,16,
21,24 235:3,6,23 236:2,10 237:2,9,12,
15,25 238:20 239:3,6,12,15,18,23
240:2,7,11,15,17,23 241:15,20 242:15
243:6,24 244:6 247:18,24 248:9,22
250:6,24 251:3,17,24 252:3,10,17
254:17 255:4,7,15,22 256:11,17,22
257:10,20 258:3,5,9 260:10 261:13,17
262:2,12,21 263:10 264:2,4,12,24
265:12 266:4,11,15,20 267:6,8,11,16
268:2,15,25 269:24 270:5,8,18,23
271:4,13,18,21,25 273:2 275:10
276:2,19 277:7,23 278:4,15 280:5,9,
18,22 281:3,6,13,17 282:4,9,12

join 60:12 64:8 158:10

joined 84:10 199:14

joining 31:4

Joint 135:4

judgment 242:15 243:7 263:18

Judiciary 37:4

Juli 47:2 82:7 230:24

Juneau 48:21 117:18 222:23 223:10
269:6

justice 103:5 104:7

justifiable 209:2

justification 218:1 254:11

K

K- 83:10

Kachemak 226:7,9 227:1

Kalifornsky 226:21 227:19

Kalskag 203:11 214:13,22

Kalskags 214:14

Kasey 83:5,21,22 85:7,8 87:19 93:1
113:8

Kasilof 226:21

Kawasaki 73:15

keeping 23:21 86:2 125:22 190:7
227:1

Kelli 124:14,17 125:25

Kelvin 105:14,16 106:22

Kenai 161:11,12 206:2 207:5 226:19
227:18,20 229:22

Kendra 126:3,4,6,8 128:7

Ketchikan 222:16

key 61:1

KGB 187:11

kids 110:21 137:5

kind 2:21 5:9 7:20 16:15 21:25 24:19
39:14 40:12 44:25 49:14 64:3 78:6
84:9 85:5 101:16 114:3 126:22
128:20,23 129:6 132:9 141:7 157:18
164:11 165:19 166:14 169:8 186:1
210:24 215:12,17 234:17 238:13
249:12 258:20 259:7,24 260:11,14
265:14 279:10

kindly 3:18

kinds 172:10 183:1

Kirk 58:15 156:16,18 158:5

Kloster 126:3,4,7,8

Knik 196:8

knit 93:11

knocked 99:10

knowing 5:22 279:11

knowledge 148:15 165:21 260:25

knowledgeable 75:14

Kodiak 205:3 225:15 227:7

Kongiganak 202:13 205:18

Korean 179:3

Kotlik 119:14 199:15

Koyukuk 138:21 139:3,6,9 164:16

Kristen 144:16,17,19

Kristin 146:10

Kuskokwim 96:8,19 205:21

Kwigillingok 202:13 205:17

KYUK 199:6

L

labeled 197:19 265:23 266:24 271:10

Labor 264:16

Lacey 55:21 151:5,6,11

lack 146:2,6

Lagoon 20:4 66:11

laid 102:10

lake 76:1 84:16 99:1 194:10 245:17

lakes 187:12 240:14

land 36:12 73:16 260:5

Landing 229:8 230:18

lands 127:11

language 184:21 185:1 254:13

languages 91:11 126:19

large 73:16 74:8 96:2,11 254:6 255:18

largely 67:22 217:12

larger 68:9 97:2 187:18

lastly 71:8 172:17

late 37:10 41:8 52:3 118:6 199:6
203:8 254:12,23 261:8

latest 32:21 81:6 132:19

law 3:5,7 12:20 63:14 185:4,7 249:8
250:2 275:12

lay 44:25

layout 22:1 265:14

lead 12:18

leading 43:2

leads 43:2

learned 167:14

leave 130:24 139:24,25 160:21

leaves 138:24 250:25

led 15:5 147:2 205:2

left 5:9 19:20 137:10 191:21 229:1
263:16

leftover 138:8 139:25

legal 2:6,19 3:3 4:12,13 5:20,23 6:2,3,
8 7:6 28:17,23 38:3 39:7,8 40:12,23
41:22 56:11 63:12 122:25 167:17
170:20 171:20 172:1 182:19 184:11,
17 261:4 280:16 281:22

legally 6:2,3 7:7 66:21 260:1

lege 46:18
legislative 72:15 74:13 94:22 150:8
187:9 190:8 277:11
Legislature 119:5 145:23
legitimate 184:9
length 35:1 227:5
lengthy 256:15
lessons 153:10
letters 114:9
letting 92:19 168:4 169:25
level 79:20 153:5 221:21
levels 122:13 147:14
liaisons 248:6
lie 277:10
life 80:10 116:4 149:18 154:24 156:22
lifelong 148:15
lifestyle 139:8
lifestyles 16:10
light 28:15 77:8 215:20 217:5 253:6
270:6
like-minded 155:5
likeness 199:11
limit 45:11 47:23,24 50:20
limited 44:5,6,23 50:18 74:8 100:7
122:10 131:18
limiting 49:23 62:8
limits 155:11
lines 41:16 53:10 62:21 72:15 76:21
89:16 122:15 144:6 145:3,16 173:11,
15 260:4 273:11 277:12
LIO 168:17 242:2
list 71:23 124:10 126:1 201:2 271:3
listen 81:12 127:9 156:3 166:7
listened 106:13 120:17 142:19 146:1
listening 93:20 100:12 105:21 110:13
114:25 115:3 120:17 121:19
literally 59:5 72:17 101:14
Litigants 236:21
live 56:3 66:10 70:14 72:22 79:7 80:2,
17 81:7 84:4 92:20 93:19 101:14,15
102:8 107:14,23 110:20,22 116:3,18
123:24 126:8 127:15 135:9,18,20
137:3,7,8 140:10 141:13 147:11,21
151:11 154:17,18 155:5 163:10 164:8
219:1 237:18 246:21 261:1
lived 61:20 70:12 86:20 92:21 98:3
99:12 101:9 107:14 113:7 116:4,9
125:2 140:10 154:24 164:1 244:15
Livengood 245:25
lives 31:24 103:4 110:16 125:5 135:2
168:8 261:1
living 80:23 90:10 127:14 153:1
loading 186:22
local 51:15 61:12 67:25 148:25 187:4
199:7 217:13
locally 49:9 69:4 158:7 185:22
located 153:13 199:2
location 168:23 277:17
lock 219:24
locked 221:16
logical 71:11 74:18,20,21 149:14
long 27:7 32:11 49:7 104:18 112:18
148:4 158:23 185:19 188:5 196:8
201:11 250:7 273:18
long-term 79:6
longer 6:18 24:10 26:16 29:7 31:6
52:20 86:21 98:7 165:10 228:12
longest 143:22
longstanding 157:14
looked 12:3 21:15 44:7 119:20
123:22 124:22 130:18 171:24 188:3
237:22 238:13 259:3 280:10
Loop 74:20 75:3,6
lose 217:14
losing 89:9
loss 253:13
lost 199:8 250:8
lot 5:17 7:25 12:14 14:15 45:11 46:25
52:5 54:13 74:8 75:14 82:4 84:7,17
88:20 97:13 99:10,12,21 101:17,20
108:10 114:6 116:7,18 117:10 119:9
121:12 125:4 127:6,16,22 129:25
137:14 140:22 145:8 149:20 163:18
173:12 176:12,17 178:18,19 190:16
194:10 203:2 242:18 245:10 247:12
248:6,10 258:13 259:23 278:24
lots 53:10 126:13 226:22
loud 97:25 129:12
Louis 110:1
love 127:13 148:21
low 8:10,12,24 10:8,16,23 18:11
123:10,12 157:5,23 207:18 216:19,20
257:3 271:12
lower 138:21,22 203:11 214:12,13,20,
21 259:1
lowest 11:8 12:10 18:6,21 19:19
202:24 205:21 208:16,21 209:17
222:4
lowest-income 74:2
LUCKY 47:2 230:24
Luke 106:23,24 107:1 113:8 248:11
lump 154:21
lunch 165:17 166:1

M

made 3:19 8:11 12:7 28:18 33:19,22
46:7 62:6 65:8 77:5,6 106:11 109:9
145:25 150:2 170:1 173:1 174:21,24,
25 184:9 192:24 206:2 216:9 222:12
225:11 228:3 230:13,21 236:8,22
238:4 251:12
mail 143:13 277:15
main 75:21 84:18 86:9 92:6 116:1
117:19 188:9 222:21
maintain 237:20
maintained 36:23
maintains 190:5
major 7:22 13:7 128:22 151:21
245:23
majority 59:11,16 92:4 136:2 153:14
159:9
make 2:25 3:22 4:17 6:7 7:18 19:22
21:22 23:9,22 24:14,23 27:4,5 28:20
31:18 33:5,12 34:5,24 35:5,13 37:2
40:17 42:10 44:23,24 47:9 50:5,13
52:3 57:9 59:8,16 63:10 64:3,4 66:24

72:12 74:25 82:20 83:11,17 84:17
85:12 86:6 87:3 91:17 92:11 94:21
100:9,19 101:8,17,19 110:15 113:19
114:19 128:13 130:17 131:19 132:10
135:14 145:3,13,18 153:20 157:21
163:12 172:10 180:23 182:19 184:19
188:19 193:6 203:22 208:5 212:6
224:8 232:15 233:22 237:22 242:16
243:3,14,15 244:8 249:18,23 258:20
259:21 263:15 265:1,14,20 267:2
270:21 273:5

makes 10:6 11:18 13:14 25:9 61:5
63:22 64:21 93:11 106:8 113:14
125:17 142:14 143:16 145:21 171:2,4
178:3 201:24 203:12 211:6 218:3
223:19 234:12 253:17

making 19:10 29:18 33:8 37:23 46:7
47:8 62:4 65:6 80:21 109:21 127:17
155:20,25 156:4 166:22 173:21
180:13,25 195:19 219:14 241:4
243:21 249:21 264:4 267:25 269:4

manages 76:4

mandate 72:11 94:10 181:8

mandated 12:20 198:21

mandates 33:7 35:6 181:17

manner 104:22 169:20 182:4

map 5:24 6:4,9 8:5 20:25 21:23 22:3,
6,9 23:12 24:21 28:14,25 30:4,9,14
33:2,23 37:20,21,25 38:1,12 39:4,9,25
41:3,21 46:25 51:22 52:6,23 53:3,5,9,
16,19,23 54:17,21 56:17 59:14 62:17,
18,20,23 63:7 65:19 66:12,17,24
67:19 71:9,10,15 73:10 78:8 86:5,13
87:9 93:22,24 94:1,4,9 102:2 103:11,
12,19,23 104:8,23 105:4 106:15
108:14 109:22 114:5 118:4,5,11
119:15,20 120:13 121:4,9,13,16
123:11,21 124:22 125:20 126:15,16
127:1 129:8 132:20 137:14 142:8,12
144:5 146:3,14 150:21 151:15,19,20
153:7 155:16 156:25 159:20,22
167:10 169:18 171:21 172:6,23 173:1,
2,3 174:15,17,18 175:18 176:13,16
177:2,12,22 178:3 179:14 180:3
181:2,6 183:4 184:14 186:3,4 188:25
189:11 194:20 195:9,22 196:4 198:17
202:25 205:25 208:21 221:19 224:20
229:22 232:13 245:14,19 251:18
257:8 260:22,24 261:3,8 263:9 265:22
266:15,20 267:1,20,23,24 268:1
270:11 271:15,17 273:9 274:14,21
278:14

mapped 41:8 193:12

mapping 2:9 4:14 22:22 23:5,8,11
33:1 40:3 172:15 179:23 193:2 263:17
280:25

maps 6:24 12:24 21:24 39:15 46:8,16,
21 47:1,3,6,18 52:5 55:2,10 57:4 59:2,
9 65:14,23 68:17 72:6 75:10 87:12
88:16 89:14 93:20,22 95:10 98:16
99:22 105:24 106:2,4,21 110:12 119:7
120:16 122:6 127:18 131:2 132:1,2
142:16 145:17 151:14 155:23 157:20
158:3 165:4,20 174:16,17 180:24
185:24 254:4 256:19 257:3,5 265:15
274:16

marathon 28:19

Marcum 4:19,22 5:1 7:11,15 8:25 9:3,
7,11,16,21 10:1,3,9,13,20 11:4,7,18
12:21 14:1,6,11,18,25 15:15 16:7,20,
22 17:18,25 18:3,12,16,19 19:3,10,13,
25 20:18,21 21:19 22:11 23:15,22
24:9,20 25:2 26:5,14,19,23 27:7 28:9,
12 29:2 30:20 31:11 33:10 37:16,19
38:25 39:3,13,20,22 40:7,15,19,22
41:19,25 42:20,22 43:24 44:1,11
46:10 58:3,5,8,12 63:1 66:23 69:13
76:9,13,23 77:11,14,16,23 83:8
103:11 105:4 112:16 130:11,16
131:20,22,24 133:23,25 134:5 137:20
168:6,12 170:7 171:2,6 172:24
174:11,21,24 175:4,23 176:1,7,21,24
178:10,13 179:13,17 183:2,12,17,23
184:4 188:4,8 189:17 192:6,9,12,16,
19,22 194:20 195:4,8,12,16 196:13
197:1 200:16,20,24 201:16,20,23
202:14 203:25 204:23 205:4 206:1,4
207:18,23 210:6 211:8,18,23 212:8,12
213:8,11,15,19,23 214:21 217:21
219:17,21 220:2,13,15,19,22 221:1
222:2,7 224:19 225:4 228:21,23
229:3,24 230:2,9,13 231:1 232:17,20
233:8,11,16,24 235:1 240:22 253:4
254:1 258:1,4 260:8,21 262:17,18
263:14 264:14,25 265:6,9 267:18
268:11,12 271:23 272:5,13,18,21
277:4 278:2,18 279:1,15,20,22 281:21
282:1

Marcum's 53:15 54:17 103:12,19
104:8 151:19 186:24 187:24 189:23

marginalized 65:10 144:24 145:22

mark 84:13

marked 64:7 216:6

Market 126:12

married 218:15

Marshall 215:4 217:11

masked 279:16

master 195:22 232:8,13 252:20,21

Mat-su 5:10,11,12 37:13 125:9
136:24 155:1,8,14 185:25 186:16,19,
24,25 187:3,5,18,21 189:4,21,24
190:4,12,14,25 191:4,11 196:1 220:9,
10,11 232:11 233:9,12,20

Mat-sus 186:22

match 74:1

material 228:3

math 210:22

mathematical 275:16

matrix 19:16

Matt 11:8,16 122:23 168:14,15,16
169:5,8,15 170:4,19 171:4,8 215:18,
19 216:11,14,20 217:8 236:20,21
237:3 249:8,15,18 253:14 280:15,19

matter 16:4 37:5 56:18 90:5,22
156:23 197:21 248:18 249:8 250:1

matters 3:5,6 157:4 185:4,6

Matthew 82:25

maximum 72:14

mayor 106:23 107:1 109:25 248:12
249:2

mayors 148:7

Mcgrath 119:14

meaning 272:14

meaningful 106:2 199:11

means 19:18 136:1 277:22

meant 26:20 62:10 66:14

Mears 67:6,7,9

measure 19:4,6

measurement 18:21

media 85:16

meet 147:8 150:6 168:17 238:8

meet all 257:16

meeting 47:4,5 67:12 76:17 81:5

97:11 121:5 142:9 256:25
meetings 36:23 64:20 68:5 136:13
meets 110:22

Melanie 3:11 7:4,9,12 10:7,15 11:11
15:13,21 16:16 17:1,4,7,14,17,23
18:2,10,13,18,22 19:8,12 21:21 22:2,8
23:2,7 24:1,6,11 25:3,4,5,16 27:11,14
31:9 32:17,22 33:17 34:23 35:14
38:13 41:1,24 42:2,8 45:5,8 46:3,12,
17 69:10,14 77:25 78:2,3,10,14 79:15,
18,22 81:23 82:5 90:1,2,3,20,25 91:2,
10,13,25 111:15,17,18,21 112:21
132:5,17,24 133:3,11 160:11,14,17
165:13 167:19,20,24 168:24,25
171:11,12,15 174:1,19,22 175:2,6,10,
20 176:10 181:1,22,25 182:7,10,13,14
183:14,22,25 184:7,13,17,23 185:9
186:10,14,17,20 191:22,25 192:8,11,
14,17,20,23 197:8,15,25 198:3,11,16
201:11 202:4 205:8 206:6,10 207:5
208:3 209:23 210:1,8,19 211:6,16,19,
22,25 212:5,20,24 213:3 214:2 215:6
216:1,3,8,18 217:17,22 218:7,12,18
219:4,8,13 220:7,9,12,17 221:3,8
224:7,12,15,18,25 228:18 229:17
232:15,19 234:4,12 237:13,16 238:24
239:4,7,16,19,25 241:14,16 242:8
243:4,22,25 248:21 250:20 251:5,8,
11,19,23 254:2 255:12,16,25 256:4
257:9,10,11 262:6 268:22

member 2:15,17,24 3:2,11,19 4:19,22
5:1 7:9,11,12,15 8:22,25 9:1,3,5,7,9,
11,12,16,20,21,24 10:1,2,3,7,9,13,15,
20 11:2,4,7,11,12,18 12:13,21 13:11,
19,24 14:1,5,6,7,11,18,25 15:13,15,21
16:7,20,22 17:1,4,7,13,14,16,17,18,
20,23,25 18:2,3,10,12,13,16,18,19,22
19:3,8,10,12,13,25 20:8,11,18,20,21
21:17,19,21,24 22:2,5,8,11,16,20
23:2,4,7,15,22 24:1,6,9,11,12,20,25
25:2,3,5,11,14,16,18,20,23 26:5,8,10,
14,19,23 27:7,11,14 28:9,12,14 29:2
30:18,20 31:1,9,11 32:7,17,22 33:10,
12,17 34:3,6,8,23 35:14,20 36:9,15,18
37:16,19 38:13,25 39:3,13,17,20,21,
22 40:1,7,15,19,22 41:1,19,24,25
42:2,5,8,9,14,20,22 43:15,24 44:1,11
45:5,8 46:3,10,12,17 47:2,22 49:6
52:11,16 55:3,8,15 58:3,5,8,12 60:2
65:17 66:3,23 67:2,24 69:10,13,14
72:18 76:9,13 77:11,14,16,23,25 78:3,
9,10,13,14,17 79:15,18,22 80:10,25
81:23 82:5 83:8 84:21 90:1,20,25
91:2,10,13,25 103:11 105:3,4 111:13,

15,18,21 112:9,14,16,21 115:22 121:7
122:8 130:11,16 131:14,20,22,24
132:5,17,24 133:3,11,23,25 134:5
137:15 139:1 144:20 157:13 160:11,
14,17 165:5,11,13 167:20,24 168:6,
12,20,25 170:7 171:2,6,12,15 172:9,
24 173:10 174:1,11,19,21,22,24
175:2,4,6,10,15,23,24 176:1,5,7,8,10,
11,21,23,24 178:7,10,12,13,14
179:13,16,17 180:8,14,17,20 181:1,
22,25 182:7,10,14 183:2,12,14,17,22,
23,25 184:4,7,13,17,23,25 185:9
186:7,10,12,14,15,17,18,20,24
187:24,25 188:4,8 189:12,17,23
190:1,4,17 191:6,8,11,12,14,15,22,24,
25 192:6,8,9,11,12,14,16,17,19,20,22,
23,25 193:10,15 194:2,4,7,9,13,17,20,
22,24 195:4,8,12,16,18,24 196:2,13,
17 197:1,8,15,25 198:3,7,11,16
200:16,20,24 201:1,2,6,11,16,20,23
202:4,6,10,14,17,19 203:25 204:14,
16,23 205:1,4,8,24 206:1,3,4,6,10,16,
20,21,24 207:5,13,18,23 208:3,12,20,
23 209:1,6,13,17,23 210:1,6,8,19,23
211:6,8,10,16,18,19,22,23,25 212:5,8,
12,20,24 213:3,8,11,15,19,23 214:2,6,
9,21 215:6 216:1,2,3,5,8,10,13,16,18,
24 217:17,21,22 218:7,10,12,13,18,23
219:4,8,13,17,21,24 220:2,7,9,12,13,
15,17,19,22 221:1,3,6,8,9,15 222:2,7,
11 224:1,7,10,12,13,15,16,18,19,25
225:4 226:1,24 227:13 228:18,21,23
229:3,16,17,19,21,24 230:1,2,9,13,22,
24 231:1 232:15,17,19,20 233:8,11,
14,16,18,24 234:4,12,14 235:1 237:6,
10,13,16 238:24 239:4,7,16,19,25
240:9,13,16,22 241:14,16 242:8
243:4,22,25 246:23 247:1,3,7,15,23
248:8,21 249:7,14 250:3,7,19,20,21
251:1,5,7,8,10,11,14,19,21,23 252:7,
14,23 253:4 254:1,2,19 255:6,12,16,
25 256:2,4,14 257:9,11,24 258:1,4,7,
12 260:8,21 261:14 262:1,4,6,7,9,10,
13,15,16,18 263:11,14,15 264:3,7,14,
25 265:4,6,7,9,10,21 266:2,6,10,14,23
267:7,10,15,18 268:7,8,11,12,13,16,
18,20,22 269:17,20 270:2,15 271:9,
19,23 272:1,5,8,13,18,21,24,25
275:19 277:4 278:2,18 279:1,9,15,20,
22 280:3,14,23 281:9,12,15,19,21
282:1,11

member's 174:14,16 178:3

members 2:5,24 4:5,6 46:20 48:18
49:18 62:3 64:21 72:2 80:20 82:25
89:13 112:5,7 122:4 127:25 135:9,14

136:3 137:21 148:14 157:17 166:5,6
167:5 171:18 172:7 180:5 189:15
191:2 199:8 236:16 250:4,15 256:19
260:20 275:6

memo 40:12

memory 193:18

mention 52:2 87:13 135:23 139:12
149:24 224:1 250:4

mentioned 15:4 26:25 82:13 146:2
147:23 174:6 196:18 201:14 206:5
254:24

merit 56:19 237:5

message 156:2 254:21

messy 122:15

met 68:14

metes-and-bounds 167:3 264:8,21
267:3 269:7

method 48:4

Meyer's 86:23

mic 158:11

Michael 91:4,6 205:12

middle 86:19 116:6 187:15 190:9

midnight 169:7

miles 119:18 223:7

military 59:24 80:13,16,17,23 81:17
125:3 135:7,11,13,17 136:17,19
147:24 150:23,24 163:14 176:25
177:1 178:17 179:11 236:11 239:20
244:25 247:25 248:4,6,7,13,17

MILLER 115:7,9,11,13,18 116:1

mind 22:12 38:23 62:12 69:5 72:5
90:9 96:15 112:1,21 177:13 254:7
264:19

mind-boggling 106:18

mindful 41:7 42:4 171:23

mine 19:14 143:17 176:15 177:23
188:10 190:2

minimal 33:3 159:3 257:14

minimally 164:15

minimum 264:18

Minnesota 13:25

minor 189:13 267:2
minorities 104:5
minority 16:5 59:11,17 103:18
104:22 123:11 181:4
minus 9:14 207:19
minute 59:3 114:24
minutes 3:17 26:16,20,23 47:24,25
49:11,14,23 50:21 70:8 110:20 111:25
112:23 114:17 144:12 146:4 154:10
165:3,6,10,17 195:13
misperception 245:13
missed 40:2 154:11 263:3
misses 84:13
missile 80:8 139:10,13 247:21
missing 71:2
Mission 214:24 215:3,6
misstated 254:22
mistake 157:14
mistakes 119:24 120:4 263:25
misunderstood 16:13
mobilize 116:15
mockery 150:1
modifications 33:9 133:18
moment 4:9 39:17 83:3 278:10
Monday 167:6,9,15 168:17 169:2
237:11 263:22 264:10,16 269:9,11
273:13,20 274:1 278:20,23 279:6
281:1,11
money 89:8
monitoring 4:3
month 60:21 149:19 259:16,20
months 151:21
Moose 229:7
morals 183:19
morning 2:5,14 6:10 12:2 18:5 28:5
35:9 40:10 45:18 50:17,18,25 53:5,24
56:9 62:1 81:5,9 88:16 89:23 99:16,20
110:7 112:11 120:18 122:22 124:21
146:5 156:10 167:6,9,15 169:2 197:10
273:13
Moser 117:14,15,17,18

mother 153:13
motion 2:25 3:10,12,14 184:19
185:10,11,13,14,15 257:20,23 258:9,
11 260:19,20 261:12,18,20,25 262:20,
22 263:1 264:6,13 265:13,18 266:12,
16,17 267:9,11,14,17 268:24,25
282:5,9,13
motivated 145:19
Mountain 7:5,20 13:21 15:8,12 20:12
21:6,9 23:21,24 24:7,8,14,15 29:6
31:4 59:13 66:16,24 73:7 93:25
103:21 104:24 156:22 158:1
mouth 199:3
move 3:4,15 21:18 28:16 36:2 55:22
64:5 92:10 97:1 105:12 126:2 154:10
161:6,12,17 162:6 172:18 180:24
185:1,24 193:20 196:21 199:16,25
200:1 201:7 205:22 209:21,24 212:16
220:5,6 222:18 224:21 225:2 226:2,5
227:16 229:23 231:18 238:11 241:10,
13 250:22 251:2 257:18 259:21
265:22 274:12
moved 54:7 86:18 91:20 97:7 153:5
193:9 212:14 223:6,8 235:6 238:9
239:1 281:1
moves 235:18
moving 34:22 37:12 45:24 147:3
155:1,8 159:1 197:21 204:4,6,8
222:22 225:1 255:21,23 256:1
Muldoon 7:1 31:5 32:13 51:22 56:5
59:12 73:12 74:3 79:11 80:3 103:21
104:9 126:12 151:23 152:7,9,11 177:3
178:25 181:4
multi-factored 48:7
multiple 39:9 46:22 67:19 101:24
123:15 126:10
municipal 79:20 185:4
municipalities 77:1
municipality 39:23 80:12 173:14
murmuring 99:25
Murphy 148:24
Muscle 193:17
music 153:10
mute 4:3 83:12 114:20 115:20
muted 115:4

Myron 202:12

N

naively 85:25
names 55:5 82:3 279:16,20,21,24
Naneng's 202:12
Nanwalek 206:8,9,10,17 216:22,23,
25 217:20 226:8
Napaskiak 87:24
national 194:14 223:17
Native 88:21 90:12,23 129:17 164:15
197:14,16 223:18
Natives 103:25 197:12
natural 12:16 53:11 54:1 120:10
124:2 135:14 143:23 151:16 230:19
naturally 136:11
nature 65:16
Naval 178:20
navigate 229:10
Navy 178:19 179:2
neatly 62:22
necessarily 6:12 16:3 24:7 67:16
96:15 216:17 261:7 280:21
necessitated 7:3 29:7
necessitates 133:12,13
necessity 53:2 244:2
neck 22:25
needed 28:23 38:4 41:6 89:15 171:23
194:12 224:8 264:18
negative 9:15,17 34:10 202:23
206:23 208:15 228:11
negatively 8:16 92:8
neighborhood 51:15,19 61:12 73:13
74:1,13 75:4,7,24 76:6 79:8 93:25
94:1 105:5 151:12,23
neighborhood's 157:6
neighborhoods 72:13 73:5,9 74:25
75:8 76:21 103:24 122:17 124:4
151:16 152:1,13 153:15 157:22,24
158:2 176:19 236:14

neighboring 123:7

neighbors 51:18 68:13 86:3 107:7
121:11 124:2 127:7 136:14 145:4
199:10 249:24

Nelson 71:22 80:1,2 81:22 82:2,6,14,
17 124:11 154:7,9

Nenana 232:19,23,24 233:1,3,10,12
234:7 251:7 252:7 253:2

nesters 155:1

net 228:11

newest 247:15

newly 247:3

Newman 146:16,19,20,22 247:1,7
254:21

news 199:6

nice 68:20 236:8

Nicole 12:1,13 13:11,19,24 14:5,7
17:10,13,16,20 22:20 23:4 25:11,14,
20,22,23 26:8,10,25 33:24 34:3,6
36:9,15,18 39:18 40:1 44:17 50:2
52:11,16,22 54:20 55:8,15 60:2 66:3
67:2 78:9,13,17 97:20,23 98:1 111:13,
15 112:8,9 115:22 160:17 165:5,11
168:20,24 175:15,24 176:5,8,11,23
178:7,12,14 179:16 180:8,14,17,20
184:25 186:7,12,15,18 190:1,17
191:11,14 192:25 193:10,15 194:2,4,
7,9,24 195:18,24 196:2,17 198:7
201:2 202:10,17,19 204:16 205:1,24
206:3,16,21,24 207:13 208:12,20,23
209:1,6,13,17 214:6,9 216:10,13,16,
24 218:13,23 221:6,9,15 226:1 227:13
229:16,19 233:14,18 234:14 237:6,10
240:9,13,16 246:23 247:23 248:8
249:7,14 250:3,7,21 251:1 252:7,14,
23 254:18,19 255:6 256:14 261:14
262:1,9 266:2,6,10 267:10,15 268:18
269:17,20 270:2 272:25 280:14,23
281:9,12,15,19 282:11

Nicole's 17:8 52:6 151:15 186:4

night 5:18 22:22,23 23:11 32:11
40:14 41:8,21 51:8,24 52:4 56:9 63:3
156:10 227:24 280:25

Nikiski 229:12

Nikki 98:3 100:21 110:9

nobody's 241:11

Nome 131:13 133:14

non-answer 182:25

non-partisan 36:22 53:22

non-profit 103:3 126:13

Nonetheless 123:20

nonsensical 106:10

noon 273:7

north 20:7 22:14 67:20 69:23 70:18
73:21 75:25 80:2 87:8,14,15 94:17,24
95:20 96:5 97:9 99:7,9 101:18 106:9
108:9 109:1,3,13 113:20,24 119:3,18
129:11 138:17 141:7 143:21 145:8,11,
13 146:12 147:4 188:12 199:10 208:4
222:19,22 223:10 225:23 226:20
230:7 235:9,24 236:14 238:14 240:25
241:18 242:23 244:10,12,13,18
245:23 246:24 247:5 248:2 249:2
250:22 254:22

north's 160:1

northeast 6:17,22 7:1 59:12 67:10,
18,23 68:7,12,19 135:5,10,12 136:18
137:1,2,8

northern 6:6 132:13 238:14

northward 191:10

northwest 87:7 94:18 137:3 147:3,10
149:15 214:7 236:4

northwestern 97:14

Norton 91:8 199:5

not-compact 76:3

note 31:2 59:4 64:18 66:10 70:25
142:14 195:19 221:19 224:20 230:3

noted 227:14 230:6 253:7

notes 106:21 204:2 205:9,10

nother 241:19

notice 46:19 47:4 168:4

noticed 35:2 160:12

notices 82:8

notion 179:5

Noyes 236:3

Nu- 73:6

nuances 101:10

number 6:15 10:5 30:18 32:2 54:3
89:18 151:13 169:22 274:9 275:24

277:16 279:11 280:6,8,10,11

number's 10:11

numbered 274:19

numbering 169:13

numbers 11:20 48:12 78:6 149:11
169:10,17,21 170:1,13 189:19 201:21
202:20 210:11 233:23,25 240:3
274:10,13,16

numerical 258:25

numerically 170:12

numerous 122:15 135:24

Nunaka 73:6,7

O

O'DONOGHUE 69:17,18

object 62:16 140:12 141:8 267:19

objecting 31:4

objection 3:14 185:15 226:4 227:15
228:22 251:6 261:19 267:16 268:3
282:13

objections 224:22,24 226:2 229:1,14

objective 258:25

objectively 259:5

objectives 123:2

obligations 33:8 259:15

observe 166:7

obtain 172:1

obvious 62:24 71:3 141:4 144:1
153:25

occurred 198:25 275:21

occurs 179:24 247:9

October 61:17 67:11 68:15 121:6

odd 15:3 73:4 104:18

offer 111:19 174:14 176:22 179:18

offered 5:3 203:21 250:10

office 242:2

official 5:12 247:2 250:18

officials 123:18

offline 134:6

offset 202:3
Onaluksik 91:7
oncoming 273:12
one's 162:13 182:1,8 261:6
one-on-one 179:23
one-person 8:20
online 2:8 3:22 4:5 28:1,2 33:16 48:3
50:14 51:1 82:19 83:3,6,18 87:11,20
92:14 100:1,22 102:22 108:13,17
112:10 128:9 134:16 146:19,20
150:15 155:17,23 156:4,16 158:7
162:25 163:1,5 165:21 166:6,11 168:9
185:22 256:24 269:15
open 48:11 155:21 246:16
opened 36:23
operations 56:19
opining 246:20
opinion 37:14 38:19 76:19 140:2
203:13 254:10
opinions 127:12
opportunities 105:7 242:2
opportunity 4:12 5:15 12:8 24:3
28:13,16,24 37:8 42:16 65:9,22 68:3
69:19 87:17 92:4 103:22 121:23
124:6,19 126:17 127:25 128:5 142:4
154:12 167:1,2 173:24 196:21 237:24
277:2 279:4
oppose 70:4 260:18 261:12
opposed 7:14 15:25 16:2 51:25 74:9
109:17 170:21 192:5
opposition 7:13 103:10 112:16
option 21:23 28:15 53:7 54:10,11
72:10 85:21 129:20
options 22:4 23:12 72:24 123:16
order 2:4 7:24 32:3 34:12 56:18,19
66:24 86:6 88:25 95:11 106:1 145:1
278:17
ordinance 3:5 185:5
organization 66:19 103:4
organized 101:15
organizer 101:2
oriented 145:20

original 20:24 27:2 38:9,10 40:11
193:16 217:3,18 244:17
originally 20:24 21:16 87:24 122:19
264:17
other's 181:15
others' 196:19
outer 236:4
outline 241:1
outlying 143:8
outrageous 103:16
outstanding 82:10
overcome 253:12
overemphasis 34:14 172:11
overlaid 37:21
overlap 178:23
overlay 194:21
overpopulate 149:22 162:3
overpopulated 86:7 142:21 162:7
212:19 241:24
overpopulates 98:8
overpopulating 87:4 145:25
overpopulation 243:20
overrepresent 162:2
overstating 255:2
owe 203:22

P

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2:1
Pacific 103:25
packed 62:23
packet 197:9
packing 123:6
pages 156:10,11
pair 5:15 24:7,8 140:12 258:20 273:23
274:22
paired 7:6,21 15:25 16:4 68:13 95:18
99:3 169:24,25 192:5 222:21 274:18
pairing 6:22 16:3 95:5 141:18,21
167:12 170:15,24 263:22 265:8,11

pairings 35:18 85:19 167:10 169:3,14
170:3,10 264:11 273:21 274:3,12,15
275:1,3 281:22
pairs 95:13
Palmer 187:6,13,14,15 190:8
parameters 5:19,23 6:4,8 15:4 40:23
41:6,11 42:3 122:25 171:23
parcelled 158:2
Parenthood 144:21
park 73:21 194:14 223:17
Parks 84:5 95:21 246:13
parse 260:2
part 6:17 16:11 20:5,23 51:9,17 54:4
60:20 62:9 84:9,12 87:1 93:2 97:14
104:8,20 107:9 108:25 109:13 112:1
113:25 114:10 116:11 126:11 129:14
132:7,17,21 136:10,24 137:6 141:19,
20 143:19 144:2,3,22 149:21 153:2,19
157:2 172:20 183:19 188:24 192:6
194:17 204:9 220:22 221:1 222:24
225:13 226:20 230:4 237:17 244:24
246:12 247:13,17 248:13,15,25
250:12 254:24 263:12 264:21
partially 65:2
participate 47:25 128:4 136:15
participated 156:21
participation 2:7 59:21
particulars 15:1
partisan 53:22 63:19 103:16 104:4
123:2,4,8 145:20
partisanship 123:14,25 124:3
partner 57:9
parts 6:6 61:21 70:20 73:2 84:15
136:20 267:19,21,24
party 63:22 75:9
Party's 118:9
pass 229:7 243:14
passed 51:8,24 60:21 70:17 97:9
107:4
passes 262:20,22 266:17
passionate 153:25
passionately 65:1

past 12:25 13:3 57:8 89:4 90:19
102:13 147:19,24 148:6,7 170:13
225:23

patience 50:24 81:11 166:19

patterned 131:7

pay 227:10

pee 114:13

peek 207:4

peninsula 226:20 229:6,23

people 11:3,16,19 13:10 17:19 19:21
30:19 33:16 42:15 44:9,13,22 46:8
47:19 48:4 49:22 50:14 52:5 57:16
62:13 63:20 66:7 70:14 72:22 74:11
79:5 81:6 82:4 89:18 97:1,7 100:1,15
103:4,13 106:1 108:11 111:22 113:23
114:1 116:10,18,19,20 117:4 119:9
121:12 125:3 127:10 128:3 130:2
142:7 143:5 144:23 145:19 146:2
148:2 149:16 152:14 154:16 155:11,
24 159:20 160:1 162:8 163:18 164:5
165:21 166:7,9 168:4,8 169:18
183:13,18,25 184:2 185:21 189:3,20
194:11 199:4 201:24 204:5 207:19
208:14 212:16,17 217:13 219:1
222:12 227:10 230:8,15 232:14 234:7
235:21 238:5,8,11 241:5,8,11 242:3
243:10,12 244:15,18 245:6,14,16,18,
19 246:9,20,21 248:1,2,24 258:14
261:1,2 269:15 270:19 271:7 273:8,18
275:18

people's 45:6,9 63:21

perceived 20:13

percent 8:8,18,24 9:2,8 10:4,10 12:6,
17 17:13,15 18:14 19:18,19 30:4
34:10 102:1 135:7 159:6,7 211:7
256:7

percentage 10:5 17:24 254:6,8
275:20

perfect 47:10,11 84:3

perfectly 16:23

period 28:20 49:25

Permanent 147:25

perpetual 57:9

perplexed 155:20

Perreault 94:15,16,17 95:25 96:14
97:10,19

person 8:6 11:7,23 13:5,9 14:13 15:7
18:8 29:24 30:8,14,16 54:13,16,18
55:21 70:1 97:3 108:22 127:22 164:20
173:25 178:13 183:15 218:14 239:9
244:4 261:11

personal 57:10 60:22 66:9 68:17
79:13,19 153:3 174:3,8 181:5

personally 125:6 130:9 173:19
174:14 176:3 179:7 218:21

personnel 135:7 136:18

persons 228:12

perspective 68:7,18 132:12 168:3

perspectives 150:3

Peter 10:17,18,22,25 11:9 13:23
14:16,17,24 17:21,22 27:14,17 47:8
50:7,9,11,12 115:4,8,9 117:13 186:2,
21 189:14,22 190:3,18 195:1,11,21
197:4 223:25 227:22 228:2,6,24 229:9
231:16,20,24 232:4,10,22 233:1,5,8
234:2,6,9,16,19,22 235:5,8,25 236:7
238:18 239:10,13 240:4,20 252:1,5,8,
12,16,19,24 256:9 261:24 262:4,7,10,
13,16,19 263:3,4 265:24 266:8,18,21
268:5,9,13,16,20,23 269:14,22,25
270:3,6,9,20,24 271:5,11,16 272:2,6,
9,16,20 275:7,9,11 276:16 277:7,8
278:6,22 279:2,13,17,21,24 280:7
281:4,7,10,13,16

Peters 6:25 56:3 144:16,18,19 146:17

Petersburg 222:20

Phillip 117:18 118:19

phone 99:16 115:15,18 117:7 154:11
278:13

phonetic 66:14 110:1

photos 85:16

physically 47:14,20 170:11,15
230:18 269:7

pick 47:23 158:15 187:19 212:25
213:1,2 223:11,14

picked 223:14

picking 12:19

picks 158:14

picture 255:24

piece 173:8 190:23

piecemeal 57:3

pipeline 193:7

place 35:4 68:5 78:22 138:14 172:25
173:4,9 176:3 177:15 208:15 269:5

placement 39:19 152:25

places 29:17 30:13 46:22 87:14 157:6
177:2 223:19 230:16,17

placing 74:3,6 151:22

plan 2:10,11 51:15 61:12,15 78:24
98:7 99:5,7 148:16 166:23,25 167:4
168:8 169:1,3 198:20 236:24 262:23,
25 263:1 265:13 269:5 273:12 274:4
276:22 278:21

Planned 144:21

Planning 94:19

plans 187:3

plant 147:21 247:11

Platinum 159:16 160:24 161:16
197:21 200:1 201:14,17 202:7 203:10
204:9,17,21 205:18 207:24 208:8
209:14,19 210:4,14 211:12

Platinum's 210:19

play 70:14 72:22 77:1 79:7 126:8
131:11 156:3 202:20

played 149:11

playing 116:6 225:18

pleased 227:9

pleasing 259:19

plenty 29:25

plug 71:14

pod 105:21

podium 158:10

point 2:10 6:12 8:15,17 12:19 22:25
29:19 34:4,14 35:9 44:23 45:3,9,10
46:7 49:9 63:2 64:3,4 70:16 97:12
100:9 102:12 107:2 117:20 118:6,16
121:8 129:6,7 132:3 133:16 138:21
143:4 159:11 162:23 165:21 166:21
171:1 174:4 179:7 181:23 182:12
187:1 192:24 199:9,23 205:3 210:4
230:20 265:4,18 276:7

pointed 131:14 175:18 176:13 223:2
236:23 269:3

pointless 140:23

points 128:17 230:14
Pole 87:14,15 99:8,9 101:18 106:9
109:4 113:20,24 141:7 145:8,11,13
146:12 244:10,11,13,18 249:3
policies 145:3
policy 145:2 248:18
political 63:22 119:25 120:10 140:19
145:2 260:24,25
politically 96:23 145:19 148:17
politics 63:19
pop 47:9 278:13
pop-up 47:16 50:15
populate 70:5 98:25
populated 187:13
population 6:21 11:20,21 13:6 18:24
32:2 54:7,8 59:17 68:9,22 70:4 71:11
73:17 74:3 75:23,24,25 76:2,3 78:20,
23 79:3 87:6 88:25 89:15 90:15,16
92:1 93:3 96:12 97:5 104:2 109:5
120:6 122:13 123:10 125:4 129:14,19
131:13 135:19 142:25 149:11 150:23
151:1 159:12 178:23 179:2,9,11
187:10,19 193:19,24 194:1 200:10
202:2 203:12 205:16 210:20 213:9
214:22 223:15 230:10 235:17,19
238:7 239:8,22 244:23 245:1 249:23
256:7 272:15 278:25
populations 12:6 16:5 54:15 135:15
173:17 201:3
Port 206:11,17 216:21,25 217:21,22
226:8
portion 22:15 73:11 74:1 75:5,6
107:18 159:5 179:14 187:20 191:17
235:3,22 238:19 240:25 241:1 245:21
256:25
portions 67:21,25 104:2 177:6 191:9
258:15
pose 136:4
position 100:14 173:19 177:22 180:2,
7 183:3 238:3 241:22 246:25 250:11
258:21
positive 34:10 159:9
possibility 5:8 142:12 239:1
possibly 53:16 77:9,18 159:16
post 46:8 80:10,17 144:5 247:21
270:24 272:12
posted 3:24 45:15,23 46:4,11,16
98:16 105:25 199:6
potential 33:19 138:14
potentially 118:3 161:16
power 62:11 103:16 147:21 247:11
250:8
practicable 30:13
precinct 277:4,10,16
precincts 123:25 277:14
precisely 14:3 277:11
precision 203:7
precluded 225:22
prefer 125:14 168:20
preference 186:23 189:11 204:21
preferred 121:16 192:18
premise 94:7
prepare 106:20
prepared 81:3 274:15
prerogative 221:11
present 2:5 4:6 49:18 166:5
presentation 4:18
presented 5:25 6:5 28:5 122:7
157:21 196:4 262:3 263:2
presently 163:11,17
presents 30:15 129:22
preserve 52:25 222:22
president 103:2 126:11
presides 157:20
PRESLEY 4:2 33:15 35:22 36:1,5
46:2,6,15,18 47:8 48:6,9,15,17 49:5,
12 50:4 82:23 83:13 114:21,24
158:13,15,18 165:9 168:2 210:14,17
211:3,12 212:15 214:14 215:10,12
216:21 221:17,23 222:9 223:24 225:9
226:6,15,18 227:17 229:2,5,12 231:4,
7,10
pretend 116:12
pretty 13:7 38:8 42:17 73:4,20 92:19
95:7 141:4 207:12 215:5 216:19,20
252:11 257:6 282:2
prevent 263:8
previous 5:24 12:24 16:17 21:7 24:21
30:6 38:7 77:3 80:3 86:12 99:2 122:9
145:15 218:11 222:13 279:13
previously 6:14,24 29:5 30:10 31:12
119:21 138:19
pride 248:2
primarily 22:14 69:21 236:11
primary 6:17
Prince 222:15 226:19
principle 70:2
print 44:10
printing 47:18
printout 27:15 34:10 255:13,17
prior 100:12 172:12 267:5
priority 65:6
private 74:9 183:5
privilege 158:19
problem 26:11,12 75:19,20 132:11
133:7,10 134:11 215:17
problematic 111:2 123:2 157:22
problematically 93:24
problems 26:1 75:21 104:8 263:7,8
proceed 42:13 43:14 115:22 121:1
proceedings 166:7
process 21:11 36:21 37:10 53:22
56:7 57:5,11,13,14 58:1 59:22 64:17
65:4 72:12,19 78:25 84:20 85:12,22
88:2,5,8,20 94:13 100:10,19 105:19
108:25 110:10 112:2 117:11 118:10
121:13,18,21 123:1,3,15 128:18
154:15 166:13 167:25 170:8 171:16
172:3 193:16 199:22 203:8 248:23
261:6 265:15 269:3 270:10 272:22
273:6 275:1 277:1
process-wise 171:19
proclamation 35:19 120:13 153:6
236:17 264:23 267:5 276:22 277:2,5
product 91:21,22 122:14 154:23
180:19
productive 175:14,17 180:12,20
professional 37:14

profoundly 199:1
program 263:17
progress 4:1 180:25 185:20
project 263:23
projects 61:7 104:7
promoted 58:22
pronounce 60:15
proper 8:13 141:16 235:15 236:12
properly 139:19 161:8 265:2
proposal 108:13 138:14 145:20
150:7
proposals 138:13 240:19
propose 195:5
proposed 5:7 13:13 41:13 51:22
79:12 85:15 103:11 104:15 109:18
148:12,16,22 161:1 198:20
proposing 99:5 163:11
proposition 157:15
protect 103:18
protection 203:14
proud 136:20 178:19 219:2 248:5
proudly 135:3
provide 88:18 142:18 173:24
provided 34:8 88:15 133:19 197:10
257:12 261:5,7
providers 164:17
providing 65:21
provisions 103:17
proximity 107:7
prudent 184:24
PTO 112:11
public 2:7,12 3:8 4:5 31:3 34:25 35:1,
8,9,12,13 36:2,12,24 37:7 42:24,25
43:3,11,16,20,21 45:2,3,15,22 46:19,
20 48:18 49:19 53:13 55:1 59:3 62:4,
9,12 64:2,15,17,20,21 65:6,16,22
72:17,19 84:19,21,24 85:13 100:8,12
103:20,21 106:14 109:12 112:2
121:15,19,21 122:9,21 123:1 128:6
134:22 140:2 142:14,18,19 146:7
151:20 155:22 165:1,2 166:6,8,16,18,
25 167:8,9,11,17 168:7 169:21 172:19

173:2,21 176:12 177:25 185:7 191:3
196:20 198:12,17 200:10 244:9
265:14,17 270:10 273:15,17,25 274:2,
24 276:23 277:1
publically 178:2
publicly 180:1,5 183:4,18
publish 270:4
published 47:3
pull 17:21 33:18 86:13 133:4 161:17,
21 186:2 187:25 190:20 203:4 210:11
245:4
pulled 87:6 244:21
pulling 86:8 196:22
Pump 86:3,17 87:2 98:11 245:7
purely 140:19
purpose 3:3 20:24 178:6 179:25
273:20 274:6
purposefully 35:10
purposes 35:8 131:3 140:19 172:15
258:8 266:11,16
pursue 172:5
pursuing 180:13
push 174:12 182:21 207:14
pushback 63:12
pushed 184:4 218:2
pushing 107:21 176:2 183:20 196:24
put 12:17 15:9 21:9 23:24 24:22 44:13
45:19 63:3,6 65:18 70:3 75:5 76:20
78:21 79:9 107:19 110:18 115:20
130:5,9 135:15 141:18 150:11 153:21
162:8,10 164:22 179:10 180:6 194:11
215:8 216:7 217:11 223:19 230:5
232:1 233:6 234:13,17 246:21 248:16
250:15 251:7,19 252:6 261:3 274:12
puts 75:23 76:3 104:8 192:9
putting 5:21 40:24 64:19 78:23 84:12
101:13,18 133:7,13 140:17 141:10
142:12 163:14 180:2 199:21 210:10
245:22 253:16

Q

qualifications 255:3

question 2:22 7:13 12:1,14 15:13
17:2,10 19:2 23:1 25:5 40:5 45:22
56:25 66:3 76:10 78:1 90:21 94:6 99:5
111:16 128:19,23 129:9 130:12,13
131:25 133:22 134:3 144:2 160:24
161:7 169:9 170:8 171:18 172:20
174:2,23 175:7 179:20 193:5 217:4
222:3 237:14 242:7 253:5 261:16,18,
19 278:18 279:10
questions 4:15 14:2,14 20:1 30:22
32:6,8 54:12 58:10 69:2 80:21 89:25
91:14 105:12 111:10 146:12 223:21
quick 36:2 60:25 66:3 99:15 128:16
130:11 160:24 207:4 253:5 279:9
quickly 2:14 44:23 53:6 142:11
197:23
Quinhagak 159:16 161:16 201:4,15,
23 205:18 208:2,6

R

racial 102:5
racially 104:21
racially-diverse 52:25
railroad 238:17,19
raise 135:19 170:4
raised 15:22 16:5 39:18 93:19 130:20
140:1 152:23 154:23,25 181:16
raises 17:8 54:12
raising 80:21
ramifications 227:6
Randy 158:20 160:7
range 96:6 215:13 240:5
ranges 189:10,19
rarely 68:1
rates 89:6
rational 250:10
rationale 16:12 207:16 250:12
re-card 277:14
re-visit 247:8
re-visited 224:10
reach 166:24

reached 226:3 250:23	recommend 126:20 264:1 270:13	refining 40:5
read 10:24 11:1 13:22 51:9 60:20 61:1 82:8 86:12 156:13 197:23 198:11 204:2 243:18,22	recommendation 112:13 156:1 196:20	reflect 121:22
reading 205:10	recommendations 64:19 174:25 175:1	reflected 86:5
ready 34:24 35:5 49:2 50:14 112:22 115:2 220:3 231:17 255:10 277:22	recommended 267:4	reflects 105:8 146:14
real 25:25 56:24 87:10 117:1	recommends 51:13 61:10	refresh 236:16 271:1,2,6 278:12
reality 183:7	reconciling 232:8	regard 106:2 110:8 139:19 217:13
realize 92:2 215:3	reconsider 147:1	regime 157:11,19
realize- 5:23	record 12:17 13:12 27:21,23 31:22 39:8 40:8 42:10 45:14 49:16 56:6 57:6,10,12 60:16 64:11 69:11,12 70:3 72:3 81:24 83:19 85:11 113:5 114:18 128:11 156:2,3 165:25 166:3 178:2 180:1 188:15 189:2,18 224:21 226:14 231:14,15 242:9 254:16 256:21 282:15	region 88:14,22 89:18 90:6,7,8,14,15 91:5,24 92:6 116:25 128:21 129:4 205:13 210:2 224:21 227:8,12 251:2
realized 5:23 28:19	records 3:7 185:7	regional 200:4 208:9 253:21
reapportions 90:19	recreate 148:3	regions 43:8
rearrange 49:13 165:3	recreation 116:22 147:20 148:21 149:3,6	register 147:24
rearranged 103:20 166:2	recreational 153:10	regularly 86:24
reason 37:2 41:20 53:15 63:8,12 85:15,23 102:7 115:13 116:1 125:15 144:25 147:19 159:15 173:4,7 202:9 232:5 238:2 260:22	recruiter 178:20	reinvented 57:11
reasonable 5:21 12:12 40:24 79:12, 16 189:10 191:18 270:14	rectangular 53:11	reiterate 33:11 58:6
reasons 13:8 60:14 66:6,8,21 177:11, 18 192:2 208:5 250:11 253:7,11	rectification 56:4	iterating 92:25
recall 16:19 37:19 40:10 184:11 191:8 202:2 225:17 238:17 240:5	rectified 157:15	related 135:8 156:24 157:8 164:14 243:2
recalls 212:13	redistrict- 88:2	relating 57:4
recap 41:1	redistricting 48:19 51:14 61:11 72:4 85:17,24 86:12 88:2 99:2 108:25 119:7 121:7 128:9 134:23 149:25 158:21 198:18 265:22 267:1	relationships 101:11
receive 2:20 124:22 200:3	redraw 277:13	relative 138:25 254:4,5
received 245:11	redrawn 222:25	relaxed 256:19
receiving 3:3 147:25 208:8	reduce 205:15	relevant 183:9
recent 157:10 261:4	reduced 275:13	religions 184:1
recently 82:1	reduces 105:2	relying 72:5
recess 282:6	refer 58:9	remain 98:8
recharge 250:9	reference 117:23 274:20	remainder 61:22 104:17
recharging 168:9	referenced 165:20	remains 6:23 54:4
recognize 16:11 70:17,20 95:9 147:16 149:13 188:19	referred 39:5	remanded 236:22
recognizes 54:20	referring 132:19 193:18	remember 19:4 20:23 202:12 205:1
recognizing 59:21 150:5 223:15		remind 167:21 222:11
recollection 200:14		reminding 49:22
		reminds 140:14
		remote 242:19
		removal 253:13
		removed 222:18 223:3 226:8
		rendition 189:23 190:4

renumber 169:23
reorient 36:3
repeat 48:12 120:3
repeatedly 118:11 131:15
repeating 119:20,23
rephrase 174:1
report 263:24 267:3 278:19,23 279:25
represent 84:14 104:1 120:6,7
122:19 135:6
representation 63:19 71:16 87:15
88:10,25 89:8 92:5 94:7 98:14,23
101:21 102:16 103:14,15,18 105:8
116:24 117:2 120:12,14 145:23 147:2
155:3,7,9 157:8,18,23 159:20 164:19,
21 238:6
representative 86:10 98:24 118:20
120:7 122:1,2 124:9 148:6,8,13 223:3
242:6 249:2
representatives 67:25 68:4,6,10,23
123:5 136:25
represented 18:7,8 59:13 66:11
72:14 75:12 86:7 98:18,20 107:6
114:6 119:6 136:22 148:9 157:12,14
199:18
representing 119:4 124:20 146:24
represents 68:18 81:6 102:3 105:1
224:5 238:5
request 38:19 41:5 54:20 70:23 89:13
107:10 112:3,19 149:21 150:4,25
158:25 161:11 171:16 172:3 184:9
204:3 244:3 253:21 261:17
requested 16:6 29:11 41:3 70:18,21
191:13,16 196:10 230:8
requesting 93:8 212:14
requests 179:20 191:4 217:13
require 26:15 131:12 238:8
required 3:6 39:6 167:3 185:5 236:18
275:25
requirement 30:16 147:17 170:20,22
261:10
requirements 8:5 150:6 215:21
237:21 249:21 257:17
requires 54:5 64:2 275:12

resanitized 166:2
research 121:10
resent 180:6
reservation 245:1
Reserve 80:10
reset 49:15 165:18
residence 54:8
resident 61:19 69:22 85:9 94:17
121:3 124:20 135:1 136:14 143:7
residents 11:23 15:7 62:5 68:13 79:6
98:10,20 105:2 129:13 136:12 148:25
149:1,3 150:2 152:4 241:17
resolution 51:8 52:3 60:20 61:2
67:11,14 70:17,20 97:8 101:6 107:3
142:22,23 149:22 212:13 243:19,23
271:12 272:4 273:9
resolutions 5:12
resolved 51:9,12 61:2,9 107:10
146:13
resource 102:15 199:8
respect 62:2 63:1 70:1,23 71:18
104:23 110:19 127:22 128:19 129:24
187:4 245:3
respected 54:2
respectfully 38:11,21 80:3 100:6
respecting 71:12 244:9
respects 52:24 53:11 62:21 105:5
respond 7:10
responded 179:20
response 15:23
response's 111:6
rest 65:15 94:24 104:15 110:18 116:3,
13 229:6
restricted 247:20
restroom 112:19 256:16,18
result 14:9 89:19 96:12 122:14 123:8
199:4 253:16
resulted 89:2
retired 80:6 81:7
retiree 79:5 80:22

retirees 80:16
retirement 81:19
return 267:3
Reverend 144:19
review 12:24 37:8 122:11 263:13
267:4
reviewed 38:15
revised 47:6
revising 144:7
revision 99:22
revisions 28:21
reworked 118:6
Rich 6:21 14:15
Richard 149:8
Richardson 5:5 7:2 71:6,12 80:5
138:18 139:9 149:5,9,13 191:17 193:7
238:22 240:23 251:15
rid 4:9
Ridge 86:3 87:3 98:12 245:7
rights 2:19 37:5 38:14,20 53:3 103:17
104:23 118:3 181:13 217:19 257:18
rigorous 122:4
ring 54:11
ripple 22:13,14
rippling 203:5
river 6:18,20,23,25 31:5 32:13 56:5
67:22 80:11 96:4,7,9 105:6 119:13,17
122:22 125:4,16 126:25 134:13 135:1,
3,4,9,13,18,22,23 136:5,6,14,18,21
137:2,4,5,7,11 151:23 152:8,11,13
154:20 155:4 177:5 199:1,3 217:12
226:11 227:3 244:22,23 246:4
road 57:23 72:18 73:12 74:8 96:18
109:16 134:21 136:2 143:17 152:9,11
187:11 193:22 230:17 238:21,22
245:7,25
road- 96:18
roads 102:10 245:23
Robin 57:22 69:8,16,17 71:20
Robin's 102:1
rode 86:22

Rogers 105:14,15,17
roll 177:14 261:22 268:3
room 44:9 47:14,19 48:25 49:13
99:24 100:1,3 159:14 161:17 165:3,
14,18 166:2,3 185:18 217:23
Rose 58:15,16,18 156:16,17,19
roughly 159:7 160:3
rounds 77:3
route 8:13 86:22 171:17
Ruedrich 158:19,20 160:9,21 161:2,
7,18,21,24 162:1,4,6,10,13,15,17,19,
21
ruled 86:15 99:4,6
ruling 257:25
run 53:13 104:22 118:3 137:13
172:12,14 176:16 181:7,11,17 275:14,
25 276:8,11,12,13,15,25
running 13:19 275:16
runs 13:15
rural 14:20 70:5 84:13,17 86:9 87:8
89:12 93:7 96:17 99:3 110:18,19
118:13 127:21,24 138:7 140:14 147:4,
10 153:19 187:18 208:11 237:7
242:23
rushed 122:14
Russian 126:11 163:25 214:24 215:3,
5,6 217:11
Ruz 66:14

S

sacrifice 34:5 172:10 219:9
sacrificing 103:15
safer 122:20
Saint 91:3,6
sake 42:25 138:23
Salcha 84:16 97:13 98:25 101:17
114:2 240:10,11 245:16 246:18
salmon 199:3
Sandberg 264:17
sanitize 165:14,18
satellite 73:19

satisfy 95:10
Savannah 83:2,3,6,23 84:2,4 85:6
93:1 110:9 113:8 114:10
save 223:25
Scammon 91:18 128:24 130:21
132:10 133:8 159:1 161:20 200:12,19,
22 204:6 209:22 210:21 211:15 212:1
213:3,5,9
Scenic 51:6,13,18 151:12
schedule 50:3 122:5
scheduled 167:8
school 67:21 86:19,21 110:22 116:6
125:10,12 135:21,22 136:21,23 137:6
153:14 163:24 164:1,18
schools 95:1 102:9 126:19 147:20
247:11
screen 4:8 9:13 10:21 19:15 44:2
55:6 108:16 230:22,25 231:1 239:11
256:10
screens 257:2
screenshot 270:18
screenshots 43:24,25 270:21 271:7
279:3
scroll 6:19 82:22 92:11 207:10
Sealaska 224:2,5
seamlessly 199:16
search 199:5
seat 89:1 236:19 275:19,21 277:16
seats 89:1 97:6 147:3 235:15 236:18,
25 273:22 275:24 276:4,6,8 279:19
Seccareccia 60:6,9,11,13,17,18,19,
25
second-class 117:1
seconded 185:12 258:10 267:12
seconding 257:25
seconds 75:17
section 21:3 139:19 147:4 149:15
sections 113:22
security 199:8
Seldovia 226:9,10
selection 22:6

senate 35:18 37:4 61:5 65:15 85:19
89:1 99:11 123:11 140:12 141:18,21
159:4,7 167:10,13 169:3,14,25 170:3,
10,15 236:19 263:22 264:11 265:7,10
273:21,23 274:3,15 275:1,2,6,12,18,
19,21,24 276:4,24 277:16 279:18,25
280:1 281:22
senator 120:7 141:13,14,15 275:14
senators 276:11
send 25:6 163:12 271:2 280:19
281:21
sending 25:9 82:7 120:19
sense 10:6 35:12 36:12 63:10,22
74:25 84:17 87:3 101:17,20 106:8
113:15 125:17 143:16 145:13,18
150:1 153:21 171:3,4 192:7 218:3
223:19 232:16 234:13 253:17
separate 6:23 7:20 87:15 99:13 116:2
145:11 155:14,15 187:9 190:7
separated 74:19 94:22 109:1 145:18
204:23
separates 104:4
separating 95:4 155:10
separation 154:20
series 12:18
serve 94:19 119:3 145:1
served 80:5,12 81:7 119:4
serves 68:12 254:22,25
service 60:3 74:8 81:16 198:18
services 102:15 208:9
serving 81:11
session 2:4,20 3:4,16,25 4:1,11
23:17,18 27:20,25 49:18 64:20 99:18
152:6 166:4 171:21 184:10,20 185:2,
12,16,20 256:23 258:8 273:13 274:25
sessions 179:23,25 182:20 183:5,6
set 35:2,10 42:18 44:21 140:15 144:6
167:15 256:19 280:11
setting 239:14
severely 62:14 159:4
Seward 13:25 20:7 225:12,20,23
227:7 230:7,8,12,16,20
sewer 74:9

shape 13:14 21:7 29:13 31:10 53:11
163:17
Shape-wise 240:18
shaped 104:19
shapes 6:16 12:16 15:3 23:20 37:23
56:18 62:19 234:18,20 235:2
share 81:4 98:10,13 107:7 116:12
122:7 123:18 126:22 127:5 149:10
199:15 200:3 239:11
shared 72:7 91:11 103:6
shareholders 224:6
shares 71:11
sharing 71:12 86:1 187:9 230:22
231:1
She'll 134:7
sheet 49:20 69:3
Sherif 141:24 142:1,3 144:13
shift 43:20 201:13
shifted 40:13
shooting 272:3 273:8
shop 110:22 143:14 148:3
shopped 86:23
shopping 136:9
shore 222:15
short 84:25 112:4 149:12 209:12
shorter 49:25
shot 203:24
show 6:20 68:1 72:18 190:11 211:17
232:5 259:15
showed 18:5 37:21 233:19
showing 34:9 198:25
shown 52:4 235:10
shows 187:22
shut 28:18
shy 207:15
side 20:4 29:14 31:15 62:19 71:13
79:3,7 92:21 98:4,13 159:23,25
161:10 225:14 230:16 244:16,19
255:19,20
sides 193:7,22 238:21 259:24

sign 48:4 278:7
sign-up 49:20 69:3
signed 33:16 158:6
significance 149:13
significant 68:23 95:12 148:23
218:25 219:1 254:9
significantly 26:16
signs 95:2 136:1
silences 27:13 152:3
Silvers 51:3,5,11 52:2,8,10,13,15,18,
20 55:4,11,14,17
similar 6:23 22:15 27:2 84:11 86:2,16
122:13 147:13 153:15 164:7,9 176:14,
20 181:11,16 238:22
similarities 87:7 164:6 189:7
similarity 139:5
similarly 187:14
simple 157:25 158:25
simply 32:1,3 119:22
Simpson 2:15,17,24 3:2,19 8:22 9:1,
5,9,12,20,24 10:2 11:2,12 20:8,11,20
21:17,24 22:5,16 24:12,25 25:18
30:18 31:1 32:7 35:20 39:17,21 42:5,
9,14 43:15 49:6 112:14 191:6,8,12,15,
24 194:13,17,22 201:1,6 202:6 204:14
206:20 210:23 211:10 216:2,5 218:10
219:24 222:11 224:1,10,13,16 226:24
229:21 230:1,22 251:7,10,14,21 256:2
257:24 258:7,12 262:14,15 263:11,15
264:3,7 265:4,7,10,21 266:14,23
267:7 268:7,8 270:15 271:9,19 272:1,
8,24 279:9 280:3
Simpson's 174:18
simultaneously 251:2
SINGER 11:8,16 168:14,16 169:5,8,
15 170:4,19 171:4,8 215:19 216:11,
14,20 217:8 236:21 237:3 249:8,15,18
253:14 280:15,19
single 72:17 259:18
sir 134:15
sit 84:23
Sitka 222:20
sitting 134:23 202:23 252:21

situation 13:5 14:3,14 89:3,4,11 92:8
125:19 159:19 199:7
size 159:12 163:21 254:7,8
sizes 74:8
Skagway 223:11,20
ski 148:23
skipped 71:24
Skype 115:20
sleep 217:15 281:2
sliced 53:18
slices 176:18
slicing 104:25
slight 133:17
slightly 21:6 61:14 68:9 160:3 234:8
241:25 260:18
slope 96:6
sloppy 122:17
Slough 236:3
slowly 226:16
small 7:23 67:25 104:2 159:9 204:17
215:5 222:12,14
smaller 139:22 201:22 258:23
smallest 200:23 212:25
smooth 196:9 223:1 235:19
snakes 54:1
snip 67:20
Snyder 123:6
social 85:16 104:6 140:18 147:20
227:11 248:10
socially 94:2 96:23 147:22
societal 88:11
society 88:12
socio 147:16
socio- 71:3 120:10 141:3 147:8
socioeconomic 52:24 53:12 54:1
66:20 71:1,4,13,18 72:21 76:17,25
90:4,21 91:3,5 96:16 98:11 102:4
108:1,7 109:5 119:23,25 120:10
125:7,19 128:20 129:3 139:4,10,17
145:12 147:8 150:6 151:25 153:4

174:5 182:24 189:7 192:2,4,10 198:25
199:19,25 200:2 201:12 204:10
205:12 208:5,10 210:5 217:9,24 218:3
219:5 232:16 234:13 253:7,11 254:11
257:13

socioeconomically 51:17,20 66:22
70:9 71:6 77:6 84:11 90:8 94:3,23
104:16 114:4 129:8 131:16 141:4
149:17 161:8 163:19 173:13 198:24
218:8 223:16 237:20 238:2 239:20
242:10,12,24 249:9

socioeconomically-integrated
215:22

socioeconomics 110:23

Soldotna 227:18,21

solution 5:4,21 15:5 40:24 95:11
129:22 144:1 155:25 203:20 227:8

solutions 5:7

solving 217:9

something's 56:11

songs 199:12,16

sooner 40:6 146:15

sort 156:24 157:20 179:24 253:17

sorts 16:9,10

sought 123:10 253:23

sound 53:8 54:22 91:9 118:8 192:4
199:2,5

sounds 42:5 167:20 263:23

sources 164:17

south 13:16,17,20 53:19 54:5 66:10
74:3,17,18,22 75:1,6 95:6 96:4,6
102:8 104:10,17 105:6 109:16 119:18
122:18 126:25 149:5 151:23 188:11
222:23 225:14 226:7,9,19 229:23
236:15 240:16,18 244:23

southeast 87:6,8 97:12 114:2 140:13
221:14 222:9,10 245:22 246:10
251:15

southern 187:19 226:20

Southwestern 205:17

space 139:16 213:20

Spanish 163:25 164:13

sparseness 96:20

speak 51:4 52:18 63:21 66:13 84:24
92:19 105:22 106:2 107:12,24 137:17,
18 158:23 163:25 187:25 254:14

speak- 80:11

SPEAKER 10:24 11:14 13:17 35:24
69:6,8 161:3 186:6 194:25 200:15
206:19,23 209:16 213:21

speaking 39:18 51:7 52:20 61:18
69:21 80:14 94:20 100:15 108:8
138:24 142:6 247:15 250:17

speaks 138:20 205:7

spear 63:13

specific 35:10 39:11 66:8 124:24
126:15 175:18,21 253:20

specifically 31:6 66:19 126:9

Spenard 29:8 60:21 61:4,8,10,13,15,
17,20 66:16 93:19

spend 28:3

spending 140:22

spent 5:17 33:20 57:23 99:21 110:12
114:8 129:25 131:10 178:19 225:17

spills 24:15

spirit 63:14 199:19

split 44:2 51:16 75:4 87:4 88:23 105:6
136:23 228:9 278:25

splits 75:3

splitting 102:11 205:3 228:12

Spohnholz 123:5

spoke 52:5 107:3 108:5 188:8

spoken 69:20 117:14 124:13 126:19
129:18 136:2

sports 116:7 153:10

spot 126:2 273:6

spots 263:16

spread 8:7,9,18,24 10:10 11:7,19
12:5,6 18:1,2,7,12,13 30:21 222:7

Springs 143:17

sprint 28:20

square 31:14 73:20 146:25 259:7

Squyres 138:1,3,6,7

St 194:22,24 205:11

staff 2:6 21:18 27:8 28:4 35:16 45:17
47:2 72:18 82:9 83:11 125:21 144:11
165:18 167:2 168:2 230:24 263:12,25
267:2 269:3,10 273:4 275:4 277:22
278:19

stage 199:15

stand 49:14 101:9 114:16 282:6

standard 139:20 258:25

standards 95:8

standing 151:25

stands 143:16 161:23

Star 69:23 70:18 94:18,24 97:9 108:9
109:1,13 119:3 129:11 138:17 143:21
147:4 235:9 241:18 246:25 247:5
248:2 250:22 254:22

start 28:12 35:17,18 48:25 52:17 62:8
107:3 110:14 159:9 160:14 162:21
166:10,22 168:4 186:24 190:21 193:2
196:15 200:9 202:21 203:4,8 210:3
271:7 273:9 274:11,25 276:3

started 36:21 38:1 40:13 49:21 50:13,
14 115:2 160:11,15 167:7 177:18
235:9

starting 20:24 37:24 45:19,21 123:8
168:7 210:4,22

starts 111:18 277:1

state 11:20 17:11 18:24 23:12 26:6
32:16 36:14 42:23 43:4 44:18 48:22
51:14 53:21 56:6 57:6 61:7,11 67:25
79:20 80:8,9 81:18 88:19 93:5 98:22
100:3 118:1 120:1 121:14,19 125:21
127:23 131:4,9 133:19 140:21 141:13,
14,15,17 144:24 153:12 159:4 208:11
225:1 226:24 237:17 255:17 257:7
259:16 264:10

state's 256:7

state- 132:24

stated 30:10 40:7 41:9 145:15 185:13
189:1 259:8

statement 50:13 61:1,2 68:16

statements 16:8 139:1

states 107:4

statewide 9:18 10:8 19:1,5 36:25
44:6 57:25 95:10 132:18,25 133:1

static 108:14

statistic 70:11
Statute 185:3
stay 22:11 112:1,18 220:16 278:8
staying 71:21 74:17 128:6
stays 238:20
Stebbins 91:3,6 199:14 205:11
Steese 95:20 232:2 236:8,12,14
246:3
step 263:12 273:21 275:4
stepping 63:9
steps 265:17
Sterling 229:7 230:18
stick 167:16
sticking 133:17
Stony 96:9
stop 87:4 95:2 139:5 184:8 239:11
stopped 8:15 29:19
stopping 136:8
store 164:11
straight 16:23 53:10 62:21 227:25
straighten 20:15
Strait 90:7,14
strangely 54:4
street 116:4 152:9
strengthen 206:6,7
stretch 26:3 127:7 134:4 141:7
strict 42:17
strong 98:11 103:10 189:11 190:23
strongly 52:6 70:4 177:4,6 188:23
191:2 258:22
structure 79:10 147:21
struggle 84:20
stuff 165:14 194:14 281:1,3
subdivision 73:11
subject 3:8 107:16 185:7 276:17
subject- 260:12
subjectivity 260:12

submit 149:2
submitted 67:13,14 276:23,25
submitting 109:11
Subsection 185:3
subsequent 247:5
substantial 38:18 39:6 275:22
279:11
substantially 37:22,25 38:22,24
148:10 275:15
substantive 65:13
substitute 150:4
suburb 70:7 153:17
Sue 141:24 142:2 144:10
sued 140:21
sufficient 253:12
sufficiently 265:2
suggest 45:11 111:23 239:1 250:16
277:23 280:24
suggested 37:11 98:24 218:3 239:19
255:14
suggesting 207:16
suggestion 47:22 111:19 140:1
172:5 265:19
suggests 208:2
suits 80:22
summarizing 251:21
summary 105:3
summer 199:1
super 8:10
superior 94:8
support 62:18 65:19 66:5 80:9 105:3
106:15 112:13 117:19 118:15 127:7
149:20 150:20 151:1,19 152:1 168:6
181:19 198:20 250:14 260:7
supported 140:2
supporting 36:19 151:15 261:15
supportive 155:16
supports 93:4 116:17
supposed 85:14

Supreme 34:16 119:9 237:1
surgical 203:7 223:7
surprising 109:6
surround 59:18
surrounding 203:5 244:13
surrounds 92:23 187:14
suspect 148:18
sustainable 260:1
Suvero 64:9,12,14 66:9 67:3
swampland 73:21
swapped 216:14
switch 48:25 99:25 215:14 222:23
switched 132:11
switches 131:11
system 200:5 242:21 272:22 277:3
systems 208:10

T

tab 198:7
table 5:6,8 27:16 28:15 34:8 36:3 53:5
93:23 121:8 127:2 184:15 190:20
tabulation 275:17
tackle 36:11 255:10
Tahnee 60:5,6,7,8,17
takes 21:11 53:12 95:13 100:2 112:18
195:12 199:18
taking 6:21 32:10 35:4 62:11 70:4
101:17 102:10 110:7 111:5 112:11
121:15 127:11 131:12 145:6 167:7
173:20 177:25 187:20 208:14 218:21
244:1 245:21 253:7
Taku-campbell 76:2
talk 13:12 39:6 54:13 69:23 100:9,16
119:9 121:17 138:12 248:5 249:3
257:7 269:2 273:21
talked 12:2 73:16 93:1 99:23 113:9
189:18
talking 8:23 18:20,23 39:9 77:11
78:12 79:13 99:21 110:15 115:18
125:9 129:25 131:9 163:20 167:24
176:18 200:11 204:1,5 274:22 277:21

talks 248:6
Tanana 244:22,23
Tanner 128:8,9,11 130:8,17 133:6
TAPS 190:24 193:8,17,18
target 9:19,22,23 17:11 19:17 45:24
123:5 173:17
targeted 148:17
task 100:11,17 150:11
Tatitlek 225:10,13
TCC 129:16
technical 134:12 226:13 231:10,12
264:2 269:4,11
technically 77:1
technology 83:15
tedious 273:2
teleconference 48:10,11 49:1
telephone 158:22
Telli 124:13
telling 227:10
ten 57:12,16,17 80:12 110:20 140:15
tentatively 147:2 234:14
Teresa 152:18,19,21 154:6
term 73:4 148:4 275:12 279:10
terms 12:22 21:25 30:24 34:20 41:15
43:13,22 64:17 90:4,20 91:20,23
101:6 102:15 131:1 151:25 174:5,8,9
189:5 200:3 257:12 276:24
terrible 199:2
terribly 108:6,7 158:23
test- 202:7
testified 5:10,13 79:4 80:4 85:24
106:7 117:4 121:5 138:9,19 142:5
159:21 247:1 248:12 249:3
testify 33:16 37:4 44:22 48:19 55:23,
24 56:16 58:20 64:7 66:15 69:19
83:18 84:22 85:20 87:17 103:8,22
105:18 111:22 112:6,22 117:19
121:23 124:7,19 142:4 151:13 158:9
248:21,22 274:2
testifying 55:2 64:25 105:20 108:11
114:8 117:18 121:3 140:23 212:3

testimonies 106:14
testimony 2:12 35:2,10,12,13 36:2,
24,25 42:15,18,24 43:3,11,16,20
44:17,18 45:2,4 47:23,24 49:19,24
50:18 53:13 59:4 60:22 61:23 64:2
72:7 81:3,13 84:25 85:25 88:15,18
89:22 90:3 91:22 97:18 99:15 100:8,
12 102:2,13 103:20 106:5 116:2
117:5,20 118:1 120:19 121:10,11,15,
20,21 128:6 138:11 140:4 142:14,19
146:7 149:24 150:22 151:20 153:24
156:9,12,19 157:25 159:22 163:13
165:1,2 166:20 167:8 168:7,8 169:2
172:19 173:1,2 176:12,17 177:7,8,25
188:21 191:3 196:20 197:9,11,20
200:10 201:14 202:7,12 203:19 205:6,
9 208:7 218:2 226:25 237:18 238:25
239:17 241:6,12 244:10,15 245:4,11,
12 249:1 253:20 255:5 258:13 259:24
265:17 273:15,17,20 274:1,24
tests 260:11
text 67:14
texting 160:12
thankfully 171:22
that'll 85:21
thereabouts 49:15 96:10
thing 15:18 45:13 56:23 72:16 113:20
121:20 140:24 158:24 167:8 174:6
182:11,17 223:8 259:2 273:13
things 7:16 16:10 21:5 34:17 38:4,5,8
49:15 57:5 59:22 62:1 63:21 88:12
98:6 99:14 101:23 116:21 141:15
148:19 177:4,9 179:25 182:15 247:7
259:8 260:17
thinking 258:22
thinks 182:5
thought 14:23 17:23 22:16 26:19
38:17 40:2 57:13,14 160:17 166:10
177:23,24 192:23 203:15 216:1,3,18
224:8,16 233:3 247:1
thoughtful 54:21
thoughts 42:13 78:4,7
thousand 159:14 211:18,19,20
212:16 241:17
thousands 62:5
threat 136:4

threshold 279:12
threw 77:3
throwing 70:22
thrown 117:21 118:10 141:6
tie 138:17
tied 42:1 102:6 141:4
ties 91:3,5 98:11 102:4 135:12 139:10
205:12
tight 16:18 74:5 207:12 228:20 252:11
tighter 8:17 258:23 260:16
tightly 93:11
time 2:13,18 5:17 8:10 15:6 21:11
22:19,21 23:10,18 24:18 27:5,11 28:3,
6,10,20 29:25 31:24 33:20 35:1,3,11
40:3 41:3,17 42:18,19 44:20,21,24,25
45:2,11 46:4 48:1 49:7,25 57:19,24
62:2,8 65:11,13 68:15 79:23 93:13,17
94:12 99:19,21 100:7,9 110:13 111:5
113:13 114:8 116:9 117:10 118:7
119:10 120:18 122:10 127:11 129:1,
25 130:4,8 131:10,18 137:13 140:1,22
141:1,2,6 142:11 148:11 150:11
154:4,14 155:22 156:5,6,20 159:3
160:22 164:24 167:8,18 168:7 172:18
177:8 178:20 196:4 218:21 219:18
225:18 232:7 250:7 259:11,13 263:9,
24 265:1 269:14 270:14 273:16
timekeeper 50:2
timely 51:11 156:13
timer 104:11 160:8
times 76:16 101:25 135:24 201:20
223:22 224:11
timing 42:18
tinkered 216:2 217:1
tiny 159:5 272:10,13 273:4
tired 117:21
title 87:10 249:10
titles 52:17
TJ 4:2 33:15 35:22 36:1,5 46:2,6,15,18
47:8 48:5,6,9,15,17 49:5,12 50:4
82:21,23 83:11,13 92:12 114:21,24
158:13,15,18 165:9 168:2 210:14,17
211:3,12 212:15 214:14 215:1,10,12
216:21 221:17,23 222:9 223:24 225:7,
9 226:6,15,18 227:17 229:2,5,12

231:4,7,10	tours 38:18	typing 204:5
today 2:11 41:9 42:19 47:2,5 48:1 52:22 64:25 65:9 68:17 69:21 80:19 84:18,22 85:13,15,23 87:18 92:19,25 93:13 94:20 105:20 116:2 117:20 122:7 124:20 128:16 139:13 141:3 144:1 152:6,22 153:25 158:20 159:21 166:23 167:15 169:20 171:24 180:9 204:3 205:6 206:5 237:19 238:25 245:12 248:12 273:16	town 70:9 71:13 73:2 116:12 153:11 223:17 241:10 247:13,17	<hr/> U <hr/>
Tok 84:16 98:19,20,25 109:14 110:21 114:2 140:25 141:1 143:11 153:21,22 242:20 245:17 246:11	towns 198:23 222:21	UAF 70:12,14 86:25 98:21 113:12 116:17 153:2,10,13,16
told 38:3	track 61:24 241:17 277:24	Uh-oh 226:12
Tom 122:23	Tract 73:22	Ukrainian 163:25
tomorrow 269:18 270:13 273:7	trade 203:12	unable 66:15 199:3
tonight 217:15 269:21	traditional 223:18	Unalakleet 205:12
top 24:14 82:21,23 189:19 227:18 240:3,25	trails 136:15 148:21,23	unanimous 106:14
topographer 269:5	translated 255:1	unanimously 51:8 61:16
TORKELSON 10:18,22,25 11:9 13:23 14:17 17:22 27:17 50:9 186:21 189:14,22 190:3 195:1,11,21 197:4 227:22 228:2,6 231:16,20,24 232:4, 10,22 233:1,5 234:2,6,9,19,22 235:5, 8,25 236:7 238:18 239:10,13 240:4 252:1,5,8,12,16,19,24 256:9 262:4,7, 10,13,16,19 263:4 265:24 266:8,18,21 268:5,9,13,16,20,23 269:22,25 270:3, 6,9,20,24 271:5,11,16 272:2,6,9,16,20 275:9,11 276:16 277:8 278:6,22 279:2,13,17,21,24 280:7 281:4,7,10, 16	translates 97:6	unassigned 232:13
tortured 12:15	translating 254:13	unavailable 83:1 110:2
toss 253:17	transparency 146:2,6 198:19	unclear 247:14 250:17
total 18:23,24 19:1,5 22:4 30:4 37:1 42:18 110:19 263:6	transparently 54:14	uncomfortable 30:11 178:4
totality 21:23	traps 101:15	uncomfortableness 37:12
totally 113:10,16	travel 109:15 122:4	unconstitutional 73:14,16 86:15 99:4,6 107:18 118:2 119:8,22,24 129:5 131:16 133:15 258:16
Toth 124:14,15,18	treated 43:7 141:20	unconstitutionality 39:14
touch 148:19	trouble 145:9 194:10	underlying 275:15
touching 263:7	troubling 147:14	underpopulate 162:5
tough 238:10 243:13 249:5	true 43:9 54:11 73:2 141:5 276:19,20	underpopulated 11:17 205:25 211:17 212:17
tour 26:6 37:1	truncated 275:13,25	underpopulation 205:23
tourist 223:17	truncation 276:5	underrepresent- 120:8
	trust 66:19	underrepresentation 120:5,9
	tucked 152:7,11	underrepresented 144:23,24 145:22 152:15
	Tuesday 45:21	understand 5:20 13:15 14:8 15:4 19:8,11,12 37:12 40:13 99:17,18 101:10 154:19 160:25 161:15 170:9 263:21 267:14,23
	turn 28:7 65:15 115:20 145:3 227:23 235:11	understandable 141:8
	Turnagain 13:21,24 20:5 29:8 74:22 75:24 122:17	understanding 19:7 39:10 41:2,18 67:15 72:20 94:9 106:4 132:8 275:7
	turned 184:24	understands 265:14
	Turpin 79:8	understating 255:2
	tweaked 259:17	understood 6:3 15:20 40:23 132:16 133:6 157:7 208:7
	tweaks 222:12	
	two-day 196:7	
	two-minute 36:3 83:17	
	Two-point 206:19	
	Tyonek 230:3,4	
	type 278:25	

undertaking 277:18 193:16 198:23 199:18 257:15,19,21 47:17 50:16 67:19 102:3 130:21
unfair 145:9 259:5 260:2,9 261:15 142:10 219:11 222:13 257:1,22
258:17
unfortunate 159:20 241:10,22 **v.4.** 56:16 57:1 66:6
UNIDENTIFIED 10:24 11:14 13:17 **v.7** 266:9,16,25
35:24 69:6,8 161:3 186:6 194:25 **v.7.** 265:23 266:6,7,10
200:15 206:19,23 209:16 213:21 **vacuuming** 281:18
uniform 80:6 **Valdez** 5:2,4,13,22 28:18 37:12 39:19,
20 40:3,25 41:4,10,13,22 42:4,7,11
united 142:25 63:3,5 96:5 149:9,10 186:25 188:14
189:3,24 190:5,21 191:17 251:20
units 73:22 159:12 **valid** 147:19 192:24
univers- 113:21 **Valley** 69:22 70:5,7,13 73:6,8 96:19,
20 98:10 107:14,19,22 108:3 109:15
university 70:10 84:6 85:4 86:4 93:4 125:10 140:10 143:20,25 152:25
95:3 98:12 106:8 110:20 113:22 190:25 222:24 254:25
116:5,18 153:8 241:7 244:16 245:7
unlike 93:23
unmuted 115:4
unprofessional 178:4
unusual 14:15,18
update 124:22
updated 271:6
uploaded 278:10
upper 74:7,15 78:15 198:8 203:11
214:12,13,20,21
upsets 108:10
upwards 207:14
urban 19:5 145:13
urge 62:18 93:21 102:17
utilities 254:25
utility 164:16

V

v.3 4:24 35:22 38:1 40:5 55:7 73:3
77:12 82:12 93:6,23 94:4 122:8,10,11,
14,18,22 123:1,4,9,10 124:23 125:14
129:22 133:17 145:5 172:2 181:19
258:15,23 260:18
v.3. 38:9,10 122:7 123:12 130:3
260:16
v.4 4:15,20 12:14 27:15 32:24,25
33:18,21 55:6 59:14 66:12,17,25
68:18 72:9 75:9 79:15,16 93:21 94:1,7
122:12 123:10,19,20,23 124:23
126:16 129:22 130:1 133:17 182:2
versions 32:20 44:4,10 46:21,24

versus 90:7 240:24 242:19 247:13
veteran 125:3 135:2 178:19
veterans 80:13 135:8,17
vets 179:3
vetted 33:2 122:9
VFW 80:10
view 7:5,20 13:21 15:8,12 20:12 21:6,
9 23:21,24 24:8,14,15 29:6 31:4 57:8
59:13 66:16,24 73:7,20 93:25 103:21
104:25 150:21 156:22 158:1 255:19
village 212:25 223:18 226:10
villages 89:3 91:4,8 130:23,24 131:1,
14 132:1 133:13 139:6 143:10 147:13
159:2,8 161:9,10,12,16 162:6 196:24
198:23 199:2,4 203:2,6,11 204:7
205:17,22 207:16 209:4,24 217:20
242:19 253:22
violate 103:17 182:15
violation 95:7
violations 53:4
virtue 204:8
visible 272:3
visit 141:14
visual 29:3,16 255:23
visually 30:24 44:14
vocation 144:22
voice 63:21 89:17 103:9 105:2 113:18
114:11 127:12 142:20
voiced 247:16
voices 52:25 53:17 62:15 104:3,22
126:24 127:3,22 152:4
volunteered 5:16
volunteers 134:23 140:21
vote 8:6,20 11:23 13:5,9 14:13 15:7
18:9 29:24 30:9,14,16 37:6 54:14,16,
18 63:20 70:1 72:23 88:9 97:4 108:22
147:24 173:25 239:9 242:1 244:4
261:11,23 268:3 275:19
voter 275:15 277:9,15

voters 8:9,19 181:5 277:14
votes 51:24 53:20 54:15 157:15
voting 2:19 37:5 38:14,20 53:3
103:17 104:23 152:14 181:12 217:19
257:17 277:17
VRA 7:13 15:22 16:6 33:2 53:14 56:7
181:8 182:16 196:15 200:7 202:25
203:14 206:7 209:2 215:18 216:19
221:5,9 257:14
vulnerable 145:22

W

Wainwright 236:11 247:21 248:25
wait 65:11 156:4 158:21,23 166:19
168:9 273:18
waited 250:5
waiting 42:15 49:7 50:25 105:22
112:6,10 117:8 166:12
Wales 222:15
walk 225:7 234:17
walked 3:18 6:13
walking 6:12
wall 44:13 47:20
wanted 5:14 7:17 11:24 12:7,8 17:24
19:20 24:23 35:11 42:9 46:10 50:5
52:2 58:25 59:4 64:7 66:7 70:25 72:6
81:4 88:17 93:18 97:1 105:17 106:19
107:2 130:17 143:2 152:24 158:21
163:12,13 167:21 179:21 182:5
190:23 196:11 200:5 204:24 227:9,14
247:8 250:3 252:25 253:1 254:15
wanting 15:10 25:6,17
War 179:2
warps 12:18 34:11
Washington 37:4
Wasilla 124:11,12 154:7 155:9 187:6,
12
watching 46:20
water 211:1
ways 29:25 30:1 38:9 73:5 94:5
142:18 148:5
wear 57:18 81:19 126:10

web 132:23,25 133:2
website 45:15 46:19,24 47:15,16
50:15 105:25 142:13 165:23 270:25
277:24 278:7,8
Wednesday 265:1
week 35:18 97:9 109:23 146:14
149:25
weekend 22:12 167:1,4 169:17 265:3
269:8 274:17
weeks 281:24
weigh 37:8 197:20 260:14
weighed 188:17
weight 88:20 142:22 260:17
weird 24:19 223:4
welcomed 28:13
west 20:4 22:15 61:20,21 75:11,21,25
76:1,5 86:23 92:21 93:3 95:21 98:4,13
102:6 107:17 141:2 143:22,23 145:16
159:23 160:5 187:18 193:21 236:2,13
241:8 242:23 244:16 245:5,8 246:14
Westchester 20:4 66:10
western 84:9 85:5 108:25 128:19,21
129:14 133:18 238:14
whatsoever 26:3
whereases 243:18,19
white 233:5 243:5
Whitten 92:13,14,15,18,20
Whittier 39:23
Willahan 93:15,16
willing- 81:12
willingness 23:8 81:12
Wilson 58:21,22,24 59:23 60:1
wire 176:9
wisdom 99:5
wishes 158:9 203:7 265:20
witnessed 81:5
woman 137:16
Wonderful 98:2
wondering 43:21 217:4 255:12
word 139:18

work 2:4,9 4:11 23:17,18,19 26:24
27:20,25 28:13 33:12 34:19 35:17
37:15 42:19 48:1 57:8,14 59:1,19,24
68:5 70:14 72:22 79:7 80:25 84:22
85:1 88:7,12 101:12,25 102:8 104:6
105:20 116:16,18,19,21 124:6 125:22
126:8 127:18 130:5 136:9 143:13
148:3 153:16 156:6 164:23 166:3
179:24 183:5,6 185:23 199:21 202:21
227:13 230:11 242:14 252:21 260:22
274:25 277:19
worked 57:13 79:20 80:6 113:11,12
153:12,13 164:3 203:17,19 227:5
workers 227:14
workforces 136:19
working 33:25 45:1 50:17 52:4,6,23
53:15 87:25 105:24 135:8 152:6
158:18 179:25 221:18,19 231:2 269:4,
6,12 275:1
works 66:15,20 125:5 168:23 203:23
213:22 264:19 275:7
world 140:18 179:2
worst 89:11
worth 24:19 129:1
Wrangell 222:17
wrap 13:20 15:2 29:6
wrapped 244:17 257:7
writing 114:8 177:8 198:20 280:17
written 31:4 34:8 61:23 88:15 89:22
156:9,12 163:13 197:10 205:5 245:11
Wrobel 152:18,20,21

Y

ya 69:9
yards 250:8
Yarrow 50:22 51:2,5 54:25 55:16
YCHC 204:18
year 88:3 89:4
years 57:7,12,17 61:21 67:24 80:12,
15 86:18 92:22 98:4,5,6 101:10
107:15 108:2 113:7 119:5 135:25
140:11,15 148:8,20 154:25 157:9,11
275:13

yesterday 2:18 5:3,6 12:17 16:5
27:15 31:3 34:7 41:2 52:5 53:4 70:1,
25 91:16 108:5,17 138:15 140:2
142:9,10 143:2 171:22 181:1,17
184:14,24 195:9 225:12,17,24 226:22

YK 203:2

Yukon 96:4,7 101:14 119:13,17
138:22 199:1,5 214:25 215:5 217:11
246:4

Yupik 91:4,7 161:9,10 199:12

Z

Zack 122:1

zero-outline 74:6

zoom 2:8 25:25 27:21 39:12 48:5,10
50:6 146:23 166:6 185:22 190:18
215:2 226:12 228:9 240:19,20 245:20
256:25

zoomed 26:1 218:14

zooming 193:19