

(CITY OF LOS ANGELES) Tape No.

COMMISSIONER STONE, PRESIDENT
DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

In the matter of: "Combined Hearing"

TAPE-RECORDED TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS ,
heard before THE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD
EMPOWERMENT, CITY OF LOS ANGELES, transcribed
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City of Los Angeles

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
Tape No. "Combined Hearing"

"Combined Hearing"

COMMISSIONER STONE: We almost made it by 11
6 o' clock. We are now going to proceed with the
agenda, and that is item number 3, combined public
hearing regarding the applications for

10 neighborhood --

11 Am I on? Hello.

12 Okay. We are now going to continue --

13 thank you -- with item number 3, which is the

14 combined public hearing regarding the applications

15 for neighborhood council status by three groups, the

16 Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council, the

17 Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council, and Historic
18 Cultural Neighborhood Council.

19 What we are going to do in this -- since
20 we have a combined hearing with three different
21 applications, we're going to ask Romero on behalf of
22 the staff to present one presentation touching on
23 all three of the applications.

24 The commission has already been provided
25 with the staff report that makes all the findings,
01 so we have all of that before us. What we'd like
02 you to do, if at all possible to expedite the
03 process, is to give us a combined presentation
04 touching on issues of concern.

05 What we're then going to do is ask each of
06 the -- the commission will then have questions of
07 staff. Each applicant will then be able to make a
08 presentation with questions by the commission, and
09 then we'll move into public comment.

10 And I have quite a stack of folks that
11 want to speak on item number 3. We're not going to

12 break it down into letters A, B, and C. What we'll
13 do is go through it alphabetically, ask everyone to
14 make their comments and to keep their comments as --
15 as brief as possible.

16 But let's move into the staff report now
17 on item number 3.

18 ROMERO: All three have, of course, presented
19 themselves for certification.

20 In -- in looking at the -- in looking at
21 outreach, all of them satisfy the outreach
22 requirements. In looking at financial
23 accountability, all have specified their approach to
24 financial accountability, and their bylaws, they
25 have met that requirements, and all have given us
01 contact persons and provided posting locations.

02 So all are found in that -- in those areas
03 to be in compliance with the requirements of the
04 plan and the ordinance.

05 Where we have the issues are in
06 boundaries, and I will start with the downtown and

07 -- because the overlaps that we're talking about all
08 involve the downtown area.

09 In -- in presenting their rationale for a
10 boundary, the downtown indicated that they started
11 with the historic recognized boundaries of downtown,
12 which would be the freeways, the -- the L.A. River,
13 and then expanded their boundaries based upon
14 stakeholders coming to them asking to be included
15 within the boundaries.

16 The first boundary overlap that we -- we
17 consider is -- let's see here -- the overlap between
18 the -- the downtown and Lincoln Heights. In that,
19 the boundary overlap is bounded by the Los Angeles
20 River on the west. Main Street on the north, Daly
21 Street to the east, and Mission to the south.

22 In their application Lincoln Heights
23 indicated that they have a well-represented artist
24 community, that it -- that they tend to the needs
25 and the endeavors of that community, that
01 historically and geographically they have been known

02 as Lincoln Heights beginning at the river, and that
03 the Los Angeles River creates a natural western
04 boundary between downtown and its suburbs.

05 The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood
06 Council, which I'll refer to as DLANC, had also
07 several reasons for including the brewery. The idea
08 was it was a natural -- their -- they shared an
09 identity with the diversity of DLANC, rather than
10 being associated with what was perceived as the more
11 homogeneous suburban quality of Lincoln Heights.

12 They shared housing quality and economic
13 development issues with downtown -- we're talking
14 largely about the brewery as an overlap situation --
15 and in using maps, most of the time the brewery is
16 shown as part of downtown as opposed to part of
17 Lincoln Heights.

18 They also cite that they have cultural
19 ties in the form of commonality of interest with
20 downtown, particularly their cultural institutions
21 such as museums, and that they felt a more -- the

22 downtown had a more international cosmopolitan
23 rhythm and orientation, and that better fit with the
24 -- the brewery itself.

25 There has been attempts to -- to mediate
01 this conflict between Lincoln Heights regarding the
02 brewery and the downtown. There have been several
03 meetings. The Department's assessment of these
04 meetings has been that they have been held in good
05 faith. Both sides, however, felt very passionately
06 about their issues and we came to an impasse.

07 In terms of some of the resolutions that
08 were on the table, include the brewery within the
09 downtown boundaries, have representatives of the
10 brewery on the downtown board and have
11 representatives on the board of Lincoln Heights.

12 Another option was simply for Lincoln
13 Heights to exclude the brewery from their
14 boundaries. Another was to continue the -- the
15 communication so that the artists in both areas
16 could -- could still have a vehicle for dialogue.

17 And the other possibility was that the
18 members of the brewery would be members of both
19 Lincoln Heights and the Downtown Neighborhood
20 Council. Another was to ask the city declare the
21 brewery as a landmark of historical significance for
22 shared boundary purposes, and another was for the
23 brewery to outreach with more brewery residents to
24 find out where the stakeholder interest was.

25 On March 11th the Downtown Neighborhood
01 Council invited Lincoln Heights to make a
02 presentation before their general membership in that
03 Lincoln Heights stressed their historical boundaries
04 and gave information about why they felt that
05 Lincoln Heights should have the brewery.

06 The following month the representatives
07 from the brewery made their presentations to the --
08 to the -- the membership of the downtown, requesting
09 to have downtown keep them in their -- in their
10 boundaries.

11 During that meeting they had several

12 arguments in challenge of Lincoln Heights, one of
13 which is that although the community plan shows the
14 brewery in Lincoln Heights, the brewery actually is
15 in a separate Council District.

16 The other was that Lincoln Heights did not
17 have as large an artistic community as the brewery
18 and that -- and as downtown, and so it seemed more
19 natural that the brewery would link with downtown.

20 The other point that was made was Lincoln
21 Heights considers the beginning of their community
22 at the brew- -- at the river, and just with some
23 informal soliciting of opinions, there was -- the
24 brewery's representative thought that many people
25 saw Lincoln Heights beginning at the 5 Freeway.

01 After the presentation was made the
02 general membership of the downtown voted to keep the
03 brewery within Lincoln Heights -- I'm sorry --
04 within downtown, and so as a result, we come to the
05 Board today with no real resolution as to where the
06 brewery should be, be it downtown or be it in

07 Lincoln Heights.

08 The Department has tracked the situation

09 and we have made the recommendation based on the

10 community plan area, and the community plan area

11 draws the boundaries of Lincoln Heights at the river.

The concern that we had was a couple of things. One is between downtown and the brewery are several commercial establishments, one of which is the San Antonio winery and another is United Parcel Services, and that stands in between the boundary, downtown, and the brewery, and then the rest of Lincoln Heights.

The concern that we had is that if we followed the boundaries presented by the Downtown Neighborhood Council, they would have drawn the boundary at Daly and Lincoln Heights would have been effectively cut off from landmarks such as the winery that it has historically considered as its own.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. Is it possible to take that microphone and, as you're speaking -- it would really be helpful. Or use that mike, maybe Darren's.

ROMERO: Let me do this --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

ROMERO: Do you think you could -- you could --
oh, (inaudible).

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Or just use Darren's.

MR. MARTINEZ: And -- Darren Martinez, deputy city attorney. And I would suggest also to try to just attempt to indicate for the record what you are pointing to instead of "this" or "that," just try maybe briefly to say "this street" or (inaudible).

ROMERO: Okay. Marco, if you could make that clar- -- clar-

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sorry to interrupt.

ROMERO: That's okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It just would -- it just would make it easier.

ROMERO: That's okay. It was -- you weren't tracking. That's okay.

Marco, if you could -- appreciate it.

MARCO PEREZ: Yeah, the area -- the area in dispute is bounded by the L.A. River on the -- on the west, Cesar Chavez to Mission to Marengo to Daly Street, and this is Main Street up here. The brewery is off of Main Street in this area around Moulton Street.

So most of the business that have considered themselves as, like she mentioned, historical landmarks in Lincoln Heights such as the winery are on Main Street right before reaching the brewery. UPS is also right next -- adjacent to the brewery. It's --

Is that a little bit more clear?

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Can you point out

14 again where UPS and the -- and San Antonio winery
15 are?

16 MARCO PEREZ: San -- San Antonio winery is
17 approximately right about here on Lamar Street, in
18 between Gibbons and Lamar, and the UPS is in between
19 Lamar and Moulton. Moulton Street is the brewery
20 area, generally.

21 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible).

22 ROMERO: Okay. So --

23 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thanks.

24 ROMERO: Okay. The concern that -- that was --

25 that we had was if we drew the boundary at Daly

01 Street, we would have -- we would essentially close
02 off Lincoln Heights from businesses that they --
03 they consider a part of Lincoln Heights.

04 But the flip side of that was the brewery

05 residents and organizers presented almost 300
06 residents' signatures expressing their desire to be
07 a part of the Los Angeles Downtown Neighborhood
08 Council, DLANC.

09 In addition, they also presented about 562

10 signatures of nonresidents, persons of the brewery,
11 that felt that the brewery should be allowed to be a
12 part of the Downtown Neighborhood Council.

13 The staff recommendation is really based
14 upon the -- the community plan boundaries for -- for
15 Lincoln Heights. And -- and so our recommendation
16 is that the commission follow the community plan and
17 allocate the brewery to Lincoln Heights.

18 The -- in view of the stakeholder -- the
19 stakeholder preference for downtown, we tried to
20 look for a way that the brewery alone could somehow
21 be connected and picked up with downtown, and what
22 we ran into was the compact and contiguous issue.
23 And in discussing this with the brewery residents,
24 about the only way we -- we saw that a connection
25 could be made was through the railway yards, the
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01 railway yards being conceived as a public use.

02 And in looking at that we found that even

03 if you went through the railway yards, the
04 connection is -- is -- is really difficult on a
05 compact and contiguous argument. So that was the

06 basis for the Department's recommendation.

07 The -- the next -- the next

08 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Romero, before you

09 move on.

10 ROMERO: Yes. I'm sorry.

11 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Could you point out

12 the railroad -- the railway yard?

13 MARCO PEREZ: (Inaudible).

14 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Yes, thank you.

15 ROMERO: Marco.

16 MARCO PEREZ: The railroad yards extend from

17 the Union Station, which is approximately around

18 where's Alameda Street. Here's Alameda, Sunset --

19 or Cesar Chavez. This area is where the Union

20 Station is at.

21 So the railroad tracks come up through

22 here and go behind the brewery.

23 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I see.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The entire area down as

25 well.

01 MARCO PEREZ: This whole area right here is
02 comprised of railroad tracks here.

03 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Oh.

04 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All of that lower
05 triangle, that entire area --

06 MR. MARTINEZ: Darren Martinez, deputy city
07 attorney.

08 Just a brief mention for the audience,
09 when we're dealing with the speakers here, we do
10 need the speakers to be at the microphone. There
11 will be an opportunity allowed to members in the
12 audience to express their viewpoint.

13 So at this point I just would request that
14 we do have -- we don't have any comments from the
15 audience so we do have a clean record. Thanks.

16 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Marco, while you are
17 up there, the area that's directly -- I don't know
18 if that's east, west of what, but to the left of the
19 brewery across the river, what -- what is in that
20 area?

21 MARCO PEREZ: Yes. Along Main Street down to

22 Cesar Chavez, this whole area, there's a jail here,

23 the Twin Towers is located in this area right here.

24 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Oh, it is that area.

25 MARCO PEREZ: Along -- along Main Street

01 there's some businesses. However, along Ann Street,
02 Bloom Street, this little area here, there's a major
03 public housing -- public housing community, William
04 Meade Homes, and -- and furthermore, right next to
05 it there's some businesses and even across the
06 street.

07 But that's the major residential area in

08 this portion right here and the rest would just be
09 like the -- you know, the jails. I believe down

10 here is where one -- the MTA station, the building,

11 One Gateway Plaza. Is that --

12 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Oh, is that in there?

13 COMMISSIONER STONE: And can you show on the

14 map where the staff recommends -- the boundary that

15 staff recommends we take off of that map. Is it

16 just the river?

17 ROMERO: It's the river.

18 MARCO PEREZ: Are you referring --

19 COMMISSIONER STONE: (Inaudible).

20 MARCO PEREZ: Yeah. Yeah, the recommendation

21 for **Lincoln Heights**, the cutoff would be at the L.A.

22 River.

23 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. Thank you.

24 ROMERO: Okay. So staff recommends a finding

25 that draws the boundary between the Downtown

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01 Los Angeles Neighborhood Council and **Lincoln Heights**

02 Neighborhood Council at the L.A. River because we

03 feel it follows historical and contemporary

04 definitions of **Lincoln Heights** community and is

05 consistent with the community plan for the area as

06 described in planning department records. And it

07 allows for more compact and contiguous boundary for

08 the Downtown Neighborhood Council.

09 The staff recommendation would essentially

10 exclude the area known as the brewery from the

11 downtown's boundary.

12 Another area that we are -- that has a

13 boundary dispute is essentially the downtown with

14 the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council. The

15 Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council includes

16 Chinatown, Little Tokyo, the Forgotten Edge, Solano
17 Canyon, so it's -- as well as initially proposed to
18 the Department, included the arts district and
19 Little Tokyo.

20 Both -- both -- we have applications for
21 both. Dialogues were -- were conducted by both
22 groups. The area of overlap is Little Tokyo and the
23 arts district. Both areas also appear in the
24 downtown on application. Downtown Neighborhood's
25 application.

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01 When DLANC submitted their application on
02 December 11th, they proposed to include Little Tokyo
03 and the arts districts. Historic Cultural
04 Neighborhood Council submitted their letter of
05 intent, and the letter of intent followed all of the
06 board's requirements. And they submitted their
07 letter of intent on January 9th, within the required
08 time frame.

09 The area of overlap was bounded by the
10 Los Angeles -- by Los Angeles Street, First Street
11 to Alameda, northbound to Main Street to Vignes,

12 eastbound on Vignes to 101 Freeway to the Los
13 Angeles River, southbound along Los Angeles River to
14 Seventh Street, west on Seventh Street to Alameda to
15 Fourth Street to Omar Street to Boyd, to the
16 Los Angeles Street, north to the Los Angeles Street
17 to the Temple, to Temple.

18 Again, this is largely the boundaries for
19 Little Tokyo and for the arts district, which also
20 appeared in the Downtown's application.

21 Both groups had outreach to the area.

22 the case of Little Tokyo, their -- the Historic
23 Cultural Neighborhood Councils collected 80

24 signatures and 30 business -- 30 businesses. The

25 Downtown Neighborhood Councils collected 80

01 signatures.

02 In addition to that, the Little Tokyo

03 Community Council took a vote on October 30th, and
04 they voted to join the Historic Cultural
05 Neighborhood Council.

06 The Little Tokyo Community Council is --

07 is a community association that represents 50

08 different organizations made up of residences,
09 businesses, cultural institutions for the entire
10 Little Tokyo area. And I believe in your package
11 you saw a listing, you had a listing of all of the
12 organizations that's part of that.

13 Although the vote --

14 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Can I interrupt you
15 just for a minute?

16 ROMERO: Sure.

17 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Just for the
18 Commissioners, because we received our information
19 so late they may not have gone through it, there is
20 a map in there that shows the overlapping areas too,
21 in the back.

22 ROMERO: The -- the Little Tokyo Community
23 Council did vote to have Little Tokyo appear in the
24 -- be a part of Historic Cultural Neighborhood
25 Council.

01 During the mediation and dialogues between
02 Downtown and Historic Cultural there was discussion
03 about that vote. And there was concern because the

04 vote took place late in the agenda and that the vote
05 was very close. The vote to be a part of Historic
06 Cultural was eight to seven, and the board
07 membership is 50.

08 One of the things that we saw in the -- in
09 the dialogues going back and forth between Little
10 Tokyo and Historic Cultural and Downtown was the
11 appearance that Little Tokyo was extremely
12 conflicted about being in one or the other.
13 Several compromises were attempted, and
14 one of the compromises that was put on the table
15 that was accepted by all parties was to have Little
16 Tokyo appear -- be a part of Historic Cultural and
17 to have the arts district be a part of Downtown.
18 Now, the arts district, also, outreach was
19 done by both groups. The arts district does have a
20 board that is an association for the artists in the
21 arts district. And they, too, took a vote. The
was -- was overwhelmingly for the
22 vote there was --
23 Downtown.

24 In the dialogue sessions there was some

25 concern because some of the votes, or many of the
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01 votes was submitted by way of proxy. However, the
02 organization's bylaws, we're told, do allow for
03 proxy voting. So there was a solid vote for the
04 arts district to be with Downtown.

05 In the outreach, both groups outreached to

06 the arts district. The Historic Cultural
07 Neighborhood Council collected 60 signatures; the
08 Downtown collected 79.

09 So this idea that basically the arts

10 district would go with Downtown, Little Tokyo would

11 go with Historic Cultural, in the case of Little

12 Tokyo being in Historic Cultural, they would elect

13 two people, one resident, one business, and those

14 would have a seat on the Downtown.

15 In the case of the artist district, the

16 artist district would remain with Downtown. They

17 would elect two, too, business and residents, and

18 they would have a seat on the Little -- the Historic

19 Cultural board.

20 In that way, it was almost like nobody had

21 to choose because they -- they basically have --

22 they have stakeholder commentary in both groups.

23 That -- that compromise was put before the Little

24 Tokyo Community Council to see whether or not they

25 would accept that, and it was voted unanimously to

01 accept that.

02 On April 3rd the compromise was put before

03 the general membership of the Downtown Neighborhood

04 Council, and they voted to accept it.

05 So the recommendation of the department is

06 that the board find that the -- the solution

07 reflects contemporary boundaries for both groups and

08 approve and accept the -- the boundaries that would

09 put Little Tokyo in Historic Cultural and put the

10 arts district in the Downtown.

11 Having accepted that -- that compromise,

12 there was a question as to what would be the

13 boundary for Little Tokyo. The Historic Cultural

14 presented their application having the boundary for

15 Little Tokyo go down to the north side of Fourth

16 Street, and the Downtown Neighborhood Council

17 presented their boundary showing Little Tokyo

18 stopping at the north side of Third Street.

19 There was dialogue between the property
20 owners and representatives of Downtown and Little
21 Tokyo over a series of -- of three meetings. In
22 that dialogue many of the property owners that have
23 businesses on Third Street and Fourth Street were
24 present, and in your package you have letters from
25 many of them expressing where they wanted to be.

01 One of the compromise positions that was
02 put on the table was to draw the boundary at Third
03 Street, but there are two religious facilities on
04 Third Street that have very deep and solid cultural
05 and historic roots in Little Tokyo.

06 And one of the recommendations was to --
07 for the department to find that these two religious
08 organizations were in fact historical facilities
09 and, as such, could appear in the boundaries of both
10 groups. Although that proposal was discussed, there
11 was not a resolution to accept it one way or the
12 other, and so they had an impasse on that
13 recommendation.

14 The department has reviewed the
15 recommendation and we would recommend to the board

16 that the boundary for Little Tokyo be drawn at Third
17 Street, the north side of Third Street as -- and
18 that the two religious facilities be perceived as an
19 overlapping allowable boundary between the two
20 neighborhood councils. One --

22 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: I f m sorry. Romero,
23 can you -- can you point out where those two --
24 those two historical -- and they have been
25 designated historical?

01 ROMERO: No. No.

02 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

03 ROMERO: This would -- this would simply be
04 based on the information that was supplied by the
05 two religious facilities.

06 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. Can you point
07 out where they're at, please?

08 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) church.

0 9 (Inaudible) .

10 COMMISSIONER STONE: There's a microphone right there.

12 ROMERO: Oh.

13 COMMISSIONER STONE: Do you want to get a mike

14 so that you can indicate for the record? Thank you.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right here. Use that.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sentinery church is on

18 the Third and Central, on the north side of Third Street.

20 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: A little higher. A

21 little higher.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm sorry. I can't find

23 Central. And the Temple is by Omar and Third Street.

25 ROMERO: Jadosu Temple is located on the south

01 side of Third Street in the disputed area. The

02 temple's congregation and history is very much

03 connected to Little Tokyo.

04 The temple was established in 1936 in East

05 Los Angeles at 614 East First Street and

06 subsequently, after World War II, was again

07 established at 331 East First Street. From there it

08 moved to the Crenshaw area in 1949 and then in 1992

09 moved back to Little Tokyo on the east side of Third Street.

11 The congregation is composed mostly of

12 Japanese and Japanese Americans from Little Tokyo

13 and the overall Los Angeles area.

14 The second church, Sentinerial United

15 Methodist Church also has historical and cultural

16 roots in Little Tokyo. The current senior minister,

17 Mark -- Reverend Mark Nakagawa, says that the roots

18 of this congregation were planted in 1896 when they

19 were officially chartered by the Methodist church, a

20 Japanese Methodist Episcopal mission in Los Angeles.

22 From that point onward until 1922 the

23 congregation moved among several locations, all of

24 them in Little Tokyo, most of them houses. In 1924

25 the church moved out of Little Tokyo and located

01 closer to the Crenshaw area, which had a large

02 Japanese population. The church carried out its

03 ministry from that location for almost 50 years.

04 In 1985 the church made the decision to

05 move back to Little Tokyo when many businesses were

06 leaving the downtown. Reverend Nakagawa explains

07 that move by saying,

08 "The decision to move back to

09 downtown at a time when most everyone else

10 was moving out was based on a spiritual,

11 historical, and cultural reasons. The
12 feeling among our congregation was that
13 Little Tokyo is the hub of Japanese
14 American community in southern California
15 and that our ministry must be centered
16 there as well."
17 The ordinance is very broad about
18 historical -- the definition of "historical." We
19 don't have very many standards or guidelines on
20 this. The community, the Historic Cultural
21 Neighborhood Council, bases a lot of its -- its
22 community identification on roots in Chinatown, in
23 Little Tokyo.
24 The staff would find that the -- the
25 history as presented in these two religious
01 facilities does meet the contemporary boundary
definitions of community for Little Tokyo.

The -- so we would recommend that
basically the -- the -- the board accept the
compromise and identify the boundaries for Little
Tokyo as including the two religious facilities but
stopping at the north side of Third Street .

The third boundary that we -- conflict

i that we have is with the Skid Row neighborhood council, which has named itself Central City East.

On April 24th, we -- and April -- April 15th we received a letter from the Skid Row -- or I'm sorry. I'll call it Central City East

Neighborhood Council, identifying themselves as a wanting to organize in the area.

And that would be the boundaries of Seventh Street, Alameda, Fourth Street, Omar Avenue, Boyd Street, Los Angeles Street, Third Street, and Spring Street.

In the letter they expressed the difficulties they've had in organizing such a disenfranchised community and a very strong feeling that, if they were to have a strong voice in their future, they needed to be their own neighborhood council.

This was a letter that the department

! received, but it did not meet the board's requirements of a letter of intent in the sense of signatures and -- and some of the other information that the board would require.

There has been an effort to organize the -- the Central City East area for over a year. It has not been particularly successful. One of the things that the letter points out is that there is new leadership and the belief that this new leadership will make a difference.

In their application, the Downtown

I Neighborhood Council was aware of the organizing efforts of a downtown group, and they expressed that the group that was organized was really a small faction of the Skid Row community and that most of the residents and businesses and people and social service providers in the community wished to be with -- part of the Downtown Neighborhood Council.

They also stressed that the Skid Row community historically, geographically, economically is intertwined with the Downtown, and they strongly feel that in their governing structure they have provided adequate representation for the Skid Row community.

Specifically, the board has designated two seats for the area, one business, one residence, as member of the homeless well as one seat for a community and three for social service providers at large.

The department has looked at the recommendation -- has looked at the -- the letter and tried to balance what we see is an area that is squarely in the middle of Downtown □ does have the -- a very high concentration of homelessness, homeless persons . It also has a very high

concentration of service agencies, and it also has a high concentration of hotels and -- and SRO, single-room occupancy hotels.

So in terms of zeroing in on a

I concentration of the homeless population, I think this is an accurate representation of -- of the concentration. The concern that the Department has is if you walk the area or drive the area, is it more than -- than the homeless population . !tisa

mixture of businesses and the toy district, the -- the smaller businesses.

And the concern that -- that we have is whether or not there can be a balanced approach of representing all interests within that bounded area.

in addition to those of the homeless population.

In looking at this from a size standpoint,

I from a diversity standpoint, and from a capacity standpoint, the department at this time recommends that the department approve the boundaries as submitted by the Downtown Neighborhood Council to include the Skid Row area.

Those are the -- those are the major issues that the department has -- has centered in in their reports.

At this point if the -- if the board were to follow the recommendations of the department in the case of the Downtown, that being include Skid Row within their boundaries, include the artist district within their boundaries, have the boundary of the artist district extend to Third Street and include -- extend to Third Street, then the -- the Downtown has -- has complied with all of the requirements surrounding boundaries.

They have presented a rationale, they have met the 20,000 requirement, and so we would find that they have met the boundary requirement and all other requirements, and would recommend that they be certified.

In the case of **Lincoln Heights**, we would

recommend that the boundary for **Lincoln Heights** be

as submitted, including the brewery, which would eliminate the overlap and, therefore, that would -- they would have satisfied the boundary requirement, and we would recommend certification of **Lincoln**

0 6 **Heights**.

07 In the case of Historic Cultural, we would

08 recommend that the artist district be removed from
09 their -- their -- the boundaries of their

10 neighborhood council and that the board find the --

11 the two religious facilities as meeting the test for

12 overlapping boundary and that those areas be made

13 part of their boundaries. And that would -- that

14 would satisfy the boundary requirements, and we

15 would recommend that they be approved.

16 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you, Romero.

17 Do we have questions from the

18 commissioners to staff before we ask the applicants

19 to present?

20 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Could someone point

21 out within the Little Tokyo area which part is the

22 art district?

23 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Actually, Romero, can

24 we take a marker and -- and kind of mark the

25 Downtown area recommendation from staff boundaries?
0031

01 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Which part is the art

02 district? Where -- within Little Tokyo?

03 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

04 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Okay.

05 COMMISSIONER STONE: Indicate where.

06 ROMERO: I believe it's from First Street, arts

07 district -- is that correct -- First Street to
08 Seventh. First Street down south by the river, down
09 to Seventh Street, going west on Seventh, north on

10 Alameda to First, and that's the arts district.

11 For Little Tokyo, Temple, going west to

12 Alameda, going south on Alameda to Third Street, to

13 Los Angeles, up north Los Angeles to Temple. And

14 that's Little Tokyo.

15 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

16 COMMISSIONER STONE: Do you have a question

17 (inaudible)?

18 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Yeah, (inaudible).

19 COMMISSIONER STONE: Commissioner Membreno?

20 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: A couple of questions
21 on the -- let's begin on the top where -- with the
22 brewery.

23 The maps that you have provided to us --
24 let's see. Where are we at? So many of them. We
25 have like 10 sets of these things -- show the
0032

01 Downtown Neighborhood Council signature process in
02 the **Lincoln Heights** overlap. However, it doesn't
03 show any signatures on the area right adjacent to
04 that.

05 That would be -- I don't know what -- I
06 think it would be Main. Is that Main? -- North
07 Main to the river down to --

08 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: (Inaudible).

09 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: -- I guess it would be
10 the freeway.

11 Is -- there were no signatures in that
12 area submitted for this application, or can you give
13 me a little bit of idea what that area is like?

14 ROMERO: Okay. Marco -- there's a lot of
15 public use in -- in that area.

16 Marco, can you just call them out?

17 MARCO PEREZ: Public use facilities would be

18 the jail, which is primarily around this area on

19 South Vignes Street, and it lies approximately

20 around here.

21 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. And – and

22 businesses all around that.

23 MARCO PEREZ: There are some businesses along

24 Main Street, right around here.

25 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: And William Meade Homes
0033

01 is where?

02 MARCO PEREZ: William Meade Homes is right next

03 to that business, and it's this whole area right
04 here.

05 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

06 MARCO PEREZ: And down on this side, yeah, you

07 have the MTA, Metrolink station, but it's south of
08 Cesar Chavez.

09 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. You cited some

10 numbers in terms of signatures gathered from the

11 brewery. You stated that there were 300 signatures

12 that were turned in from the brewery area, from the
13 Downtown Neighborhood Council applicant; is that
14 correct?

15 ROMERO: Correct. Correct.

16 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: There was also 500 that
17 they were nonbrewery.

18 ROMERO: They were nonresidents of the brewery
19 area.

20 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Nonresidents, okay.

21 ROMERO: Nonresidents of the brewery area.

22 They would -- were persons who signed a petition
23 that felt that the -- the brewery should be allowed
24 to be with Downtown.

25 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Were these 500
0034

01 signatures part of the overlap with Lincoln
02 Heights?

03 ROMERO: There -- it's -- it's part of the

04 overlap with Lincoln Heights in the sense that it
05 represents people who are not residents of Lincoln
06 Heights, not residents of -- of the brewery, but who
07 are making commentary as to the brewery not being in
08 Lincoln Heights.

09 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: From these 500

10 signatures we were not able to determine how many
11 came from residents or stakeholders in that
12 overlapping area?

13 ROMERO: It's my understanding --

14 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Aside from the brewery
15 piece.

16 ROMERO: Okay. Aside from the brewery piece,
17 no, because they were handed to the department on
18 Thursday.

19 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. In terms of the
20 Historic Neighborhood Council overlap, it seems to
21 me the -- the piece that goes -- I guess that would
22 be that map over there, that goes to the Historical
23 -- is that their boundaries as compromised?

24 That piece right there east of -- no,

25 south of -- south of the freeway, the 101, that
0035

01 includes -- and that's -- that's Little Tokyo,

02 correct?

03 Okay. All right. We have -- you talked

04 about -- I wasn't quite clear. You talked about a
05 membership of 50. I wasn't quite clear whether that

06 was the number of -- on the governing board of the

07 Downtown or the Historic --

08 ROMERO: One of the --

09 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: -- folks.

10 ROMERO: One of the associations that was

11 outreached to was the Little Tokyo Community

12 Council. And the Little Tokyo Community Council

13 represents 50 different organizations in Little

14 Tokyo. A combination of business associations,

15 social service, and resident associations are

16 represented on that body of 50. And it is being

17 used as a cross-section of the sentiment of Little

18 Tokyo.

19 So when we talk about that particular body

20 weighing in on the compromise, that's what we were

21 talking about, that initially Historic Cultural were

22 making presentations to this body about being a part

23 of Historic Cultural.

24 Downtown also made presentations to the

25 body about being part of downtown, and they took a
0036

01 vote and that vote was 15; nine of -- seven against
02 and eight for.

03 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Out of the 50.

04 ROMERO: Out of the 50.

05 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Gotcha. Okay.

06 ROMERO: And we only bring that up as an

07 illustration that it's been very difficult for
08 Little Tokyo to absolutely commit one way or the
09 other. And this idea of allowing them to be part of

10 Historic Cultural but still have seats on the

11 Downtown was a compromise between both groups that
12 they felt they could live with.

13 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. And you -- when

14 you talked about the proxy vote that came from -- I
15 believe the art district?

16 ROMERO: The art district.

17 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. And you cited

18 some bylaws that allow this to happen. Whose bylaws

19 are you talking about?

20 ROMERO: I'm talking about the artist

21 association. And there's a -- it's called LARVA,

22 but I cannot remember what the acronym stands for.

23 I'm sure there will be a speaker here that can

24 address that. But it is an association of artists.

25 They did have a vote as to which place the art
0037

01 district should go, and that vote said Downtown.

02 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: And how many -- I know

03 that you cited the signatures on that. Can you give
04 us this number again?

05 ROMERO: Okay. In the case of the arts

06 district. Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council had
07 collected 60 signatures and the Downtown had
08 collected 79.

09 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

10 ROMERO: One of the things to consider about

11 both groups is there was a real attempt to collect

12 signatures from each of their subpopulations. In

13 the case of Historic Cultural, there was Solano

14 Canyon, there was Chinatown, Little Tokyo, Forgotten

15 Edge, and so they were targetting their signature
16 collection to make sure that they could say that
17 they had sampled each one of their communities.
18 Downtown was doing the same thing in the
19 sense of it, too, has many communities of, you know,
20 Bunker Hill, the --the industrial, the fashion
21 district. And so they were all trying to make sure
22 that they had coverage in each of their districts.
23 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. And the - and
24 the last question that I have is on the Central City
25 East letter that was sent to the Department. There
0038

01 are some boundaries that maybe we can put on a map
02 at some point so that we can see it maybe with the
03 dark marker.

04 One of the questions that I have is, was
05 there any initial dialogue from downtown with this
06 group at any point before or after the new
07 leadership came into being?

08 ROMERO: I believe there was some dialogue with
09 the old leadership. The first letter that we
10 received regarding the new leadership was dated, I
11 believe, April 15th, with a followup letter on the

12 17th -- I have to go back. And Downtown was not
13 able to initiate any dialogue because that was
14 essentially last week.

15 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

16 ROMERO: In -- let me put it this way:
17 Department-facilitated dialogue did not happen
18 between the new group and Downtown, largely because
19 of when we received the notice.

20 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: From the application,
21 how was the -- how did Downtown express their
22 involvement with the homeless population right in
23 the Downtown area? Was it based on the seats that
24 they were going to give the advocates and the social
25 service agencies and (inaudible) talk about?

01 ROMERO: That, and a combination of outreach,
02 as well as allowing -- as well as having residents
03 of the area be a participant on their formation
04 committee and an active participant in the -- the
05 activities of this forming group.

06 They -- they do have monthly meetings,
07 they do have subcommittee meetings. And in terms of
08 their -- their monthly meetings are conducted in a

09 townhall fashion and votes are taken from whoever is
10 there and there --

11 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: That's the Downtown?

12 ROMERO: That's Downtown.

13 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

14 ROMERO: And there have been representatives
15 from the Central City East area present at those meetings.

17 And in their own outreach area --

18 outreach, they have conducted outreach through
19 fliering and some of their -- through -- one of the
20 observations in their application was that there was
21 a lot -- there was some usage of computers through
22 the library by some of the residents in the area and
23 that they did have all of their meeting notices
24 posted on their website.

25 But they also had fliering, and they also

01 involved some of the service agencies in the Central
02 City East area and -- in part of their outreach effort.

04 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. Is there anyone

05 in the steering committee or interim board for -- of
06 the Downtown Neighborhood Council, are there any
07 representatives in that steering committee from that

08 area?

09 ROMERO: Now, that, I'd have to turn to the
10 audience and ask. And I -- I defer that, too.

11 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: They can ask --answer
12 that question when they come up.

13 ROMERO: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER STONE: Any other questions for
16 staff at this point?

17 Okay. Thank you, Romero.

18 What we're now going to do is have each of
19 the applicants make a 10-minute presentation, and
20 then we will have --

21 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: (Inaudible). We're
22 running out of time.

23 COMMISSIONER STONE: After each 10-minute
24 presentation, commission will be able to ask
25 questions of that particular applicant. So -- and
01 then we're going to go to public comment.
02 I have 87 cards for public comment, and I

03 urge the applicants to make their points as briefly
04 as possible, and then we're going to have that same
05 admonition for the public testimony as well.

06 So let's turn this over to the applicant

07 for the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council
08 for presentation.

09 MICHAEL GAGAN: Mr. President, members, my name

10 is Michael Gagan. I have lived and worked Downtown
11 for 15 years.

12 I'm not the chairman of any steering

13 committee because we have, indeed, conducted our

14 meetings on a town hall basis, and it would be a

15 mistake to even refer to me as the chair or with any

16 other highfalutin designation, because we have made

17 decisions on a collegial collaborative basis from

18 the very beginning. We won't have officers until we

19 conduct our elections.

20 But our town hall is, as you will soon

21 find out, very well-represented by persons who can

22 speak quite well for Central City East, the area

23 that we formerly referred to as Skid Row.

24 I want to thank you for this opportunity,

25 Mr. President, members. I also want to thank the

01 staff of DONE. Greg Nelson has been very helpful to
02 us, both before he became your general manager and
03 subsequently. Romero Malvo has been invaluable as
04 day-to-day guide to this labyrinth of a process, and
05 Michelle Quevas, as well, has been tremendously
06 helpful to us.

07 I would like to introduce a few people who

08 -- first of all, I'd like to introduce everyone who
09 is part of Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council
10 process if you wouldn't mind. And I would admonish
11 our people, given the number of speaker cards that
12 you have, if they absolutely insist on speaking,
13 that they turn their two minutes into maybe 30
14 seconds if that's all possible.

15 Specifically, I want to introduce Marie

16 Condrin, who is a small business woman and resident
17 Downtown; Donald Garza, who is a military veteran, a
18 student, and a resident of Downtown east; Orlando
19 Ward who is the development director for the
20 Midnight Mission; Lisa Johnson, who is an officer
21 with Forest City Development and manages a very

22 large apartment complex in South Park; and Ken
23 Smith, who is the leader of the fashion district
24 business improvement district, which is the first of
25 seven BIDs that we have in the Downtown community.

01 And any one of us or all of us will be available to
02 answer any questions that -- that you might have.

03 We very much appreciate your time and
04 attention. We respectfully request your
05 certification.

06 I would say with respect to a significant
07 boundary dispute that Romero referred to relating to
08 the overlap with the brewery and Lincoln Heights
09 Neighborhood Council, we are prepared today to
10 embrace the staff recommendation that the brewery
11 physically be located in Lincoln Heights but that we
12 be authorized to retain in our bylaws representation
13 for two, a resident and a business interest in the
14 brewery, on our governing board. That's the same
15 compromise we have made elsewhere with adjoining
16 areas .

17 With that, let me introduce Marie Condryn.

18 MARIE CONDRIN: Thanks, Michael. Again, my

19 name is Marie Condryn, and I've been kind of helping
20 moderate the outreach for the group. As he said,
21 we've been conducting all of our meetings in town
22 hall style, so at different times different people
23 have been spearheading the committee work, and so
24 it's been a very fluid process and there have been
25 over 300 participating members of the organizing
01 process since our first meeting almost a year ago.
02 Bless you.

03 MICHAEL GAGAN: Thank you.

04 MARIE CONDRIN: The philosophy of our outreach,
05 which has been the most important activity to this
06 entire process that we've conducted over the past
07 year, is just to -- there's a spirit of
08 inclusiveness that permeates all of our activities.
09 Pretty much the whole past year we've spent trying
10 to reach as many people as possible representing as
11 much diversity as possible among the Downtown
12 stakeholders.

13 We have -- all of our activities, we've
14 tried to get as many people to the table as we
15 possible could, and for an area like Downtown, that

16 meant not only bringing the established
17 organizations and businesses and groups that are
18 already organized but, even more importantly, I
19 think, bringing together stakeholders who were not
20 organized, the renters, the seniors, the workers,
21 the low income, and the homeless.

22 And what has been so extraordinary among
23 every monthly meeting we've had has bringing all of
24 these people in one room together, which so many
25 people have commented as being the most diverse

01 group of Downtown inhabitants in one room they have
02 ever seen, and having these people come together and
03 try to form a new group with new leaders that
04 represents a diverse group of stakeholders that have
05 never been in a group together before.

06 So all the meetings that we've had, all

07 the outreach that we've done, included just people
08 going door to door with fliers in multiple
09 languages, handing out fliers, and especially in

10 areas where -- that haven't been represented in the

11 past like Skid Row. We disseminated a couple

12 thousand fliers through the Skid Row housing trust

13 and SRO housing, to every mailbox, to the low income

14 residents of those -- those organizations.

15 We also did a lot of outreach through

16 e-mail. We have a website and an e-mail list.

17 We've done a lot of media relations. We've had the

18 Benefit of public relation specialists for social

19 service providers and --

20 -- not boundaries based on what people

21 came and who wanted to be a part of our group. So

22 we were always continuing with this philosophy of

23 keeping open arms to all the groups in Downtown who

24 wanted to continue participating with our group. We

25 would welcome them as long as they wanted to work

01 with Downtown.

02 I think that's it for the -- for what

03 we've done with outreach. We also had for people

04 who -- I think like 90 percent of our stakeholders

05 that registered had e-mail. But the ones who

06 didn't, we also had a phone list. And so for every

07 meeting, we would call anyone who registered with us

08 to make sure that they all received continuous

09 notices about the meetings.

10 And then Don is also going to speak about

11 outreach.

12 DON GARZA: My name is Don Garza. I'm a
13 resident of Central City East. I will tell you
14 where I live. I live on -- between San Julian
15 Street and San Pedro Street at the Southern Hotel,
16 the SRO hotel. Wonderful hotel. It's like living
17 in a condominium on the -- in the middle of Skid
18 Row, but I live in the heart of Skid Row.
19 When the opportunity -- we had -- the
20 Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council group has
21 been phenomenal. We have worked through so many
22 issues that a lot of people would think would be
23 difficult to get economically diverse people in one
24 room together. I have worked through my own issues
25 as far as my stereotypes of people with wealth.
01 They have fought ardently to make sure on
02 our bylaws that our homeless representative on the
03 board of directors is not going to be voted at large
04 but by the homeless representatives, the homeless
05 themselves.
06 This -- this neighborhood, this group has
07 done a lot. As a matter of fact, I use myself as an
08 example. Skid Row has been isolated for such a long
09 time, and this neighborhood council movement is

10 going to unisolate Skid Row.

11 I am sitting -- I am now a member of city
12 government because of the neighborhood council,
13 because I was able to network with people and talk
14 to people and they knew my stances on things. And I
15 was elected -- it's not a big position, but it's the
16 -- I sit on the city center of redevelopment project
17 area committee. It's a pact for the redevelopment agency.
19 And I believe that this council, given the
20 opportunity to include Skid Row in its boundaries,
21 will -- will empower, allow the residents to be
22 empowered and be able to speak for themselves and
23 participate in government and have a voice in
24 government just like I am doing -- I'm sorry -- just
25 like I am doing right now.

01 So I apologize for the -- and I love you guys.

03 LISA JOHNSON: Good afternoon. Thank you for

04 seeing us today. I'll be real brief and you can
05 pull my card from the list.

06 I'm Lisa Johnson, and I've been involved

07 in the committee since almost its beginning, since
08 before it broke into committees.

09 And one of the really wonderful things
10 about what we've done with Downtown Neighborhood
11 Council is be inclusive. If there's anything I
12 remember through the entire process is that it's
13 been about being inclusive rather than exclusive.
14 We wanted everybody to come to the table
15 without being accused of land grabbing or doing any
16 of these other things. It was really about what
17 does the community want, what do they want from this
18 -- this council in general.

19 So it was -- part of that also had to be
20 diverse in the types of interests that we have in
21 Downtown. Downtown has an incredible diversity, not
22 just in race and ethnicity, but in interests, in the
23 homeless, in business as well as residential
24 interests. So there are many diversities here, not
25 just in race or ethnicity, although those do exist
0049

01 to a great degree as well. So there's a lot of
02 importance in what we're doing here.

03 So our mission was really to be about
04 inclusive, whether it be with the brewery district
05 or whether it be with Skid Row, or even with Little
06 Tokyo. And we really wanted it to be about their
07 decision, about what they wanted for their
08 communities. And that's why we were supporting
09 Little Tokyo in their decision and trying to make
10 these negotiations, because we wanted what their
11 community wanted as their best interest.
12 Skid Row, our outreach there has been
13 tremendous, and you're going to hear a lot about
14 some of the outreach from the people that have
15 really made a difference and hit the pavement and
16 talked to people and done the signatures.
17 And -- and I'm proud to be a part of what
18 they've done. It was really a great thing. Erin
19 and Orlando both have been incredible, and hopefully
20 you'll have an opportunity to hear from them today
21 as well.
22 But I just want to thank you again and
23 hope that you will certify us today. Thank you.
24 KENT SMITH: As Michael said, my name is Kent

25 Smith. I'm the executive director of the fashion
0050

01 district business improvement district in downtown
02 Los Angeles. I also, along with Lisa, co-chaired
03 the boundaries committee.

04 And for us, going through this -- this

05 process of getting to certification, of course,

06 boundary overlaps became something that we really
07 didn't think too much when we sat down initially in
08 our meetings and -- but certainly became a factor as
09 we moved toward certification.

10 And I'm happy to say that the last

11 neighborhood that you just certified, the North Area

12 Neighborhood Council, we had a significant boundary

13 overlap with that council and we were able to,

14 through the help of DONE but also through I think

15 the -- the good faith of both councils, to sort out

16 that boundary conflict.

17 And I think -- I think the Downtown

18 Neighborhood Council recognizes that the adjacent

19 neighborhood councils are going to be very important

20 going forward, and we have to work out our

21 differences in our boundary overlaps if we're going

22 to be successful in the future.

23 And it was with that in mind that we sat

24 down with HCNC to try to deal with the significant

25 boundary overlap we had with the arts district and

01 Little Tokyo.

02 I think the compromise that we've come

03 forward with is maybe a little unique, but I think

04 it solidifies a working relationship that we can

05 have with HCNC going forward through, in our case,

06 having the arts district in our boundaries but have

07 some representatives on HCNC and, in HCNC's case,

08 having -- we'll have some Little Tokyo

09 representatives on our -- on our council.

10 And I think that's going to help us in the

11 future working on a number of issues that are going

12 to be common to both those councils.

13 In the case of the brewery, it's been a

14 very difficult issue because residents in the

15 brewery feel very strongly about their identity to

16 Downtown. And I think in our endorsement of the --

17 of the staff report, I think brewery residents are

18 very much demonstrating their commitment to working

19 with adjacent neighborhood council as well, even
20 though they feel, as I said, very strongly about
21 their connections to -- to Downtown.
22 And you know, I'm hoping that the -- the
23 Board will -- will look on this issue as a -- one
24 that we can continue to -- to work on together. So
25 I'll leave it at that. Thanks.

0052

01 ORLANDO WARD: Good morning. My name is
02 Orlando Ward. I'm with the Midnight Mission. I
03 also sit on the governance committee of the Downtown
04 Neighborhood Council and help crafted the bylaws
05 that are in our application.
06 This morning I want to speak on behalf of
07 the Los Angeles Central Providers Collaborative, an
08 association of social service providers in and
09 around the Skid Row area of Los Angeles, including
10 such organizations as the Los Angeles Mission,
11 Marilyn Foundation, the Midnight Mission, People in
12 Progress, and -- and others.
13 These organizations provide programatic
14 services to over 2700 individuals and provide basic
15 subsistence, advocacy, legal, medical, and various

16 treatment services for homeless. And there are
17 homeless men, women, and children in the Skid Row
18 area.

19 The collaborative is pleased and honored
20 to be a part of the organizing of Skid Row and is
21 grateful to the neighborhood council formation
22 process, which is providing to be a catalyst for
23 inclusion, communication, and community health.

24 The LACPC supports the efforts of all
25 community organizers and endorses the certification
0053

01 of this application for the Downtown Neighborhood

02 Council. We are certain that the impoverished and
03 often fragmented community that we serve will have a
04 strong voice and ability to positively effect change
05 for all stakeholders within the area by active
06 participation in this group.

07 We are particularly encouraged by the fact

08 that six director seats will be held by interests
09 representing our constituents.

10 Thank you.

11 MICHAEL GAGAN: We'll be happy to answer any
12 questions you have.

13 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you very much.

14 Do we have questions from the commission

15 at this time?

16 Commissioner Membreno.

17 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Hi. A couple of things

18 that I wanted to ask on the -- in your opening

19 statements, that you're prepared to embrace the

20 recommendation from the Department regarding the

21 brewery. Now --

22 MICHAEL GAGAN: Regarding the -- the boundary

24 with Lincoln Heights.

25 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay, regarding the
0054

01 boundaries with Lincoln Heights.

02 You speak of the representation of two

03 business -- or two representatives from that

04 particular area to sit on your board.

05 Was this determined as -- on a

06 collaborative effort with Lincoln Heights or -- or

07 is this an opinion that you're making today to -- to

08 bring representatives from Lincoln Heights into your

09 board based on the recommendation from the

10 department?

11 MICHAEL GAGAN: No. This is a compromise

12 reached with the leadership of the Lincoln Heights

13 Neighborhood Council.

14 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: What --

15 MICHAEL GAGAN: It also, by the way, is

16 referred to in your staff report on page 4 as a

17 possible compromise that was suggested earlier on.

18 Unfortunately, the -- that compromise

19 never came to the larger Downtown Los Angeles

20 Neighborhood Council formation group, and it wasn't

21 until the staff report came out late yesterday that

22 several of us saw that language.

23 So this morning we seized on that language

24 and said if this matter is still on the table, it's

25 one that we should consider embracing. And after
0055

01 discussions with residents and businesses of the --
02 the brewery and the two principle brewery people who
03 have been involved in our process, they agreed to

04 that compromise. And then we took that proposal to
05 the leadership of the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood
06 Council, and they embraced it as well.

07 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. And in terms of
08 the -- this representation on your board would mean
09 that it would be exclusive to the brewery or -- or
10 is there anyone in that area of -- on the
11 overlapping area could be part of those two
12 representatives going to your board?

13 MICHAEL GAGAN: It would be any stakeholder in
14 the area that's being excised from our original
15 proposal to you. And as I understand it, that would
16 include the area conventionally known as the brewery
17 as well as the area between the brewery and the Los
18 Angeles River.

19 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. On the outreach
20 to the Central City East Skid Row neighborhood
21 council, or the name given there, can you -- can you
22 speak a little bit about what were some of the
23 concerns that they had and if they were brought to
24 you, other than the leadership that currently exists
25 in your governing board; were there others who came
0056

01 before you with concerns about representation of

02 that area, and what were their concerns?

03 MICHAEL GAGAN: Others –

04 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Others – other

05 residents, other members, other stakeholders of that
06 area.

07 MICHAEL GAGAN: Well, we've had very active

08 stakeholders from that area from the outset. And
09 it's difficult for me to say that perhaps there were

10 other stakeholders who didn't participate in our

11 process, because we did have stakeholders

12 participating.

13 My impression from just looking around the

14 room at several of the people who were very active

15 in our large group as well as in our boundaries

16 committee, our bylaws committee, and our outreach

17 committee, that a very substantial effort was made

18 to outreach.

19 In fact, if I'm not mistaken, over 300 of

20 the signatures of our original 800-plus that were

21 submitted to you are from the Skid Row area.

22 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. In terms of the

23 area that is -- if you could point it out, Marco --

24 just above the -- the freeway which consists --

25 which has the William Meade housing development, can
0057

01 you speak of -- on the outreach that was done to
02 that area, please?

03 MICHAEL GAGAN: I personally cannot.

04 -- who?

05 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Eugenia. Erin or

06 MICHAEL GAGAN: Eugenia? Or Don --

07 DON GARZA: Well, I can speak a little bit

08 about it.

09 MICHAEL GAGAN: Don?

10 DON GARZA: We did do -- we did talk to --

11 there's a number of people that have interest in

12 that area. Unfortunately, it's not -- there's --

13 it's not part of any organized BID area or

14 residents.

15 William Meade residents were leafletted

16 for our meetings. Catellus, who owns Union Station,

17 was -- has been an active participant in Downtown,

18 and there's several other properties in that area
19 that have -- that have had owners and -- and
20 businesses that have participated in the process.

21 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: During the outreach at
22 the William Meade housing developments, did you get
23 a sense of where they feel that they -- do they --
24 they feel part of the -- of Downtown?

25 EUGENIA BUTLER: I could speak to that.

01 DON GARZA: You can got to state your name.

02 EUGENIA BUTLER: We did --

03 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Can you state your
04 name, please, for the record (inaudible)?

05 EUGENIA BUTLER: Sorry. My name is Eugenia

06 Butler, and I'm an artist, an educator, and live in
07 the brewery part of Downtown Neighborhood Council.

08 We did do outreach to William Meade. They
09 expressed an interest in being in part of Downtown.
10 They were unwilling to sign petitions because they
11 were -- they expressed a fear that if they went
12 against their management that they could lose in
13 some way, and they didn't know the position that

14 their management took.

15 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: What was their – what

16 was the position of the management?

17 EUGENIA BUTLER: I don't know. Does anybody

18 know the --

19 We did have -- we did have a management

20 from William Meade as part of the -- in part of --

21 on the issues committee in Downtown. So I would

22 assume that the management was also in -- in -- in

23 favor of Downtown.

24 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. And I had a

25 question in terms of the bylaws. (Inaudible)

01 questions here.

02 You talk -- you mentioned that there is

03 no -- currently you don't have a chairperson or

04 anyone

05 MICHAEL GAGAN: We operate like a – like a

06 Quaker meeting. We take a sense of the group. That

07 will change, of course, when there's a governing

08 board.

09 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. So can you speak

10 a little bit about how is that going to change?

11 MICHAEL GAGAN: Well, the governing board will

12 have the standard list of elected officers:

13 President, vice-president, treasurer, secretary.

14 Yeah, that's it.

15 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. And number of

16 elected directors representing areas,

17 representing --

18 MICHAEL GAGAN: There will be 27 directors.

19 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

20 MICHAEL GAGAN: 11 representing residents,

21 eight representing businesses, three representing

22 social service providers, three representing arts,

23 cultural and educational interests, one at large

24 homeless, one at large tenant, and two at large

25 members of the public and private work force.

01 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. In terms of the

02 -- the chairperson and -- and the executive

03 committee, that is open to everyone to -- to hold

04 that -- those seats, or are they from specific

05 areas?

06 MICHAEL GAGAN: We have a provision where no
07 more than two officers may be from a single interest
08 category or a single geographic category. Our
09 residential representation is broken down by
10 discrete residential group -- neighborhoods within
11 our neighborhood, as are our business
12 representatives.

13 But there's a system of checks and
14 balances with respect to where the officers
15 themselves can come from.

16 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. And there's two
17 -- kind of two-in-one question here.
18 You speak of the brewery area having -- or
19 that area having a representative on your board, or
20 two. How -- and also for the Historical Cultural
21 for the artist for Little Tokyo, correct?

22 So who would -- who would be -- who would
23 be voting for those two representatives? Would it
24 be Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council or would it
25 be the Downtown Neighborhood Council who would vote
0061

01 those two positions, either from the Historical or
02 from the Lincoln Heights?

03 MICHAEL GAGAN: By their representative

04 business areas and residence areas. With respect to
05 the brewery, the area that is excised, or I
06 anticipate that will be excised from the boundaries
07 today that were part of our original boundary
08 proposal to you, those stakeholders will be eligible
09 to select their business representative and their

10 residential representative. The other members of

11 Downtown will not.

12 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: So from the excised

13 area, as you call it, you have one resident and one

14 business?

15 MICHAEL GAGAN: Uh-huh.

16 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: And from the

17 Historical, and I'm sorry, from the Little Tokyo?

18 MICHAEL GAGAN: Little Tokyo, we have one

19 business and one resident.

20 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER STONE: Commissioner Woods Gray.

22 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: A question comes to

23 mind. If these areas -- I guess this is for the

24 city attorney. I assumed it's probably legal. I

25 just have to ask the question.

01 If the brewery is excised from this group

02 and the other groups are not a part of the
03 neighborhood council, they can actually legally have
04 representation in two places, in this neighborhood
05 council and another neighborhood council?

06 MR. MARTINEZ: There wouldn't be -- there

07 wouldn't be any prohibition under the plan for doing

08 so. It may not be advisable, but they're free to go

09 ahead and form whatever type of governing structure

10 that they find suitable for their -- within limits,

11 that they find suitable for their organization.

12 So if they do want to give seats on their

13 board to outside interests, that would be a

14 possibility. And they've also specified on the

15 record how these members are to be chosen, and I

16 assumed that that initial election procedure will

17 also apply to these added members.

18 Correct?

19 MICHAEL GAGAN: They wouldn't be added members,

20 but --

21 MR. MARTINEZ: Or to this –

22 MICHAEL GAGAN: Yes.

23 MR. MARTINEZ: To the –

24 MICHAEL GAGAN: That would be the process used.

25 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: – brewery, brewery

0063

01 and Historic --

02 MICHAEL GAGAN: Yes.

03 MR. MARTINEZ: – members.

04 MICHAEL GAGAN: Uh-huh.

05 MR. MARTINEZ: All right.

06 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: And so from each of

07 these areas you'll have one representative of the
08 business and one of the residents?

09 MICHAEL GAGAN: Correct.

10 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Okay. Now, I have

11 another concern. I was looking at the signature

12 gathering, and I'm concerned about this area that's

13 up near the river.

14 Just across the river from the brewery

15 there's -- a number of people up there but no
16 (inaudible) for signatures whatsoever. And it just
17 raises a concern that it appears that the Downtown
18 area may be isolated from this group of people, and
19 that's just contrary to my belief of neighborhood
20 councils where they really have to all be inclusive
21 of everybody who lives in the neighborhood.

22 And if -- since there are no dots there
23 for a signature collection, what is your plan to
24 outreach to that area to bring those people into
25 your neighborhood council?

01 MICHAEL GAGAN: My understanding is that your
02 package should include letters from a number of
03 people in that area.

04 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: When you say a
05 number, how many is that? 'Cause it's about, what,
06 a number of thousands of people that live up there.
07 MICHAEL GAGAN: 57, I understand.

08 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Can you -- I'm sorry,
09 Marco. Can you point out the area that Commissioner
10 Woods Gray is talking about?

11 ROMERO: It's the --

12 MARCO PEREZ: Are you referring to this area
13 here?

14 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Yes, that's the area
15 on my -- I see no -- no -- there is not one dot up
16 there anyplace. Yet you skipped over to the brewery
17 and there are lots of dots.

18 DON LEVY: (Inaudible).

19 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Could you use the
20 mike, please?

21 DON LEVY: My name is Don Levy, and I'm in the
22 brewery. And this map may be helpful to you. It is
23 essentially the same map but it's more clear.

24 This is the Downtown Neighborhood

25 Council. This is the disputed area. These are the

01 railroad yards. These dots, three hundred -- 257
02 here and 57 --

03 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: But that's not the
04 area that I'm concerned about.

05 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: (Inaudible).

06 DON LEVY: So which area are we referring to?

07 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I'm concerned to the
08 area that's to the left, right there where Marco
09 (inaudible).

10 DON LEVY: The Lincoln Meade -- I mean the --

11 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: The William Meade.

12 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Yes.

13 DON LEVY: The William Meade.

14 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Correct.

15 DON LEVY: I personally know the outreach
16 there.

17 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: But there are no
18 signature collections on the maps that we have.

19 DON LEVY: Right. They were afraid to sign
20 because they told us that they have had instances
21 where people were told to be evicted for signing
22 documentation. They are in a public housing area
23 and they -- rightly or wrongly, they were afraid to
24 sign anything.

25 So that's where we were left. But we made
0066

01 several outreach calls there, went door to door and
02 so forth.

03 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Approximately how

04 many people did you actually talk to who were
05 interested in neighborhood council?

06 DON LEVY: About 15, 20. The -- you know, the

07 -- the consensus of those people was yes, we would
08 like to participate but no, we can't sign anything.
09 And we understood that. We understood their

10 position.

11 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: But now you do have

12 approximately 57 letters from people in that area?

13 DON LEVY: The 57 I was referring to are the 57

14 -

15 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Oh, that was from the

16 brewery?

17 DON LEVY: -- from the business district.

18 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Oh, no. I was mostly

19 concerned about the other area because that area,

20 according to the maps I have, represents a high

21 Latino, African-American community, and those are

22 the communities that we also want to empower.

23 Just as I stated for the north area that
24 we just approved, it's very important to empower
25 people who seem as if they have no power. And these
0067

01 are two groups of people that I consistently worry
02 about.

03 I'm concerned about their involvement in
04 neighborhood councils, and there just seems to be no
05 evidence there and it's very difficult for me to
06 believe that people who are not empowered in any
07 way, and especially just the representation in the
08 -- that community, someone wouldn't have signed.

09 ROMERO: Mr. President.

10 MICHAEL GAGAN: I -- if you're interested, I
11 understand we do have a person who has property in
12 that area in attendance.

13 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: No, I'm actually
14 interested in the tenants. Because if that's a
15 tenant area where people live, that's what I'm

16 interested in. Who are the people in the community?

17 MICHAEL GAGAN: Well, if you could --

18 COMMISSIONER STONE: I'd like to ask the

19 audience to please refrain from a demonstration.

20 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: If there are any

21 neighbors from that, tenants who live in that

22 community, whatever that community is there, I mean,

23 I would certainly like to hear from them.

24 MICHAEL GAGAN: Certainly. Our outreach

25 efforts, as specified in our application, are

0068

01 intended to be as aggressive as -- we -- obviously,

02 we have the five locations where our meetings are

03 posted. But quite beyond that, we have -- we -- we

04 understand that we have some logistical realities

05 about Downtown that represent challenges to us from

06 an outreach standpoint. And the area you mentioned

07 probably is the best example of that.

08 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Oh, you raised a good

09 question. Did any of them sign -- attend your

10 meetings and sign your sign-in sheets?

11 MICHAEL GAGAN: We had people from William --

12 William Meade?

13 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Yes.

14 MICHAEL GAGAN: Yes, we did, uh-huh.

15 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Okay.

16 COMMISSIONER STONE: I'd like to recognize

17 Commissioner Membreno for, I believe, some
18 clarification.

19 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: In that area, obviously
20 the William Meade is -- there's significant numbers
21 in that area. But not only do they have significant
22 numbers of the housngs and development, but there's
23 also significant numbers of folks out in those -- in
24 that particular area.

25 But since you mention that there was a
0069

01 challenge for you in some areas to outreach, can I
02 ask you why did your boundaries not stop at the
03 freeway, and do they extend because you had an
04 interest in going in the overlapping area?

05 MICHAEL GAGAN: Let me defer to our boundaries
06 people.

07 UNIDENTIFIED DLANC SPEAKER: You know, as we
08 mentioned at the outset, boundaries were not our --
09 our first focus. When we held our stakeholder
10 meetings we asked people that were interested in
11 forming a downtown neighborhood council, without
12 putting lines on maps, to attend meetings.

13 And we did get a number of property owners
14 and some residents in that area attending meetings,
15 as we did from -- as we mentioned earlier, from the
16 brewery. And so that area was really
17 self-selected. Outreach was done subsequent to our

18 original meeting where we had over 300 people, and
19 then we -- we worked with that.

20 But as Michael mentioned, it's a large
21 area. There's -- there's a variety of residential
22 projects. There's many businesses. There's
23 literally 5,000 businesses within my own business
24 improvement district, not to mention the 550
25 property owners, the 45,000 residents.

0070

01 We may -- we may not have got every person
02 out to a meeting, but we certainly did use our best
03 efforts and we'll continue to use our best efforts
04 to bring whoever wants to have a voice at our
05 council, to give them that voice.

06 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Can -- can I ask a
07 question from staff? I don't know who rep- -- who's

08 the person for that area, but was there any outreach
09 from the department done, from DONE --

10 ROMERO: DONE?

11 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: -- in that area to let
12 folks know about neighborhood councils at any
13 point? Were there any general meetings where
14 information was given out in that area?

15 ROMERO: In terms -- okay. I'm going to defer
16 -- two different things. I'm going to defer to
17 Marco on the most recent past.

18 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

19 MARCO PEREZ: Michael Perez, project
20 coordinator for DONE.

21 You're referring to the area east -- west
22 of the L.A. River, correct?

23 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Correct.

24 MARCO PEREZ: Whether there was outreach from

25 DONE conducted there. Yes, there has been
0071

01 outreach. Information has been disseminated within
02 that area. And also, members from the William Meade
03 Homes public housing community have been contacted,
04 including management folks for the housing authority

05 of the city of Los Angeles.

06 Of course, several other members like the

07 business community has also been contacted along
08 Main Street, which primarily houses most of the
09 businesses in that area, as well as the residential
10 area.

11 However, the other areas which are a

12 little bit further in towards the middle, it's

13 primarily like the public facilities like the Twin

14 Towers, the county jail which is housed in there.

15 Around that area there isn't too much business other

16 than, you know, bail bonds. And that's about it,

17 bail bond agencies. That's about it.

18 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER STONE: If we don't have any

20 further questions from the commission, I'd like to

21 thank the applicant for their presentation and we'd

22 like to call up now the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood

23 Council for their presentation.

24 MICHAEL GAGAN: Thank you very much.

25 COMMISSIONER STONE: And if we can keep that
0072

01 to 10 minutes as possible -- as close to 10 minutes
02 as possible, we would appreciate it.

03 OSCAR GARCIA: It's okay? Is it okay to dim

04 the lights a little bit just to -- because we have a
05 Power Point presentation, or is it a --

06 COMMISSIONER STONE: Why don't you go ahead and

07 start. We'll have staff -- there we go.

08 OSCAR GARCIA: Okay. First of all, I want to

09 thank Mr. President, commissioners and also the DONE

10 representatives, of course Mr. Nelson's office, on

11 doing an exceptional job of helping us get prepared

12 for this event and also for our outreach that we've

13 been doing.

14 We want to commend Marco Perez and also

15 Betty Oyama for -- for helping us get ourselves

16 together, organized, and improve our outreach

17 capabilities.

18 We want to welcome you all. This is

19 Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council. I would just

20 like all the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

21 representatives, if they would just please stand.
22 I'd like to thank all of you for taking
23 your time out today for -- for spending the evening
24 with us. Hopefully it doesn't turn too much into
25 the evening. We'll try to speed it along pretty
0073

01 quick.

02 **Lincoln Heights** Neighborhood Council

03 certification presentation: Neighborhood. Friendly
04 relations as of neighbors, neighborliness, the state
05 of or quality of being neighbors. These are some of
06 the characteristics of **Lincoln Heights**.

07 Our history of **Lincoln Heights**: As you

08 can see, **Lincoln Heights** has many ingenuitive ways
09 to market. We have beautiful Victorian homes. We

10 have one of the oldest chamber of commerces and, of
11 course, we're bounded by the beautiful Los Angeles
12 River.

13 **Lincoln Heights** is also home to the first

14 zoo in Los Angeles, as you can see by the picture.

15 We also had the first alligator farm. In fact, the

16 little boy right above the alligator is Mr. Manly.

17 Mr. Manly was five years old at the time, a little

18 bit scared but of course there are bands around the
19 Alligator's mouth, and he sent this picture in to
20 Us. And he is also one of our neighborhood council
21 representatives.

22 **Lincoln Heights**, back in the turn of the
23 Century, it started back in 1873 when it was
24 subdivided with 200 residents taking place, living
25 there. And part of our tourist attractions were of
0074

01 course the Indian Village, the Legion Ascott
02 Speedway, and of course the **Lincoln Park**
03 rollerskating rink.

04 We have one of the most beautiful views,
05 as we have our Los Angeles River, we are surrounded
06 also by mountains or hills, and we have 360 degrees
07 views of the entire area. This is just one half of
08 them.

09 We're also home to the beautiful
10 Los Angeles Times Boys Club, one of the original
11 fixtures in **Lincoln Heights**. We also have one of
12 the oldest high schools, **Abraham Lincoln High**
13 **School**. That was the original high school built on

14 top of the hill, and you're looking at North
15 Broadway and Lincoln Park Avenue there.
16 Other historical facts: Lincoln Heights
17 was known to have the first movies -- movie studio,
18 Sellick Studio. It was also the home of Laurel and
19 Hardy in their early days. Lincoln Heights Engine
20 Company Number One and of course the Lincoln Heights
21 chamber of commerce, which is one of the oldest
22 established chamber of commerces.
23 And how did we come to be? 15 community
24 members, diverse community members, got together on
25 January 15th, 2001, at Lincoln Heights public
0075
01 library basement for the purpose to empower our
02 community.
03 Our Mission: Our mission, to organize
04 stakeholders in Lincoln Heights and empower them to
05 bring about change in our community, to grapple with
06 issues that are critical to our neighborhood, and to
07 give our community members a strong voice in city
08 government.
09 What has the neighborhood council done so

10 far? We established beautification and cleanup
11 campaigns. We have held neighborhood Christmas tree
12 lightings, which never have took place before. We
13 authorized through our target neighborhood
14 initiative dollars for home improvement grants.
15 We had an Easter egg hunt with over 600
16 children, and we have community information booths
17 at our sidewalk sales and at all our public events.
18 Our boundaries -- these are our proposed
19 boundaries that we submitted with our seven
20 subareas. You can see those are the different
21 subareas that we have divided Lincoln Heights into
22 to ensure direct representation.
23 Our rationale for proposed boundaries are

24 historical, geographic, political, and
25 governmental.

0076

01 The historical justification: The
02 community of Lincoln Heights has been in existence
03 for over 129 years. Lincoln Heights has had

04 consistent boundaries from 1873 to the present. And
05 it was also the first suburb of Los Angeles.

06 As you can see by this map. East --

07 **Lincoln Heights** was also known as East Los Angeles,
08 the first East Los Angeles area, and you can see
09 already the first -- by 1873 the railroad was coming

10 through, we're still bounded by the Los Angeles

11 River. Once again, 1888, still bounded by the Los

12 Angeles River. 1894, same Los Angeles River. But

13 it seems to continue expanding. As we continue to

14 grow, we became our population of 32,134.

15 And I'm going to turn the rest of this

16 presentation of our geographical boundaries to Mike

17 Diaz.

18 MICHAEL DIAZ: Thank you, Oscar.

19 My name is Michael Diaz, resident of

20 **Lincoln Heights** and the founder of the **Lincoln**

21 **Heights** Neighborhood Preservation Association.

22 When we established our neighborhood

23 council boundaries we kept in mind to be compact and

24 contiguous. The western boundary, of course, as you

25 see, we used the Los Angeles River. And we

0077

01 continued all the way north, heading up the river
02 where it gets to the Pasadena Freeway and the Arroyo
03 Seco River.

04 We went up to Avenue 35, and we cross all
05 the way over and we head into the Rose Hills area,
06 come down Mercury. It kind of loops around there.

07 There's a strange little loop there. But we go down
08 Soto, getting all the way down to Marengo. We head
09 back up, and then we get back to Cesar Chavez and
10 the -- and the river.

11 And that essentially is our -- our
12 neighborhood, what we're considering our **Lincoln**
13 **Heights** Neighborhood Council area.

14 The political geographical rationale: The
15 police department, fire department, the school
16 district, council district, and the Northeast
17 planning departments. This area shows what -- the
18 area that is covered by the Hollenbeck police
19 station.

20 Just that general area there, that Central
21 area that you're looking at is the entire **Lincoln**

22 Heights neighborhood. It also includes, if you go
23 up to the -- where it says "basic car," kind of
24 right there, that's the Montecito Heights. If you
25 go over to the right, that 4-A-9, is that what that

0078

01 is, we're heading down into El Sereno. Down in the
02 lower bottom part you're in the Boyle Heights area.
03 But if you go -- bring your arrow back

04 there a little bit the further up, higher up, right
05 around there, that -- according to I think the map,
06 that must be the river, and so if we go a little bit
07 to the right you're heading into that whole disputed
08 area with the Downtown Neighborhood Council.

09 We're now into the fire department area,
10 and I'm -- we're showing you only the lower half the
11 boundaries. The fire department also services all
12 of Lincoln Heights, most of that area that you just
13 saw. And again, the fire department services that
14 disputed area with Downtown. The brewery complex is
15 in that general vicinity.

16 The LAUSD: Lincoln Heights is in the
17 family of schools which is called District F,

18 Subject -- yes. And -- the next one. All of the
19 schools that are in this Lincoln family of schools
20 are the ones that you see listed there, and it
21 includes Albion, which is across -- sort of across
22 the street from the brewery area. Anyone -- any
23 child attending -- or living in the brewery would
24 belong to the Lincoln family of schools.

25 Ann Street school, the second one, if you
0079

01 just (inaudible), also belongs to the Lincoln family
02 of schools. And that's in the William Meade Housing
03 homes.

04 This next map, the next map then again

05 also shows what all of District One, the Council
06 District One includes, most of -- well, all of
07 Lincoln Heights, actually, plus other communities.

08 The proposed extended boundaries are going to be for
09 District One to also include the brewery.

10 The Planning Department map, the Northeast

11 plan -- of which I was a member, by the way, of the
12 community plan. I was on the CPAC -- includes all
13 of these zip codes. And the brewery is in the 90031
14 zip code.

15 The generalized land use. Tell me, what

16 was I going to do with this map? I forget.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

18 MICHAEL DIAZ: This is the -- from the

19 community plan? Yeah, right. And the Northeast

20 community plan.

21 We had various boundary issues, and those

22 are all of the issues that were resolved or shared

23 with all the other neighborhood councils, from the

24 Arroyo Seco down to the Historic Cultural. The only

25 one that we did not reach any conclusion with is the
0080

01 Downtown Neighborhood Council.

02 And shared boundaries: Some of the shared

03 boundaries there, you see the two green spots. We

04 have Hazard Park and Lincoln Park. We're going to

05 share those public space, those public parks with

06 the greater valley. We're also sharing the County

07 USC Medical Center.

08 And up on the upper part -- and those

09 negotiate -- we just had negotiations last night

10 with the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council, and we're

11 -- Oscar would know more specifics about the areas
12 that we're sharing with them, public spaces.
13 The disputed boundary, of course, is on
14 the -- on the extreme left is the river, and so what
15 happened is the -- the Downtown Neighborhood Council
16 jumped across the river on Main Street going all the
17 way to Daly, down to Daly, back down to Mission,
18 they loop back around to Cesar Chavez and back up,
19 claiming of course, claiming that that's part of
20 downtown.

21 And we claim that it's -- following all
22 the historical and all the facts that I just gave
23 you, that that's **Lincoln Heights** and not Downtown.

24 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

25 RAY KOVORUBIUS: Hi. Name is Ray Koranubius,
0081

01 and we have a family business in the area of **Lincoln**
02 **Heights**. I'm here to talk about the 9demographics
03 of the neighborhood.

04 The following summaries are approximate

05 figures taken from the U.S. 2000 census tracts and
0 6 blocks.

07 Businesses. The total number of
08 businesses in Lincoln Heights in 482. Total number
09 of employees is 10,374. As you can see by the chart
10 there, we are made up mainly of small businesses.

11 The population of Lincoln Heights has a
12 total of 32,134 people. Total households in the
13 areas is 8,291. Total families in the area 6,668,
14 leaving that we are made up of 75 percent renters
15 and 25 percent homeowners in the area.

16 The age structure in the community is --
17 the majority of the population is 19 and under. So
18 we have a -- we're made up of a young -- young group
19 in -- in the community of Lincoln Heights.

20 The household income shows the majority is
21 15,000 to 34,000 dollars in the community. The
22 ethnicity in the community shows that we are
23 basically a Latino population, and right behind us
24 is the Asian population.

25 This map shows the concentration of the
0082

01 Latino population, with the dark red being a real

02 gathering of Latino populations in the area. The
03 blue shows a concentration of the Asian population.

04 with the darkest blue being the heaviest
05 concentration of people.

06 The diverse makeup of **Lincoln Heights**

07 Neighborhood Council steering committee goes as 20
08 Latinos, nine whites, five Asians, two
09 African-Americans, two Greeks, and one Armenian.

10 These are the affiliations of the steering committee
11 members. As you can see, we have quite a few.

12 These are our outreach fliers. We made
13 English and Spanish, bilingual, and I'll be showing
14 you other samples of fliers that we outreach. And
15 this is our trilingual flier that we outreached with
16 the Asians.

17 And that's our outreach. Thank you.

18 CICIly YBARRA: Okay. And we sponsored a few
19 community events that we also consider outreach.

20 And my name is Cicily Ybarra. Thanks.

21 I'm going to talk for a couple minutes
22 about the community events we sponsored, including

23 the Christmas tree lighting in December -- I think
24 we discussed it -- and different businesses hosted
25 -- helped us host it and Santa was there and he gave
0083

01 us presents.

02 And -- and we also recently had an Easter

03 egg hunt at Lincoln Park, and about 600 kids
04 attended. And the Easter bunny was there and they
05 got pictures. And all these events happen, but we
06 also had just information sharing about being part
07 of the neighborhood council and we were pretty clear
08 about saying that we helped put on the events and if
09 people are interested that they could get

10 information about us.

11 And also, we collected signatures to

12 support the Metro Gold Line, formerly called the

13 Blue Line, for it to include a stop in Lincoln

14 Heights because there was consideration about it not
15 stopping in the neighborhood.

16 And we also have monthly neighborhood

17 cleanups with different people from the community,

18 including the high school student volunteers. You

19 guys see yourselves?

20 And also, there's a quarterly sidewalk

21 sale in Lincoln Heights where just different
22 businesses set up booths, and we had a booth there
23 where people could stop by and find out about
24 becoming involved with the council.

25 And also, outside churches and outside
0084

01 various, just community centers, we have set up
02 information outreach, setting up bilingual fliers
03 and just answering people's questions inviting them
04 to come to meetings.

05 And we've had bimonthly, twice a month

06 steering committee meetings, which is basically just
07 our meetings, and we've been having them since
08 January 15th, 2001, with an average of attendance,

09 it says if they're about 30 people. And we've had
10 two town hall meetings with people coming, just
11 invited in -- in general, just being invited to
12 share their opinions.

13 And we also have gotten verbal and some
14 letters of support from community-based
15 organizations. We kind of divide them up into
16 categories for you to look at more easily. These're

17 more business-oriented, like the chamber of
18 commerce. These are rec centers like parks, and
19 these are churches and youth groups and also schools
20 related to those youth groups, and these are LAUSD
21 schools in the areas, and other organizations that
22 didn't really have an easy categorization.

23 And with our original application in
24 January we submitted 353 signatures from just
25 throughout the Lincoln Heights area. That includes
0085

01 14 from within the overlapping area and greater
02 Valley Boulevard that we share, and also 66
03 signatures from the brewery complex. That was in
04 January of this year.

05 And out of those signatures, that's the
06 ethnic breakdown. You can see it pretty closely
07 mirrors the demographic breakdown of Lincoln Heights
08 in general.

09 And Meg right now is going to talk about
10 the bylaws. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER STONE: And to be fair to the
12 previous group, if we can try to wrap things up in a

13 few minutes, that'd be great.

14 MEG BARCLAY: All right. Hi. My name is Meg

15 Barclay. I'm going to be talking to you about our

16 bylaws.

17 Our proposed board structure will -- our

18 board will be come comprised of 25 stakeholder

19 members with -- as stakeholders are defined in our

20 -- in our bylaws. We will have two representatives

21 from each of our seven subareas -- one of those

22 representatives must be a resident -- for a total of

23 14 subareas representatives.

24 There will be three representatives from

25 the business population, business community in our
0086

01 neighborhood, three representatives from
02 neighborhood community-based organizations, for lack
03 of a better term, organizations that are involved in
04 other activities in **Lincoln Heights** not classified
05 as business, and one representative from the **Lincoln**
06 **Heights** youth population since we do have such a
07 large youth contingency. There will also be four

08 executive officers: A president, vice-president,

09 and secretary and treasurer.

10 Our election process will start with
11 outreach. We hope to do a widespread outreach
12 informing people that neighborhood council has been
13 certified in their area and then we'll be accepting
14 nominations. And once a nomination slate has been
15 determined, people will be notified of that and the
16 election date and time and place.

17 At the election we hope to have a
18 third-party oversight. Stakeholders will
19 self-identify themselves as stakeholders in the
20 neighborhood according to our bylaws. We will have
21 the election. People will -- or nominees will get
22 two minutes to talk about their -- why they should
23 be elected, and then we'll have the election, votes
24 will be tallied, the community will be notified of
25 the results, and officers will be installed.

0087

01 George can tell you, he's going to talk
02 about financial accountability.

03 GEORGE PANTEZ: My name is George Pantez. I'm

04 the treasurer, and my speech will be as long as the
05 money we got in our checking account. So this is --
06 this is in front of you. If there's any questions,
07 you can ask us.

08 And for the saving of time, I think I'm
09 done. I think that's one more. Go to the next
10 one. We have also set up a system for the dispersal
11 of funds so it will be blameproof, and we're using
12 general GAP accounting principles, and we'll have
13 fund accounts which are general to accounting
14 principles.

15 Any more questions. I'll be available for
16 them. Thank you.

17 ALICE CORONA: Good afternoon, already. My
18 name is Alice Corona and I am here to speak about
19 future events.

20 One of our future events that we are
21 planning to do is -- okay. On newspaper ads, we are
22 creating a hotline. Again we will be doing the
23 Christmas tree, being so successful last year,
24 having about 300 kids that were able to take

25 pictures with Santa, taking them home with them. We
0088

01 provided them with a meal, hot cocoa. Some of our
02 carolers were there to sing from the local schools,
03 et cetera.

04 We will continue to do our neighborhood

05 cleanups. We had launched it last year by Mayor
06 Hahn's help, and the Lincoln Heights community has
07 continued to do it on a monthly basis and we've been
08 very successful.

09 We are creating a street carnival

10 hopefully this summer. Of course, all of you guys

11 will be invited. We have the farmer's market. We

12 will also have the community fair, the parade, and

13 the health fair.

14 We have -- future projects will continue.

15 We will have town hall meetings. We will continue

16 with the community design overlay, community block

17 policy. The beautification project will continue.

18 One of our biggest events right now is

19 Mother's Day. We have asked all the local schools

20 to participate in an essay that the children will be

21 providing to us, and we will be having the first
22 Mother's Day brunch in **Lincoln Heights**. We will
23 award the Mother of the Year. We will be covered in
24 three TV stations, and everyone is welcome to come.

25 We will also be creating the Cinco de Mayo
0089

01 festival and the Chinese New Year.

02 One thing that I forgot to mention as far

03 as the events that we have created from the
04 neighborhood council is that all of this has been
05 completely free to all of our community members.

06 Thank you.

07 OSCAR GARCIA: That concludes our

08 presentation.

09 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you very much.

10 Maybe we can get the lights back on, staff. Thank
11 you.

12 And I'll ask my fellow commissioners if we
13 have any questions right now for the applicant.

14 COMMISSIONER STONE: Commissioner Woods Gray.

15 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Someone said that –

16 let me see -- 33 -- oh, something about the board of

17 directors that looked contrary to the -- oh, in the
18 bylaws that I have it said 25 -- 33 members would be
19 elected to the board of directors. Someone said 25?

20 OSCAR GARCIA: Yes, it's 25. We amended the
21 bylaws.

22 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: So bylaws are -- you
23 amended it? You changed it recently?

24 OSCAR GARCIA: We amended the bylaws to -- to
25 reflect the 25.

0090

01 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Okay. I just got
02 these last night very late but --

03 OSCAR GARCIA: Okay. I don't -- I don't know
04 what paper you have, but we show 25.

05 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: It says 425 -- oh, am
06 I in the wrong place? Is this -- this is Historic,
07 right? This is **Lincoln Heights**. I'm in the
08 wrong

09 Excuse me. I'm in the wrong bylaws.

10 OSCAR GARCIA: Okay.

11 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: We have three sets of

12 bylaws in front of us, so --

13 OSCAR GARCIA: That's okay. We understand.

14 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I apologize. I

15 received mine by accident at nine o'clock last

16 night, which was almost my bedtime.

17 I have -- I don't have any other

18 questions.

19 COMMISSIONER STONE: Commissioner Membreno?

20 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: I'm sorry, just

21 briefly, can you comment on the representation of

22 the 19-and-under population, how is -- how they are

23 going to be represented in your governing board?

24 OSCAR GARCIA: Well, they will actually have a

25 voice. They will be an actual stakeholder, a member
0091

01 of the board, that youth representative voted at

02 large for that youth, as long as they were over 14

03 years and over, and they would have a voting right.

04 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. And the

05 representation of businesses, I take it, is pretty

06 large in your -- the -- just in terms of the

07 participation in the neighborhood council, just

08 based on the information that you gave in your
09 presentation, it seems like you have a number of
10 business.

11 Do you have any idea how many businesses
12 have been supporting the neighborhood council, your
13 neighborhood council?

14 OSCAR GARCIA: Well, it's -- again, in taking a
15 look at the chamber of commerce, of course we have
16 the strong support of the businesses. I wouldn't
17 say the majority of our membership are the
18 stakeholders, the steering committee, were the
19 majority.

20 Actually, we try to break it down
21 specifically by allowing in each of the seven
22 districts to have one resident, be -- to actually be
23 on a board member, and then the other member as for
24 the two individual districts to have -- to be either
25 a CBO or a business representative or a resident.
0092

01 So depending on how that little district is divided
02 up.

03 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Thank you.

04 OSCAR GARCIA: You know, we wanted -- we wanted

05 to make a quick comment -- do you guys want to talk
06 about this issue?

07 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No. Let me clarify

08 that, yes.

09 OSCAR GARCIA: Okay.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think maybe if I could

11 expand on your question. It seems that the majority

12 of the businesses that are in the Lincoln Heights

13 have -- well, we've made outreach to them and they

14 are certainly supporting the Lincoln Heights

15 Neighborhood Council, including the businesses along

16 Main Street, the winery, Gibbs Electric, which is an

17 important business there. And we have a letter, a

18 very strong letter from Gibbs Electric supporting

19 participation in this neighborhood council.

20 So I would say that overall, 90, if not a

21 hundred percent of the businesses within Lincoln

22 Heights, are participating, have indicated they want

23 to participate in the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood
24 Council.

25 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. And I believe
0093

01 that there was a question earlier in the Downtown
02 presentation regarding the two representatives from
03 that -- from the contested area. And then
04 (inaudible) --

05 OSCAR GARCIA: That would --

06 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: -- certified by you, by
07 your

08 OSCAR GARCIA: Well, that was -- that was a
09 quick question that we had. We were under -- when
10 we met this morning and they asked us about
11 supporting that, initially it seemed something very
12 positive for us.

13 However, there was no clarification to
14 what those stakeholders were. We thought that they
15 were just turning over the brewery to us, that was a
16 clarification that we had, and they would just have
17 their -- how they would assign the representatives,
18 et cetera, was -- was something that we weren't --

19 that they weren't too clear on.

20 Getting a little more clarification now,

21 it becomes a little interesting in the sense that we

22 have to sort of work that out. But from this point

23 on, we feel that the stakeholders there in the

24 brewery would have a voice in the Lincoln Heights

25 Neighborhood Council, and we would be concerned if
0094

01 we were going to take away some of that -- some of
02 those voices there.

03 And Mike would like to talk some more

04 about that.

05 MICHAEL DIAZ: And I'll elaborate also.

06 We had a -- well, first of all, we had

07 about five to seven meetings in trying to resolve

08 this issue with the Downtown Neighborhood Council,

09 and each time we would end up with those two people

10 from the brewery who were wanting to have the

11 complex there.

12 But at one of the meetings this proposal

13 was made to us. And we took it back to our group

14 and the group voted -- the Lincoln Heights group

15 voted that this was not acceptable, that we did not

16 want to have two representatives of the brewery

17 sitting on the Downtown Neighborhood Council.

18 So there is nothing in writing at this

19 point to say that we agreed to that as the gentleman

20 who was up here earlier said had been.

21 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I had a concern about

23 -- I think I heard you say that Ann Street school is

24 a part of the Lincoln family of schools, but the

25 students from William Meade attend -- go to the Ann
0095

01 Street?

02 OSCAR GARCIA: They go to Ann Street Elementary

03 School. In fact, we did significant outreach in

04 that area. And we were thinking that -- we were

05 approached by DONE or led to believe by DONE that it

06 might be an orphan area, so we went out there and we

07 actually outreached. We held a community meeting.

08 In fact, when I went door to door there

09 they told me there was no other outreach there. And

10 I also went to the housing authority, and we were
11 supposed to have a few of their representatives here
12 to testify on that.

13 We -- we came at a -- we had a meeting at
14 the Ann Street Elementary School with parents and
15 youth, and we -- in fact, in two weeks we're going
16 back because there's a severe crises going on in the
17 William Meade homes. There's a lack of parking and
18 everybody is being ticketed, including the teachers.
19 So they are very, very hungry for support.

20 Naturally, since most of the students also
21 take off and go to our middle school. Nightingale
22 Middle School, and they also attend our high school,
23 it seems like a good fit for us to work out
24 something with William Meade in that -- in that
25 area.

0096

01 In fact, we had made arrangements with the
02 Historical Cultural Neighborhood Council that we
03 would go up to Vignes, and -- and incorporate the
04 William Meade in our boundaries. That is something
05 that we would still like to do. We'd like to

06 incorporate that area as part of Lincoln Heights.

07 Because of the outreach and since I -- I

08 -- seems like there has been no other outreach

09 there, we'd like to take on those people as they're

10 desiring a strong voice and we think we can fill

11 that.

12 COMMISSIONER STONE: So just to -- just to

13 clarify on that point then, you're talking about the

14 area west of the river but northeast of Vignes?

15 OSCAR GARCIA: Correct. We would stay on the

16 Main -- Main Street side. Historical Cultural had

17 agreed to be north of Main Street. We would be

18 south of Main Street so that we can Incorporate the

19 William Meade housing units.

20 And we would take them all the way up to

21 Vignes, including the jails, and then just go all

22 the way down, back to Cesar Chavez and back up to --

23 to our river area.

24 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Marco, hate to keep

25 having you redraw the maps, but can you just kind of
0097

01 put that in for us, please? It just becomes
02 clearer.

03 MARCO PEREZ: The area that was just mentioned

04 follows Main Street to Vignes Street, then it comes
05 around to Cesar Chavez, back to the L.A. River.

06 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So that excludes Union
07 Station.

08 MARCO PEREZ: Excuse me?

09 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: What is that part
10 that's left out of that area?

11 MARCO PEREZ: Well, this area is part of the
12 Historical Cultural Neighborhood Council --
13 -- Cesar Chavez to the L.A. River. It
14 comes back up.

15 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: That excludes the jail?

16 MARCO PEREZ: No, it would include the jail.

17 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: It would include the
18 jail?

19 MARCO PEREZ: And -- and the jail, I believe,
20 houses about 4,000 people, at -- approximately.

21 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Stakeholders? Okay.

22 MARCO PEREZ: Yes, they are.

23 ROMERO: They're in the (inaudible).

24 OSCAR GARCIA: When we did the demographics in

25 that area we also noticed that the Latino
0098

01 concentration, of course included the jail, but it
02 heavily in --

03 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) tell the
04 truth.

05 OSCAR GARCIA: I didn't mean of course. I

06 apologize. It also included the William Meade
07 homes, which is heavily Latino. And -- and it met
08 the same type of demographics as Lincoln Heights.

09 In fact, if we would take on the William

10 Meade homes we would be at -- our population count

11 would be up 42,000, our Hispanic -- Hispanic

12 population would be at about 68 percent, Asian would

13 decrease to 18 percent. And our -- our

14 demographics, the black representation would

15 increase to five percent.

16 COMMISSIONER STONE: I'd like to thank the

17 applicants very much for their presentation, and we
18 don't have any more questions right now as a
19 commission, reserving always the right to ask

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questions.

MR. MARTINEZ: Darren Martinez, deputy city attorney. Just one -- some advice both to the commission as well as the department.

I noticed in the report that it was mentioning some type of shared area with the Greater Valley Neighborhood Council.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Yes.

MR. MARTINEZ: My understanding is this hasn't been certified, correct, greater Valley is not certified.

COMMISSIONER STONE: No.

MR. MARTINEZ: So what I would recommend or advise the commission is to obtain the applicant's consent to amend or deem their bylaws reflected that their boundaries really just outline the area that they have. There's not a shared boundary issue at this point in time until we're presented with the Greater Valley Neighborhood Council.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Does that include the -- does that include --

COMMISSIONER STONE: What we're sharing is public space. Is that still --

MR. MARTINEZ: It will come up -- it will come up when the next applicant presents its and application because that's when it's --

COMMISSIONER STONE: I got it.

MR. MARTINEZ: -- it becomes the issue of shared. You don't have sharing until there's someone else wanting it.

OSCAR GARCIA: I got you. Okay. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: All right.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you very much.

And -- and last but certainly not least,
we will call up the Historic Cultural Neighborhood
Council for their presentation.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So you got this thing
loaded up and ready to go?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, I need it when it
comes time for me. Okay?

(Inaudible)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Taking a break?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Are they?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You ready? Almost?

We'll need about a minute till he loads up that
disk. He'd loading up a disk for us.

COMMISSIONER STONE: We're not in recess.

we're just waiting for the --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sorry.

COMMISSIONER STONE: -- presentation to be

loaded. So as soon as that's loaded we're going to
proceed.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And I think we're about
23 ready.

24 COMMISSIONER STONE: You ready?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right?

0101

01 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. If everyone can

02 please hold down their conversations or take them
03 outside, I'd like to proceed with the Historical
04 Cultural Neighborhood Council's presentation.

05 KIM BENJAMIN: Hi. I'm Kim Benjamin. I'm a

06 member of the Chinatown Business Improvement
07 District, a property owner in Chinatown, as well as
08 the Little Tokyo area.

09 And I'm here to introduce the Historic and

10 Cultural Neighborhood Council's presentation for

11 this afternoon and then turn it over to my esteemed

12 colleagues. And I want to give you just a sense, a

13 flavor of why we decided to form as a group, as a

14 family basically.

15 And then I think what we're going to is

16 after I gave you the introduction, I think we're
17 going to try to accommodate the time restrictions
18 today and we're not going to speak about or speak
19 specifically to the uncontested areas even though
20 they're in our presentation.

21 I think we're going to allot all of our
22 time, the 10 or 15 minutes that you'd like us to
23 limit ourselves to, to the areas that have been
24 contested where there have been accommodations made
25 by ourselves and those other parties filing for
0102

01 those same basic geographic areas.

02 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. We appreciate
03 that.

04 KIM BENJAMIN: And so effectively speaking, if
05 you could just turn the next page and I'll just
06 speak as we go.

07 The Historic and Cultural Neighborhood
08 Council basically has designed itself around what it
09 believes to be a singular -- a singular position
10 here in Los Angeles both in the history of L.A. as
11 well as currently.

12 Each of the colored areas of the map you
13 see above you represent one of the six members of
14 our family. Starting with the purple at the bottom,
15 which is the artist district, which is one of the
16 contested areas, which has been accommodated both by
17 us see and by the Downtown Neighborhood Council to
18 be a shared boundaries. Although physically within
19 the parameters of Downtown, they will have voting
20 rights on our board.

21 The other five areas. Little Tokyo, the
22 El Pueblo, the Chinatown, and the Forgotten Edge and
23 Solano Canyons, and we'll specifically be speaking

24 effectively to the green and the purple today for
25 all intents and purposes.

0103

01 But to give you a sense of the shape, if
02 you'd turn to the next slide, one of the things we
03 were looking at is why are we forming together. One
04 of the things that controls housing development,
05 commercial development, is a plan, a city plan. And

06 we have a North Central city plan, which is the
07 center.

08 And effectively, if you look at the right,
09 you look back at the middle and the left, you'll
10 effectively see some Similarity in the physical
11 design plate of the area we've defined to be the
12 Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council.

13 And if you turn to the next sheet, one of
14 the most compelling reasons is, although you see in
15 **Lincoln Heights** 1873 and 1888 maps as the first
16 suburb, they had to be a suburb to what was the
17 first city. The first city was Los Angeles, and
18 this is the first city map.

19 And if you look at this map -- and it may
20 be a little difficult to see with this resolution --
21 but you would see closely that we are the only --
22 the only neighborhood council filing in the city of
23 Los Angeles that can make this statement, as bold as
24 it is: We were together at the beginning, we're
25 together now, and we intend to be together
0104

01 prospectively.

02 We are the only neighborhood council that

03 falls under the purview of the first city map of
04 Los Angeles. So historically, that denominator is
05 the driving reason for us to come together. We want
06 to stay together, and that's what we've registered
07 for in our application.

08 If you would turn the next one. The

09 boundaries you've seen on the map. Our mission

10 statement we'll get to in a minute. Some of the

11 demographics I'd like to speak to simply.

12 And it's hard -- previously you've seen

13 lots of maps. One way to look at our community is

14 that in Los Angeles the median price of homes today

15 is \$300,000. Remarkable number. Yet 88 percent of

16 our residents can't afford a home. They rent.

17 88 percent of our residents rent because

18 approximately 74 percent of our people earn less

19 than \$35,000 a year, can't afford a \$300,000 home

20 even if they were available. You don't earn the

21 money. And that's because 67 percent of our people

22 are under 49 years of age and, effectively speaking,

23 over half of us work in one, two, three, or
24 four-person firms. We're entrepreneurial. We are
25 small family businesses. We're not mostly rich

0105

01 folks living in nice homes. We're basically a small
02 community looking for a voice.

03 And I have specifically looked at the age

04 structure. I've looked at the ethnicity. One of
05 the other reasons, culturally speaking, historic and
06 culturally, culturally if you look at our group, 65
07 percent of the people living in the Historic
08 Cultural Neighborhood Council are Asian, the same
09 way **Lincoln Heights** with some 72 percent, I think

10 was the number, just reverse that notion.

11 So in the middle of Little Tokyo and

12 Chinatown, the El Pueblo, the heart and -- you know,

13 of the Pueblo, the beginning of the city, you

14 basically look at our community, it's Asian-defined

15 for the most part, okay, and it's under 50 years old

16 earning less than 35,000, 88 percent renters.

17 And so we're a community that's basically

18 looking for a voice for the people that live here,

19 work here in small businesses that have come here to
20 help build the railroads and create the original
21 Zanja Madre.

22 And as you know, water sort of is the
23 source of all life, and I'll leave you with this
24 other notion. In our community, which is the only
25 community that could say that we started in the
0106

01 first map and are together today and are the only
02 community filing, we also were the largest French
03 community in the United States, save New Orleans.

04 And Italians came here in this community.

05 In fact, the history of the Department of Water and
06 Power was started by two gentlemen who are on two
07 streets that bound our community, Vignes and
08 Beaudry. These two guys in 1871 sold what was
09 created to be the water rights of Los Angeles, the
10 system, for what today would be worth \$2.3 billion.

11 Two Frenchmen created the system that we drink our
12 water out of.

13 This community is historically unified,
14 the oldest of its kind. It's culturally defined to
15 be a melting pot. And we're going to speak
16 specifically today about our outreach to the two

17 areas that have been contested.

18 And Brian Keto, if you would come up,

19 please, and start your presentation, I'd appreciate
20 it.

21 BRIAN KETO: Hello. My name is Brian Keto. I

22 own Fugetso Confectionery. It's in Little Tokyo.

23 It's -- next year will be our hundred year

24 anniversary. We're the oldest business in Little

25 Tokyo.

0107

01

At this time I want to ask the Little

02 Tokyo representatives to please stand to show how --
03 how much support we have here. These people mostly
04 were residents and business owners.

05 Do you want to go into it?

06 Okay. Next. Historical Cultural

07 profiles? Next. Okay.

08 Since 1900 to 1941, Little Tokyo is the

09 home of most Japanese Americans in the mainland USA,

10 U.S. World War II there were mass removals of
11 Japanese Americans which actually closed down Little
12 Tokyo. It was restarted in the late forties, and in
13 the fifties Parker Center took one quarter of Little
14 Tokyo and evicted over 1,000 residents and
15 businesses.

16 In the 1960 redevelopment -- right? I'm
17 sorry. Redevelopment means more evictions, enter
18 larger businesses into Little Tokyo.

19 Today Little Tokyo still continues to be
20 the community center for a 132,000 Japanese
21 Americans in the L.A. County. Little Tokyo's
22 historic district, as you see in the photo, is a
23 nationally historic landmark now.

24 The boundaries of Little Tokyo are Temple
25 Street to the north, Los Angeles Street to the west.
0108

01 Our disputed area is Fourth Street to the south, and
02 Vignes street to the east.

03 Next. Over 1200 people live in Little

04 Tokyo today. Housing ranges from SROs and low

05 income apartments to market rate condominiums. The
06 majority of residents are low income, elderly, and
07 Japanese speaking.

08 Next. There are currently between four
09 and five hundred businesses forming the cultural
10 center of the Japanese-related enterprises. Most
11 are small family-run shops with a core -- well,
12 actually, my store being a hundred years old, so you
13 can see what the history is.

14 The economic decline of Little Tokyo has
15 been as a result of the 1992 (inaudible), the
16 downtown -- downturn in the Japanese economy, and 38
17 percent drop in our tourism.

18 Most residents are low income, elderly,
19 with -- with limited English skills. And there is a
20 growing number of working middle class residents.

21 Mixture of history, mom and pop shop
22 enterprises, but since redevelopment the makeup is
23 larger businesses, mom and pop businesses,
24 international corporations, and many professionals.

25 Challenges and opportunities of Little
0109

01 Tokyo. The HCNC shares challenges. Tourists
02 dependent ethnic enclave, lack of political clout,
03 shared opportunities and needs, economic

04 revitalization, political empowerment, historic and
05 cultural preservation.

06 The major community institutions in Little

07 Tokyo are the Japanese American cultural and
08 community center, Japanese American national museum,
09 Little Tokyo service center, Buddhists temples, and
10 Christian churches.

11 I want to take this moment just to address

12 the -- I am like a three-hatted stakeholder here.

13 I'm a business owner, resident, and I also am the
14 president of the Little Tokyo Public Safety
15 Association.

16 I want to cover this, is that the disputed
17 boundaries that we have on Fourth Street are real
18 important to our security in Little Tokyo.

19 For the last eight to nine years we have
20 actually been cleaning those -- those areas between
21 Third and Fourth Street that are being disputed. My

22 public safety association has a volunteer patrol
23 that goes out and has actually helped to clean up
24 those areas of the drug dealers.

25 You have to understand that also, too, is
0110

01 on the boundary of Third Street and both -- on both
02 sides of that street are churches, hot meal programs
03 for the elderly. There's an elderly housing unit
04 and four different churches that are lined on both
05 sides of Third Street.

06 As a business owner I have two stores.

07 One lies on the south side of Third Street in what
08 we call is Little Tokyo mall. So that store is
09 there. And -- and the anchor store in that store is

10 a Japanese supermarket, along with other major

11 Japanese businesses that are -- that are included in
12 there.

13 As a resident of Little Tokyo, we shop at

14 this store which is on the other side of the

15 disputed boundary. We frequent the restaurants

16 there also, and the professionals, that most of the

17 professionals located in Little Tokyo are in a

18 professional building located in the disputed area.

19 I go -- my doctor is in the professional
20 building on the corner of San Pedro and Third. My
21 wife goes there for her doctor. And also, too, it's
22 included in the census block 2062 in which I'll --
23 actually takes it all the way up to Fifth Street.

24 So my urge here is that we keep the
25 boundary back at Fourth Street. And the reason that
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01 I feel that the Downtown really needs to come up to
02 Third Street, if you look at their BID boundaries
03 right now, it ends at Fourth Street.

04 I see that the BID is actually just eating
05 up extra property, and basically most of the

06 outreach that they have done is property owners,
07 specifically, to try to get into this BID district.
08 But it's clearly -- the blocks between Third and
09 Fourth Street are a great part of Little Tokyo.

10 Thank you. Now I'll introduce Evelyn and
11 she'll give you the outreach.

12 EVELYN YOSHIMURA: My name's Evelyn Yoshimura,
13 and through the Little Tokyo Residents Association
14 we've been doing quite a bit of outreach.

15 This -- these numbers that I'm going to
16 share with you are in addition to the 277 signatures
17 that were in the original application. So since
18 February 8th we've collected an additional 200
19 actual signatures and presented to another
20 approximately hundred people. So it's about 577,
21 you know, individuals who have heard about and
22 learned about the HCNC, the Historical Cultural
23 Neighborhood Council.

24 The majority of these people are
25 residents, and we worked through the tenant councils
0112

01 of the five main buildings in Little Tokyo as well
02 as the residents association itself which has
03 representatives from all these different buildings.
04 In addition, we've given monthly updates

05 the last actually couple years. But at the Little
06 Tokyo Community Council which was mentioned earlier,
07 it's sort of the body that everyone in Little Tokyo
08 comes to the table at and it represents about 54
09 different organizations which are businesses, social
10 service, arts, and historical organizations, as well
11 as residents.

12 We have done some limited outreach as well

13 in the Little Tokyo mall. Little Tokyo plaza that
14 Brian just mentioned, formerly known as the Yao Han
15 Plaza, some door-to-door -- store-to-store, rather,
16 outreach there as well, and have gathered
17 signatures.

18 Next I'd like to introduce Joe Blume from
19 the artist district.

20 JOE BLUME: Hi. My name is Joel Blume. I own
21 a business in the arts district. I live in what
22 people are calling Alameda East. I'm past president
23 of LARABA and I also sit on Little Tokyo Community
24 Council.

25 From its genesis the arts district has
0113

01 been entwined with Little Tokyo and Chinatown. In
02 the late seventies artists and galleries in search
03 of large, inexpensive space started moving into old
04 outmoded warehouse and factory buildings east of
05 downtown. At the same time, the punk underground
06 resonated from Ellis Bar in the arts district to
07 Madam Wongs in Chinatown and the Atama Cafe in

08 Little Tokyo.

09 Today the ties are even stronger. The
10 artistic energy that beget the art districts has
11 scintillated Chinatown with Chung King Road Studios
12 and galleries, augmenting arts district, Olvera
13 Street, and Little Tokyo galleries.

14 The Southern California Institute of
15 Architecture and Cornerstone Theater now anchor the
16 arts district. The Central City North community
17 plan, which once promoted industrial use, now
18 encourages artists and residents use in the arts
19 district.

20 A lot of our outreach was in the way of
21 bringing people from the arts district to our LARABA
22 meeting so they can hear from both the Downtown Los
23 Angeles Neighborhood Council and the Historic
24 Cultural Neighborhood Council.

25 People were -- were advised of these
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01 meetings via the L.A. dad website, through fliers,
02 through phone calls, and through mailings done to
03 people who have participated in neighborhood
04 cleanups, neighborhood tree plantings, neighborhood

05 watch, people who have promoted open (inaudible)
06 tours, benefits and street fairs in the arts. And
07 the arts district included people living in the
08 Santa Fe art colony. Father David Dornier who is the
09 pastor of Mary and Old Mission, Art Share L.A.,
10 Cornerstone Theater.
11 And to wrap it up, since Lieutenant Ord's
12 original city plan, orchards have become warehouses
13 and railyards, warehouses have become artist lofts,
14 and rail depos, architectural colleges.
15 As the city and the arts district continue
16 to evolve, our neighborhood will be attracted by --
17 pardon me -- effected by and contributing to the new
18 Central City North community plan. We need to
19 concentrate on that plan with our HCNC neighbors and
20 not on the planning near Staple Center, Grand, or
21 South Park. We will continue to thrive as Off
22 Broadway to downtown's Broadway.
23 I'd like to introduce Alicia Brown from
24 Solano Canyon.
25 ALICIA BROWN: Hello. I'm Alicia Brown from
0115

01 the Solano Canyon, and I'm very sorry that I have to
02 be the last one, but I hope you understand I do have
03 to go back and tell those folks in Solano that I did
04 speak before the commission because that's what I
05 told them I was going to do. In fact, there is a
06 lady here who is from the Solano community.

07 There are no conflicts as far as our
08 community is concerned in joining the HCNC. We have
09 our own little presentation that was just flipped

10 over. This is the old school site that you're
11 seeing right now. I don't know if anybody is going
12 to man that or not.

13 I'm a little bit perturbed about this
14 whole thing 'cause I really thought -- you know, we
15 had planned for a long time, but in the interest of
16 time I'll just step back and give the time to
17 others. The Solano canyon would be pleased to join
18 the HCNC.

19 If you have any questions?

20 KIM BENJAMIN: In summary, effectively, by
21 historical definition being the first to file, to

22 say that we are together from 1849, beginning of a
23 culturally defined nature, two-thirds of our
24 population being Asian in nature, and basically we
25 see ourselves as a group, as a family from the
0116

01 beginning. We'd like to have you certify per your
02 recommendations the HCNC, and we're open to any
03 questions you may have.

04 COMMISSIONER STONE: Any questions?

05 (Inaudible) no questions for you.

06 KIM BENJAMIN: No questions?

07 COMMISSIONER STONE: I have actually one -- one

08 quick question on the boundary of your -- I guess
09 the southern boundary then would be Fourth Street?

10 Is that the -- that's the request? Or what is -- I
11 guess we have -- we have so many maps flying around
12 here and compromises and --

13 KIM BENJAMIN: I think that can best be spoken
14 to by Mr. Keto, but effectively the filing we made
15 was Fourth Street (inaudible) some effort to
16 accommodate. There's been some discussion of
17 extraction of several church locations and bringing

18 them into the Little Tokyo area.

19 But the efforts probably are best spoken

20 to by the community that was most effected within

21 our HCNC, so Brian, if you would, please.

22 BRIAN KETO: Yes. What we did was we had a --

23 the Little Tokyo Community Council voted

24 unanimously, the executive board, two weeks ago, to

25 hold that boundary up at Fourth Street.

0117

01 Since last week we did have a meeting with

02 the Downtown group with a DONE representative, and

03 at that meeting we could not come up to a

04 compromise. There was some talk about bringing just

05 the two churches which are on the other side of

06 Third Street to try to get them into ours alone by

07 themselves.

08 But the truth of the matter is the

09 executive board voted unanimously to try to put it

10 back to Fourth Street because there are a number of

11 buildings that have Japanese-owned businesses inside

12 of them on both -- on the other side of Third,

13 between Third and Fourth.

14 There are also others, little Japanese

15 businesses like, you know, a sign shop and a body

16 shop. Those are also located between those two

17 blocks -- I mean those two streets. Third and

18 Fourth. So it is a dispute.

19 We would like to go along with the

20 original proposal and not go with the recommendation

21 that was put into the packet.

22 Is there something else I can answer? We

23 are -- but to clarify, you know. Little Tokyo is

24 totally in support of the HCNC with the two

25 representatives of Little Tokyo going into the

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01 Downtown and two of the artists lofts coming into

02 the HCNC. And we're in full support of that.

03 COMMISSIONER STONE: Commissioner Membreno.

04 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: So the artist piece

05 has been resolved, and your neighborhood council --

06 or your steering committee and your members are okay

07 with just having representatives in that area?

08 BRIAN KETO: Correct. With the HCNC. The only

09 thing that we're up is the boundaries, is that a
10 dispute.

11 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. And -

12 BRIAN KETO: On - I'm sorry.

13 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: The representation

14 would be chosen by the Historical or --

15 BRIAN KETO: The representatives, from my

16 understanding, would be chosen by the Little Tokyo

17 Community Council --

18 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

19 BRIAN KETO: -- of two representatives.

20 Because as Little Tokyo, they'll be having the two

21 votes representing into the Downtown.

22 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Into the Downtown.

23 BRIAN KETO: Correct.

24 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

25 BRIAN KETO: And the artist lofts, in turn,

0119

01 will have two.

02 One of the other things I wanted to add is

03 that we have a business improvement district
04 proposal that's been at City Hall for roughly about
05 four years now. And in that proposal it calls for
06 the boundaries to go down Fourth Street. It's still
07 on file.

08 And the Central City East BID is also
09 looking to renew next year, and so that's why this
10 -- I believe that is why this -- these blocks are
11 being in question. So it's basically a BID
12 territorial-type thing to move that block out of
13 little Tokyo.

14 But if you look at the buildings and
15 businesses that are on the other side, on the south
16 side of Third, they're predominantly Japanese-owned
17 businesses. And the mall is called Little Tokyo
18 Square. I mean, as far as it being considered
19 Little Tokyo, it definitely is.

20 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: So you're -- I'm
21 sorry. The boundaries that -- that you're talking
22 about would be Los Angeles Street to Fourth.

23 COMMISSIONER STONE: If it's indicated on

24 that --

25 ROMERO: No.

0120

01 BRIAN KETO: It goes down San Pedro Street.

02 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

03 BRIAN KETO: It comes -- it comes south on San

04 Pedro, down Boyd, and south on Omar, and then down

05 to Fourth Street, and it goes down Fourth Street

06 down to Alameda.

07 COMMISSIONER STONE: And just so we're

08 completely clear, that's different than that map

09 that's -- that was the -- that map is the compromise

10 that was discussed before. Okay. This is the

11 original application.

12 I'm sure that's very clear for the record,

13 right?

14 LISA SAGHENO: My name is Lisa Saghenno. If I

15 could add something to that.

16 As you can see, it doesn't get cut down at

17 L.A. It's almost like a trade that's happened here,

18 like some kind of, you know, baseball trading

19 players or something. So there are things that are

20 on both sides, as you see where it cuts down San

21 Pedro.

22 But our stand was that the businesses that

23 are there, the Little Tokyo professional building,

24 the Little Tokyo mall, Zenshugi Buddhist church, you

25 know, the Japanese Sentinry United Methodist

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01 Church, all of these businesses that are there are

02 clearly there. It's not coincidence that they're

03 there. They are there because it's Little Tokyo.

04 And we already feel that in a compromise

05 we've had to give up huge portions that have

06 historically been Little Tokyo east of Alameda. You

07 have things like the Homba Hong Hon Gee Buddhist

08 temple that's there on First Street east of

09 Alameda. It's almost like the Vatican City giving

10 up, you know. Saint Peters. I mean, that is the --

11 the head mother Buddhist church for the largest

12 Buddhist congregations of churches throughout the

13 L.A. area. Things like that. I mean, the Maryknoll

14 School's from like the thirties or something.

15 That's the Japanese Maryknoll.

16 So we've already been picked apart and cut
17 up, and it's -- it's hard for us. I mean, we've
18 been meeting and building community and all this for
19 all of these hundreds of years, you know, and now --
20 I mean, it is somewhat of a Japanese culture to try
21 to compromise and have consensus, but I mean, I do
22 feel we've -- we've been under attack and we've
23 given up so much in these meetings that to ask us to
24 give up the piece that's south of Third and east of
25 San Pedro is just -- it doesn't make any sense at
0122

01 this point.

02 I mean, every community gets to that point

03 where they're pushed and says, "That's it. No
04 more. We can't give up anything else." And then
05 we're there.

06 COMMISSIONER STONE: But then with regard to

07 the area east of Alameda that has been --

08 LISA SAGHENO: That's part of the compromise.

09 COMMISSIONER STONE: -- part of the compromise

10 and that your neighborhood -- your proposed

11 neighborhood council is still comfortable with those

12 boundaries?

13 LISA SAGHENO: I wouldn't call it comfortable,
14 but you know, we just want to move on with this
15 process already. And we feel like we have other
16 ties that are organic ties anyway that have always
17 existed with that neighborhood that we can work
18 together on joint projects and whatnot like we
19 always have been all this time.

20 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. Thanks.

21 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: In that same section,
22 are there other historical places or ties to that
23 community that I might need to know about?

24 LISA SAGHENO: East of Alameda or south?

25 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: (Inaudible) the art

0123

01 district?

02 LISA SAGHENO: Uh-huh, east of Alameda.

03 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: In that little
04 section?

05 LISA SAGHENO: Yeah, there's Zenshugi.

06 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: From the "F" line

07 down.

08 LISA SAGHENO: There's Zenshugi Buddhist

09 temple, the Fakuye Mortuary is there, the Mishi Hong

10 Yun Gee Buddhist temple. There's -- I mean, it goes

11 on and on, Maryknoll --

12 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: What about below the

13 orange line or in that section down in there, down,

14 all the way down there.

15 COMMISSIONER STONE: But that orange line isn't

16 the compromise.

17 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: South (inaudible).

18 COMMISSIONER STONE: It's up at the 101.

19 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Where is the art

20 district? That's the part we're talking about.

21 LISA SAGHENO: Right.

22 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Any Japanese --

23 LISA SAGHENO: Oh, sure.

24 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: (Inaudible) in

25 there?

0124

01 LISA SAGHENO: There's dozens and dozens

02 because --

03 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: You are talking about

04 -- okay, that's what I was try -- I thought it was

05 just that little triangle (inaudible).

06 LISA SAGHENO: Oh, no. That whole area from

07 the --

08 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Okay.

09 LISA SAGHENO: -- the L.A. River all the way to

10 Alameda has historically been Little Tokyo. So

11 given that Little Tokyo is over a hundred years old,

12 there are tons of developments there. Plus, when

13 redevelopment was happening in the seventies and

14 buildings were being torn down by the city, there

15 are institutions that were -- their buildings were

16 torn down and they were forced to -- to go somewhere

17 else, and that was some other open area.

18 So there are major Japanese religious

19 institutions, the Japanese Evangelical -- it's
20 called JEMS, they're the head of the Japanese
21 Evangelical ministry, they're there. You probably
22 drive by, you see there's the -- the Bonsai Nursery,
23 there's a car place. There's -- there's dozens and
24 dozens.

25 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I see.

0125

01 LISA SAGHENO: Yeah, the Hiroshima building.

02 There's a senior housing project that's out there,

03 Chugo Koiya, so --

04 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Very quickly, the area

05 between the freeway and First Street, has that also
06 been historically believed to be Little Tokyo, part
07 of Little Tokyo?

08 LISA SAGHENO: That's where the Homba Hong Yun

09 Gee Buddhist temple, Fakuye Mortuary, those

10 businesses are.

11 COMMISSIONER STONE: Any questions? Any more

12 questions?

13 Okay. We don't have any more questions at

14 this time, so thank the applicant for your
15 presentation.

16 What we -- what we are now going to do is
17 proceed to public comment on agenda item number 3.
18 After public comment we will then go back to each
19 applicant for a brief rebuttal.

20 But I do have in my hand the public
21 comments. I think I've counted about 90 of these.
22 In the interest of time and our overriding interest
23 in maintaining a quorum, we can only act if we have
24 four members here.

25 And we would urge everyone that does not
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01 need to speak, if they feel like their point has
02 been covered, to please feel free to give up their
03 time. And also, those who decide to speak, to
04 please keep it short. If it's echoing someone's
05 comments, please make that known and then move on.

06 We would sure appreciate it. And we have our staff
07 keeping an eagle eye on the watch to keep us going.

08 So I now would like to call up -- and

09 we're going in alphabetical order as well. Our
10 first speaker is Suzy Abagian, followed by Richard
11 Ancrom and Frank Ayala.

12 So if the folks that are next in line
13 could come up here, too, that would help.

14 SUZY ABAGIAN: I'm sorry. I had signed up for
15 two things. I don't know if this is for Lincoln
16 Heights or --

17 COMMISSIONER STONE: What we're doing is going
18 alphabetically. We're not --

19 SUZY ABAGIAN: Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER STONE: -- breaking it up as for
21 or against. So, please, if you can cover --

22 SUZY ABAGIAN: Sure.

23 COMMISSIONER STONE: -- everything you want to
24 say in this -- in this time.

25 SUZY ABAGIAN: Okay. My name is Suzy Abagian,
0127

01 and I am a resident of Lincoln Heights. I also
02 teach at the high school. I'm -- I'm really
03 involved in the community.

04 And I just wanted to actually address one
05 of the questions that you asked about youth outreach
06 and how are we going to incorporate the youth into
07 our neighborhood council.

08 And me being part of the high school or
09 teaching at the high school, I have contact with the
10 kids and have actually talked to the kids about what
11 the neighborhood council is about. And two of my
12 kids are actually here, two of my students are here
13 to support this, to support me.

14 So we have been doing outreach to the
15 youth and they are -- we're hoping for them to be a
16 more active member of the neighborhood council.

17 They've also volunteered for the neighborhood
18 cleanups, a lot of students from the high school.

19 So I guess that's it. I just want to say
20 that I support the **Lincoln Heights** Neighborhood
21 Council and I support the boundaries that have been
22 suggested and I also -- I'm also concerned about the
23 William Meade housing project.

24 I actually went to those meetings and

25 tried to connect with the people there to just, you
0128

01 know, have LAUSD connection and also a Lincoln
02 Heights neighborhood connection with them.

03 So thank you.

04 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Richard

05 Ancrom. Going once, going twice.

06 Frank Ayala. Gabriella Ayala.

07 (Inaudible)

08 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I think they better

09 come back in.

10 (Inaudible).

11 COMMISSIONER STONE: If everyone can bear with

12 us, please. Through -- and if -- if someone is left

13 out and wishes to speak at the end, they can do so.

14 So Richard Ancrom. Frank Ayala. Is Frank

15 here?

16 FRANK AYALA: I'm right here.

17 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay, Frank.

18 FRANK AYALA: I would like to surrender my

19 time.

20 COMMISSIONER STONE: Can you come to – to the

21 microphone?

22 FRANK AYALA: Sure.

23 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

24 FRANK AYALA: Yeah, I'd like to just surrender

25 my time. What's said is what the Lincoln Heights
0129

01 Neighborhood Council has been said already.

02 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you very much.

03 FRANK AYALA: Okay.

04 COMMISSIONER STONE: Gabriella Ayala.

05 Stephanie Ayala. Atriko Bobba, followed by Meg
06 Barclay, and then Dan Beyer.

07 ATSKO BOBA: My name is Atsko Bobba. I live

08 seven years in Little Tokyo, Japanese town. In
09 Japanese.

10 (In Japanese)

11 THE INTERPRETER: On behalf of Little Tokyo

12 residents, I would like to express our interest to

13 join the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council.

14 ATSKO BOBA: (In Japanese).

15 THE INTERPRETER: The main reason for this
16 interest is because similar -- similar to places
17 like Chinatown and Olvera Street, Little Tokyo is a
18 historic town, and we would like to combine the
19 strength of all the communities to work toward a
20 common goal.

21 ATSKO BOBA: (In Japanese).

22 THE INTERPRETER: While working toward historic
23 and cultural preservation, building on the

24 commonalities we have with places like Chinatown and
25 Olvera Street is our mission as Little Tokyo
0130

01 residents. So our goal can be achieved, I ask you
02 to consider the request of Little Tokyo residents
03 for Little Tokyo to be part of the Historic Cultural
04 Neighborhood Council. Thank you.

05 ATSKO BOBA: Thank you.

06 COMMISSIONER STONE: And for the translator,
07 can you please state your name for the record?

08 THE INTERPRETER: My name is Takau Suzuki.

09 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

10 MARCO PEREZ: I'm with the Little Tokyo

11 Resident's Association.

12 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. So Meg Barely

13 -- Barclay, followed by Dan Beyer.

14 MEG BARCLAY: Hi. I've been working with the

15 Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council for about a

16 year, so I'm here to -- maybe a little more than

17 that. I'm here to request that you approve our

18 petition for certification as a neighborhood council

19 with our boundaries as requested.

20 Also, we are prepared to -- to expand our

21 boundaries to include the William Meade homes and

22 that lower triangle on the other side of the L.A.

23 River because of our demographic similarities to the

24 people in that area. We've done outreach to them

25 and have heard that they are looking for

0131

01 representation, that they identify with Lincoln

02 Heights, they do their shopping and things like that

03 there. So we would like to see that included.

04 I'm also -- would like to just request

05 that the Central City East group be allowed to
06 organize themselves as a neighborhood council.

07 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. I'm going to
08 accommodate James Gibbons because he needs to leave,
09 with the assumption that he's going to be very
10 brief.

11 JAMES GIBBONS: Yes, I will. Thank you.

12 My name is James Gibbons. I'm a resident
13 of the Central City East community, sometimes called
14 Skid Row. I've been living there for about seven
15 years. I'm also active in a community organization
16 known as the Los Angeles Community Action Network.
17 As a resident of the community and being
18 active in many issues that that neighborhood is
19 concerned with, I found that it's -- it's very
20 difficult for our community to -- to get together
21 collectively around many issues, although we've
22 lately found a groundswell of support for this --
23 for this issue.

24 It was -- it was an issue that had
25 previously been slowed due to -- in large part due

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to lack of resources, we've -- we've since breathed some new energy into the project.

And many of the residents of the Skid Row community feel that this is a very important issue for them and they believe that the Skid Row community needs to be separately addressed and -- and separately represented, and they don't feel that they will be adequately represented on the larger Downtown Neighborhood Council.

As a former resident of Lincoln Heights, I

just want to make a plug for them, I also agree with **Lincoln Heights**' position for many of the same reasons: They need to be separately represented.

I think -- also one point I want to make is one of my previous speakers, Orlando Ward, spoke about the Los Angeles Central Providers collaborative, who as a group endorsed the larger Downtown Neighborhood Council, I think it's important that although that is true, I think it's important to note that there were dissensions on that collaborative.

The Volunteers of America, the Los Angeles Community Action Network, and the Salvation Army also support creation of a Skid Row neighborhood council.

I think also the inclusion of all of these communities that the larger Downtown Neighborhood Council proposes, I think you could apply -- I think maybe they missed an opportunity -- should have always included New York City. You could apply the same rationale to it.

I just want to conclude with that. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Dan Beyer, followed by Joe Blume and Barbara Jeanne Bowman.

DAN BEYER: Yes, I'm a resident and -- of the Skid Row -- the Skid Row neighborhood. I am involved in a church in the neighborhood, although I do not speak on behalf of the church. The church has not taken a stand on this issue itself.

I was the person who was the specifically designated contact person for the Skid Row neighborhood council with DONE and with the other neighborhood councils for several months before I had to give up the position because of a job change.

During that time, amongst other things I attended the boundary dispute resolution meetings that DONE was -- was holding, and I would also like to say that I am very appreciative of the tremendous cooperation and support from Betty Oyama and

02 everyone else on the DONE staff that has given to
03 the Skid Row neighborhood as we were -- have been
04 attempting to develop our own neighborhood council.
05 At the boundary resolution meetings, we

06 initially had a boundary dispute with the Historical
07 Cultural neighborhood and we were able to resolve
08 that rather easily to the zigzag boundary on the
09 north that has been mentioned a couple times in the
10 meeting already.

11 At no time was I able to enter into any
12 kind of dialogue with the downtown neighborhood
13 council as to boundary resolutions. The general
14 attitude which was -- which I received from the
15 boundary committee in particular was, "Who do you
16 think you are in Skid Row to be even thinking about

17 having your own neighborhood council?"

18 I -- that does not reflect adequately the

19 total representation of the people involved with

20 Downtown. I worked on their issues committee and

21 there were a number of people on that committee who

22 were very concerned, very supportive of the needs of

23 the Skid Row neighborhood. And at one point in that

24 process they were ready to make a recommendation to

25 the larger Downtown Neighborhood Council that Skid
0135

01 Row be removed from their boundary consideration.

02 It's not just a matter of our people

03 concerned about what is going on in the Skid Row

04 neighborhood, but the issues -- the magnitude of the

05 issues in Skid Row are so large that the concern is

06 that they are going to get swallowed up and

07 dissolved into nothingness in the midst of a larger

08 Downtown Neighborhood Council.

09 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Joel Blume,

11 Barbara Jeanne Bowman, and Kathryn Breem.

12 JOEL BLUME: Yeah, hi. My name is Joel Blume.

13 I'd just like to state for the record that the

14 LARABA vote about how the arts district went, the
15 vote of the actual people who have attended meetings
16 and heard both presentations from both neighborhood
17 councils went with the Historic Cultural
18 Neighborhood Council.

19 I would very much like to advocate the
20 compromise that was between our two councils giving
21 the arts district falling within the downtown
22 boundaries but giving us a say in the Historic
23 Cultural Neighborhood Council, mostly because we're
24 on the same plan with -- with the Historic Cultural
25 Neighborhood Council.

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01 We've had in the past the precedence where
02 the plan basically saved our neighborhood from L.A.
03 Unified trying to put warehouses whereas the plan

04 calls, you know, for us and residents. So I realize
05 it's odd but, you know, we're -- we're as much tied
06 as Little Tokyo is as to which council to belong
07 to. There's no clear-cut one way or the other.

08 And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

09 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Barbara Jeanne

10 Bowman, Catherine Broom, and Mike Brewer.

11 BARBARA JEANNE BOWMAN: Hello. My name is

12 Barbara "BJ" Bowman, and I'm actually a resident of

13 Lincoln Heights as well as the project (inaudible)

14 coordinator for the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club

15 in Lincoln Heights.

16 And I just want to share with the council

17 or the commission that we're -- actually our club is

18 opening a new site in the William Meade projects.

19 We're actually going to have a Boys and Girls Club

20 site at William Meade.

21 As well, I wanted to share that in being

22 here today and listening to the different folks

23 present, that I think it would be in the best

24 interest to -- and fair for the Central City East

25 folks to have their issues heard and to have

0137

01 representation adequately given to them.

02 Thanks.

03 COMMISSIONER STONE: Kathryn Broom, Mike

04 Brewer, and Thomas Burrows.

05 BARBARA JEANNE BOWMAN: Hi. I'm Kathryn Bream,

06 a 17-year resident of the arts district,

07 vice-president of the Los Angeles River Artists and

08 Business Association, and that's the LARABA

09 acronym. I'm an artist. For the last 12 months

10 I've been working with the boundaries committee in

11 the Downtown Neighborhood Council.

12 The arts district had its beginning over

13 26 years ago, and I won't go into that because Joel

14 did a really good job of covering the history of the

15 arts district. We did overwhelmingly vote to go

16 with Downtown but we're very connected to Little

17 Tokyo. And we know that. And that was one of the

18 hardest decisions for all of us to make.

19 So we just want to say that the arts

20 district does support the compromise that has been

21 worked out.

22 So thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Mike Brewer,

24 Thomas Burrows, and Eugenia Butler. And while

25 Mr. Brewer is coming up --
0138

01 THOMAS BURROWS: I'm Tom Burrows.

02 COMMISSIONER STONE: Mr. Burrows, I've been

03 passed a note that someone has lost a blue Nokia
04 cell phone and if someone finds it or has found it,
05 please get it to some DONE staff. That would be

06 great. Thanks.

07 Mr. Burrows.

08 THOMAS BURROWS: My name is Tom Burrows. I'm a

09 resident of Downtown. I live at Main and Fourth.

10 I'm here to support the downtown L.A. Neighborhood

11 Council boundaries as they've been proposed by the

12 steering committee with the various compromises that

13 have been worked out.

14 I'm concerned, however, and I'd ask -- is

15 Romero here -- what map are we using to define the

16 boundaries? Because we've been using this map, but

17 I seem to think it was this map that was going to be

18 the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council. So I

19 think -- which one are we using?

20 COMMISSIONER STONE: We will have staff –

21 staff wrap up after.

22 THOMAS BURROWS: It appeared to me that a lot

23 of line drawing was going on on this map, and that's

24 really the map that we're working with, and I don't

25 know where the commission was with that.

0139

01 COMMISSIONER STONE: Well, when the commission

02 makes its determination on certifying in boundaries,

03 we will have staff outline for the record the

04 correct boundaries.

05 THOMAS BURROWS: The issue of the Central City

06 East on neighborhood council, we've been working on

07 this process for almost a year. And we've had a

08 number of outreach efforts down. We have the new

09 downtown group, we've got the old bank district

10 group. Midnight Mission has been working closely

11 with us.

12 I live on Main and Fourth, and I believe

13 the boundaries include Main Street. I don't

14 remember any outreach the other direction to those

15 of us who live there. And I think changes like this

16 that are proposed at the last minute do not really
17 satisfy notice.

18 There's like 225 residents in my
19 neighborhood who have been working on this whole
20 idea of a downtown L.A. neighborhood council and all
21 of a sudden in the middle of all this is a new
22 neighborhood council which we have not had an
23 opportunity to really comment on.

24 And I think these proposals are a little
25 late and should have been coming in quite a bit
0140

01 sooner. But I support the present boundaries of the
02 downtown L.A. neighborhood council.

03 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Eugenia

04 Butler, and followed by Tony Butler and Arnold
05 Carlson.

06 EUGENIA BUTLER: Thank you, members of

07 (inaudible). My name is Eugenia Butler. I'm a

08 university educator, a middle school educator, an
09 elementary school educator, an artist for 35 years
10 in Los Angeles.

11 Within the brewery and the surrounding
12 disputed area, right -- if I may -- (inaudible) this
13 entire areas, there's overwhelming support to be
14 part of the Downtown Neighborhood Council.

15 With it -- during this last -- the artist
16 community in Los Angeles is a very disenfranchised
17 community, historically. Within the last year I
18 have -- I and other members of my community and the
19 brewery have worked very hard to create a
20 neighborhood council that will for the first time
21 give a voice to the arts workers, to the artists of
22 our city.

23 It's very important to us that if we are
24 to go ahead and essentially go with the council --
25 go with the DONE recommendation, it's very, very
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01 important that we keep those two seats in DLANC
02 because it is our vision and our hope and our -- our
03 future as artists that we need to be able to work
04 together. We need to be able to support a united
05 artist voice in Los Angeles.

06 We have a -- a -- we have a community that

07 is -- that is -- that is unlike any major city in
08 the United States, and help us realize that dream
09 both for our community and for our city.

10 Thank you very much.

11 COMMISSIONER STONE: Tony Butler, Arnold

12 Carlson, Angelica Cervantes?

13 ARNOLD CARLSON: My name is Arnold Carlson.

14 I'm one of the founders and partners of the brewery.

15 The other partners are my two sons.

16 Aside from the brewery and the rest of the

17 thing, I think the entire city here and councils

18 like yourself are making a horrendous mistake. I

19 think you're tearing apart a city and creating a

20 civil war. (Inaudible) and the woman that was here

21 before and spoke up for Japanese village, other

22 people for Chinatown, the Hispanic people for the

23 various things they wish to create with the city

24 council maybe, I don't know.

25 I'm a hundred percent opposed for this

0142

01 board or anybody in this world to change the address

02 on \$50 million worth of real estate that I have in
03 Downtown L.A. You don't have no right to change my
04 address and kill my profits and my investment.

05 This is an imagination that came alive and

06 we spent the last 22 years working on it. We've
07 done a good job for the city, we've done a good job
08 for others, and we've done a good job for the
09 people.

10 As of last Saturday and Sunday we had

11 15,000 people come to the place. And we've done

12 nothing but good for this city in both taxation and

13 in homes and in turn creating what we did. I think

14 we're friends with about everybody in this city and

15 if we're not, I'd like -- I mean friends with

16 everybody and the artists, for the lofts, and if

17 they're not they should come and talk to us and find

18 out what the problem is. That's the way we deal

19 with it.

20 For this council or any council to

21 separate land that we paid choice dollars for,

22 including the Edison building that's a national

23 Monument, number three in America, the Pabst Blue

24 Ribbon brewery that was there before time -- I don't

25 know when it started, some way back 1902, three or
0143

01 four, something like that, that don't belong to
02 anybody but where it is, and that's the city of L.A.
03 And that's where we are, that's what we

04 bought, and I suspect I'd have to spend in the
05 neighborhood of a million dollars to defend the fact
06 that I am and we are invested in the city of L.A.

07 When I write an address, when I get a

08 postcard, when I get a telephone number, I'm in the
09 city of L.A. I'm not in the boondocks, I'm not in

10 the outcast. It's the city of L.A., and that's

11 where we're going to stay if it takes the rest of my
12 life.

13 I got about two or three years left and

14 that's the End of me and you can deal with my sons

15 then. I'm 78 years old. I did my time in the

16 service during World War II. And you're not going

17 to take away what I spent my life putting together.

18 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Angelica

19 Cervantes, followed by Sampson -- I believe Char?

20 SAMPSON CHANG: Chang.

21 COMMISSIONER STONE: Chang. And Matt Chapa.

22 ANGELICA CERVANTES: Hi. My name is Angelica

23 Cervantes, and I am involved with my community, my

24 school, which is Lincoln High School, and the

25 confirmation class at our Lady Help of Christians.

0144

01 Some of the stuff that I am involved in in

02 my community is the teen club at Lincoln Heights

03 Recreation Center. At the rec center I am part of a

04 teen council and I am in charge of our special

05 events.

06 I heard about the neighborhood council

07 when Oscar Garcia went to my classroom as a visitor

08 and spoke to us about the neighborhood council and

09 things that they are trying to do for our

10 neighborhood and what we as teens should do to

11 help.

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Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you very much.

Sampson Chang, Matt Chapa, and Marie Condryn.

SAMPSON CHANG: Thank you. Good afternoon,

Mr. President and commissioners. My name is Sampson Chang. I'm the president of Lincoln Heights chamber of commerce. Also, I'm a stakeholder. I have combined a law practice adversity business in Lincoln Heights.

I'd like to show my support for Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council and I'd like to read a letter of support from the Lincoln Heights chamber of commerce in the record. And to Whom It May Concern, dated April 25th, year 2002.

"The Lincoln Heights chamber of commerce supports the formation of a Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council.

Chamber members are part of a steering committee to form the neighborhood council. It appears that a neighborhood council will be composed of a very inclusive group of stakeholders in Lincoln Heights.

"We support the boundaries as drawn and recommended by DONE. We also hope that the brewery on the Main Street be part of Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council.

"The Lincoln Heights chamber of commerce looks forward to working with our new partner in Lincoln Heights, the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council. We have" (inaudible) "support the formation of a Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council."

Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

MARCO PEREZ: Excuse me. Excuse me. Did you want to submit that? Did you want to submit that as part of the record or just orally read it into the record?

SAMPSON CHANG: I pretty much read in the record. And I make my -- some personal (inaudible) don't like to -- but I don't mind to do, but I make some comments on it. So appreciate your recommendation.

COMMISSIONER STONE: We understand that Matt Chapa has left.

Marie Condrin, followed by Zeke Contreras and Alice Corona.

MARIE CONDRIN: Hi. I worked with outreach with the Downtown Neighborhood Council and I just

14 wanted to address some of the questions that you
15 guys brought up earlier.

16 You did kind of catch us off guard with
17 the William Meade questions because we have spend so
18 much of our outreach with the brewery area and with
19 the Central City East area where we know that other
20 groups were actively wanting -- wanting those areas
21 as part of their neighbor councils but there were
22 swells of people within those groups who wanted to
23 be part of Downtown.

24 And I think we've demonstrated that we've

25 reached over 2,000 residents in Central City East
0147

01 through fliers, in their mail boxes, through the
02 newsletters, through the 40 social service providers
03 that have worked with us, and they have been
04 attending our meetings and they have been
05 participating in our committees. And our issues
06 committee did not ever suggest that there should not

07 be Skid Row included within our neighborhood
08 council.

09 But with regards to William Meade, you did
10 point out to us that we -- despite the outreach we
11 have done there, we have sent out fliers there, we
12 have got letters from there as well as Catellus and
13 Union Station. But it's true, we don't have
14 residents there who are participating in our
15 committees. And that's a problem and that's
16 something that we would definitely work on.

17 And I think they have so many
18 commonalities with the social service providers of
19 Central City East who are working with us and the
20 residents of Central City East who are working with
21 us.

22 And please do not ever doubt for a second
23 that we will reach out to those people and the
24 massive outreach effort that we're going to do for
25 the elections and make sure that they're
0148

01 participating with our group.

02 So I really hope that you'll support the
03 recommendations that DONE put forward rather than
04 any last-minute things that might have happened
05 today because they wouldn't reflect all the work
06 that's been put into this.

07 And I also just want to point out when it
08 comes to self-determination, the brewery has
09 collected 250 signatures out of the 300 residents of
10 that area and 57 signatures from the businesses all
11 around that area between the L.A. River and the
12 5 Freeway, and if self-determination is a good
13 reason for Little Tokyo to be part of the HCNC, then
14 I hope that you would recognize that concept as the
15 community of the brewery and the businesses between
16 the L.A. River and the 5 as being part of the
17 Downtown council rather than some community plan
18 that was developed a long time ago.

19 Breathe. Okay. Got it in.

20 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

21 MARIE CONDRIN: My name is Marie Condrin.

22 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. And I don't

23 think Zeke Contreras is here.

24 Alice Corona, followed by Ray Koranubius,

25 Junior.

0149

01 ALICE CORONA: Hi. My name is Alice Corona and

02 I'm a business and property owner in Lincoln

03 Heights. Today I'm here to represent not only the

04 employees, my employees, but also members of our

05 local community.

06 I am an active member of the neighborhood

07 council and a member of the historical Lincoln

08 Heights industrial district, as well as a member of

09 the Lincoln Heights chamber of commerce. I am here

10 to express recommendations to keep the boundaries

11 for our neighborhood council as we have requested.

12 I have always been an advocate for what I

13 believe to be the best for the community I work in.

14 I am amazed by the response to our efforts in

15 keeping our boundaries.

16 The people I represent today are those

17 people who many times have no voices. These people

18 are the sole of a marvelous and unique

19 neighborhood. They are the local businesses and the

20 local residents. Through numerous interviews they
21 all have expressed their strong support for our
22 boundaries.

23 Our local community members demonstrate a
24 positive view of the future of **Lincoln Heights**, but
25 I ask the commission today, how are we to promote
0150

01 participation and be responsive to our local needs
02 if we are to be divided? Are we not to build
03 partnerships to address our local request? And of
04 course the answer is yes. Then why are we letting a
05 few people tear down our weak grass roots by
06 proposing a split of our small community?

07 If we are to foster a sense of community
08 for all people to identify and prioritize our needs,
09 how do we propose to be effective by letting us
10 divide it into its very soul that is just barely
11 forming. We all support the idea of being a group
12 as a whole as to best organize our neighborhood and
13 resolve our economic, environmental, family, and
14 cultural challenges.

15 Community building is a long a painful
16 process. The success of our efforts typically goes

17 through progress stages. To exclude the brewery

18 would be catastrophic for our efforts. Community

19 members need to establish relationships, build

20 trust, and develop a sense of unity.

21 I thank you for -- for all your time, the

22 president and the board. I also thank you, the

23 guidance and support of DONE, especially Marco, but

24 most of all to the committee supporters and

25 leadership of my fellow peers of Lincoln Heights.

0151

01 Thank you, Oscar, for your determined

02 enthusiasm. I really hope that we are able to

03 acquire our certification today as to concentrate

04 and focus in the future of Lincoln Heights.

05 Thank you.

06 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Ray

07 Koranubius, Junior, Catherine Cummings, Norma

08 D'Andrea. Amy Dainger. Corazon Del Sol.

09 Becky Dennison will be followed by Teresa

10 Duarte and William Edwards.

11 BECKY DENNISON: Hello. My name is Becky

12 Dennison. I work with the Los Angeles Coalition --
13 -- from months of organizing work that has
14 taken place in this community which other people
15 will speak to. And although we need to do a lot
16 more research -- I'm sorry -- outreach and
17 organizing, we have made great progress, especially
18 since we've come back together as a new leadership
19 group.

20 And support -- to support our letter of
21 intent today we'd like to submit seven formal
22 letters of support from community-based
23 organizations and businesses in our neighborhood,
24 including the volunteers of America and Salvation
25 Army, two very large community-based organizations
0152

01 with decades of work in our community.

02 We also submit 203 signatures of area

03 stakeholders who support a separate Central City
04 East neighborhood association -- council. And I
05 also submit the documentation of the history of our
06 organizing and outreach that took place over the
07 past year, as well as a formal letter from three of
08 our residents who were excluded from the process of
09 organizing in the greater Downtown L.A. Neighborhood

10 council.

11 And we have formal letters to DONE

12 documenting those processes, so I would like to

13 submit all of that in support of a separate

14 neighborhood council.

15 Just personally, I don't feel that a

16 separate neighborhood council would result in

17 community members finding themselves outside of

18 Downtown's community processes as was stated in the

19 downtown L.A. Neighborhood Council application.

20 Just the opposite, our neighborhood council will

21 allow us to create our own power and put us on equal

22 footing in community processes.

23 Because of the structure and purpose of

24 neighborhood councils we do not feel that we need to

25 align ourselves with traditional institutions and
0153

01 communities with power in order to create a cohesive
02 and impactful council.

03 Two to five seats available to our

04 community on the Downtown L.A. Neighbor council's
05 board represents a very small minority of the 27
06 seats available, and historically low income people
07 speaking as a minority have not been able to create
08 power in community processes.

09 So for all of those reasons I feel that we

10 should be removed from their application.

11 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Teresa Duarte,

12 William Edwards, Chuck Fisago, followed by David

13 Flores and Hector Flores.

14 WILLIAM EDWARDS: You said. Edwards. No

15 Duarte?

16 COMMISSIONER STONE: What's your name, sir?

17 WILLIAM EDWARDS: William Edwards.

18 COMMISSIONER STONE: Go ahead.

19 WILLIAM EDWARDS: Go ahead and go?

20 My name is William Edwards. I have -- I

21 work in the five -- I work and live in the 500 block

22 of San Julian in the what's known as Skid Row,

23 Central City East. I've been involved in the

24 Downtown Neighborhood Council's efforts to

25 organize.

0154

01 Every meeting that -- that I have

02 attended, the core values that have been expressed
03 are centered around inclusiveness and equity. And I
04 believe the plan that has been submitted to you and
05 the bylaws reflect those -- those basic values.

06 You have -- you've heard in the response,

07 or you're being led to believe that there's some new
08 activity happening in that neighborhood or somehow
09 people have been excluded. To the contrary, we have

10 active -- you are going to hear other individuals

11 come up here and talk about the outreach that has --

12 that we have been doing over the last year and the

13 number of people who have expressed their -- their

14 support of our efforts.

15 I don't think that there is anything new

16 in the -- the idea of breaking off. I think that it

17 has been discussed and discussed and discussed in

18 our neighborhood over the last year and, frankly, it

19 just has never garnered the support that the -- that

20 the group would -- would like to have had. So I --

21 I guess the ideas coming forward to you and telling

22 you that there's now something new.

23 I think that to accept a -- to derail the

24 efforts of all of those -- of us in the community

25 that have about worked for the last year to be
0155

01 included at the larger table, to partner with the
02 other interests in the -- more fully partner with
03 the other interests in the city would be a
04 disservice to those who -- who have worked so hard.
05 And please pay attention to some more of

06 the details that you're going to get later on about
07 just the extensive outwork that's -- outreach that's
08 been being done, and done the right way. Please
09 help us to support the inclusion of our neighborhood

10 in the larger council.

11 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

12 Chuck Fisago, David Flores, Hector Flores.

13 HECTOR FLORES: Hello. My name is Hector

14 Flores, and I'm a student at Cal State Long Beach

15 but I live in Lincoln Heights.

16 I was confirmation teacher at our Lady

17 Help of Christian, who supports the Lincoln Heights,

18 as well as the head of the youth group until I

19 acquired a job and was not able to do it anymore.
20 But Lincoln Heights has outreached to the
21 community, outreached to the youth group. My
22 sister, who's part of it, they went to their
23 meetings. And I feel that Lincoln Heights does not
24 make the kids feel or the children, the youth, feel
25 inferior as sometimes it might because, you know,
0156

01 they're inexperienced, but yet they are very open to
02 their ideas and are very accepting to them and are
03 willing to work with the kids and what they want and
04 what they need in the community.

05 So I support Lincoln Heights Neighborhood
06 community -- community council. Thank you.

07 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Yuko Gabe,

08 Michael Gagan, Anna Gallegos, and Yolanda Gallegos.
09 ANNA GALLEGOS: Hi. I'm a long-time resident

10 of Lincoln Heights. I went to school there, went to
11 Our Lady Help of Christians, went away to college,
12 did a brief stint in the East Coast, but I returned
13 because I do feel it's my home.

14 And I would like to say that I support
15 certification of a neighborhood council because it

16 really provides us a vehicle through which we can do
17 outreach to community members and organize ourselves
18 to become politically active citizens, thereby
19 giving ourselves the feeling that we have a voice
20 and agency in the decisions that are made in Lincoln
21 Heights.

22 Because at this point, throughout the time
23 that I've been growing up, I've seen it become a

24 very politically and socially disenfranchised
25 community. And I came back because I want to do
0157

01 something to bring us back to a place where we have
02 political power and a voice.

03 And I also, by the way, just want to

04 mention that I support a Skid Row's formation of a
05 neighborhood council as well.

06 Thank you.

07 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

08 ANNA GALLEGOS: My name? Oh, Anna Gallegos.

09 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. I think we jumped

10 ahead. Mr. -- Mr Gagan. Gagan, sorry.

11 MICHAEL GAGAN: And I think Oscar Garcia from

12 Lincoln Heights would like to come up as well.

13 COMMISSIONER STONE: That would be -- that

14 would be fine, Mr. (inaudible).

15 MICHAEL GAGAN: In conversations with the

16 Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council leadership, we

17 have confirmed an agreement. We do not dispute the

18 boundary that is recommended by DONE, and the

19 Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council does not

20 dispute our bylaws.

21 So that may address some concerns that

22 many of your future speakers might have.

23 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Excuse me. Could you

24 be more specific on what you don't dispute?

25 MICHAEL GAGAN: Yeah, we don't dispute --

0158

01 coming in to today there was a dispute about the

02 boundary, the proposed boundary. Staff proposed

03 boundary as the Los Angeles River. We don't dispute

04 that.

05 Our bylaws provide for the election of two

06 representatives from the brewery area, and the down
07 -- the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council doesn't
08 dispute that.

09 That's the nature of our compromise
10 agreement, or our agreement.

11 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: So now -- you mean
12 that you're agreeing to include -- let the brewery
13 go with Lincoln Heights?

14 MICHAEL GAGAN: Physically it will be located
15 in Lincoln Heights, that's correct. It's --
16 actually, it's addressed on page 4 of your staff
17 report as one of the compromise options that had
18 been considered previously.

19 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: But you will have to
20 -- are you going to speak on that, Mr. Garcia?

21 OSCAR GARCIA: A little bit, yeah, a little bit
22 on that, yeah.

23 COMMISSIONER STONE: Mr. Garcia, would you
24 please give us your take on this?

25 OSCAR GARCIA: Our take was that we were

0159

01 respecting the DONE report in the sense that -- the
02 boundary line. So we -- we support the DONE report
03 showing that the brewery is part of the Lincoln
04 Heights Neighborhood Council. We do support that.

05 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. We have -- well, we

06 have time to -- to clarify for rebuttal after all of
07 the testimony is taken.

08 I have Randy Gardo.

09 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Could we have a

10 clarification, please, of the last speaker?

11 COMMISSIONER STONE: And Floyd Harris. William

12 Harrison, Carrie Hendrix, and Andrew Johnson. And

13 please state your name since we're calling up so

14 many people at once.

15 FLOYD HARRIS: Floyd Harris, the Los Angeles

16 Community Action Network.

17 I'm a resident in the heart of Skid Row.

18 I've been there for several years. I am also an

19 artist. And I am against the outside boundaries. I

20 mean, the Downtown L.A. Neighborhood Council can

21 have everything out there, but we want to have our
22 own boundary in the -- in the area of Skid Row. You
23 know, we feel that we should be separated from
24 that.

25 They want all of the pie, you know. They
0160

01 can share and give us a piece of it. You know,
02 what's wrong with that? And that's all I have to
03 say. You know, I do support our boundary, you know,
04 which is the Skid Row area, but I have been living
05 in Skid Row for a very long time, and there are a
06 lot of artists down there as well. I see them every
07 day, I talk to them every day, you know. They're
08 nice people, and they -- they should be heard.
09 You know, unfortunately they couldn't be
10 here 'cause they didn't have a way to get here, but
11 believe me, I speak for them and I'm sure my
12 colleagues do as well, and we -- we should have our
13 own separate entity.

14 Thank you very much.

15 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. William
16 Harrison.

17 WILLIAM HARRISON: Yes. My name -- my name's

18 William Harrison. I've lived in Central City East

19 for approximately six and a half years.

20 I ask today that we get a chance to have

21 our own neighborhood council away from the big one,

22 because all these people are talking about outreach,

23 they've sent fliers out. I live in the SRO hotel,

24 senior citizens. I have not seen one outreach

25 person. I have not seen one flier. And there are

0161

01 other people I've asked about it and they haven't

02 even any. As Harris said, they haven't had a way to

03 get here.

04 All I'm asking is we have a chance to

05 voice our opinion and to see what we can do,

06 because there is enough people in Central City East

07 to do so if they just give them the chance to do

0 8 it.

09 The bigger -- I'll make it real short.

10 The bigger council happened don't -- I would state

11 the majority of them don't even live in Central City

12 East.

13 All I ask is that we be given a chance.

14 Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Carrie

16 Hendrix, Andrew Johnson.

17 CARRIE HENDRIX: Hello. I'm Carrie Hendrix.

18 I'm a resident and business owner of the brewery. I

19 am also the elected president of the brewery art

20 association which put on that event Arnold Carlson

21 mentioned that hosted 15,000 people last weekend.

22 We do it twice a year. We're a group of about 75 to

23 a hundred artists that volunteer to put that event
24 on.

25 We'd like to publicly thank Eugenia

0162

01 Butler, Don Levy, and Mike Brewer and everyone else
02 who's worked so hard, plus Carlson Industries that
03 makes our neighborhood possible.

04 Our organization strongly supports having

05 two seats on the Downtown council to represent our
06 views. It's a hard life being an artist and, if we
07 can do it together, maybe we'll have a chance.

08 Thank you.

09 ANDREW JOHNSON: Hi. My name is Andrew
10 Johnson, and I'm a resident of Central City East,
11 formerly known as Skid Row. And I'm here today to
12 voice my concern about us being -- or that
13 particular section being included in a larger
14 council.
15 Traditionally this area has been neglected
16 in having a voice in any concerns or ability to
17 self-empower, to make decisions for themselves that
18 effect where Skid Row is going. As the council is
19 aware, members of the audience is aware, that area
20 is changing. And we'd like for the council to
21 consider letting us form our own neighborhood
22 council as a part of that change to include us in
23 the decision-making abilities that effect that
24 area.

25 Traditionally that is a transit area, and
0163

01 due to efforts of SRO housing, a lot of people are
02 getting low income housing. That's a hot bed for
03 low income housing now and we need to continue to

04 have a voice in the community there.

05 And if council has the power and -- and

06 I'd like to add this (inaudible) before I close, a
07 pound of prevention -- I mean an ounce of prevention
08 better than a pound of cure, and then that applies
09 in this case if you allow the Downtown Neighborhood

10 Council to go forward.

11 I'd also like to state that I'm a member

12 of the Los Angeles Mission Alumni and I'm a Vietnam

13 veteran that have concern about this issue.

14 Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Herman Jones,

16 Steve Castin, Claude Kent, Nancy Kent.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think those last two

18 were just -- they're not speaking but they were

19 (inaudible).

20 COMMISSIONER STONE: Regina Kirshenbaum.

21 ROMERO: What is your name, sir?

22 DON GARZA: My name is Don Garza. I filled out

23 a speaker card earlier.

24 COMMISSIONER STONE: All right, Mr. Garza, I

25 think I -- I'm sorry. I've got a lot of piles
0164

01 here.

02 Let's let Mr. Garza go. He has submitted

03 a card.

04 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: You'll come after him.

05 COMMISSIONER STONE: I apologize for that.

06 DON GARZA: I am grateful. I sit on a

07 committee myself, so I know it gets rather hectic at
08 times and I -- you know, I know they were listening,
09 you know, to us.

10 A lot of outreach had been done in Central

11 City East. Erin Ulrich is a community builder for

12 -- was the community builder, SRO Housing

13 Corporation, as he sent out fliers to the various

14 buildings and SRO.

15 I myself, even before I became a PAC

16 member -- I have not missed one meeting. One gen-

17 -- well, that's not true. I have missed one general

18 meeting of the Downtown Neighborhood Council's

19 general meetings where we all get together as a

20 group from various communities.

21 I sit on the bylaws committee. They

22 listen to me. I stood up when the CCA, the Central

23 City Association, decided they wanted to have -- and

24 I -- I -- I -- I understand. When the Central City

25 Association wanted to have a seat granted to them in
0165

01 the bylaws specifically, and I was one of the people

02 that stood up. And they listened, and it was

03 amended and it was voted for.

04 To say that Skid Row does not have a vote,

05 or Central City East will not have a voice at the

06 larger table, that is erroneous. We have worked

07 long and hard to overcome assumptions that we make

08 about each other. After September 11th it became

09 very imperative to me that we do see and speak to

10 each other at the larger table.

11 The reason Central City East is neglected

12 is because it has been isolated for such a very long

13 time. What -- Central City East is an institution

14 in itself. The inhabitants of Central City East are

15 those that have either been institutionalized in

16 prisons, institutionalized in mental hospitals and
17 released. I myself have had experiences in the
18 past.

19 The -- the basic argument is going to be
20 are these people going to have a voice. The
21 neighborhood councils do not say if you are a
22 parolee you cannot have a voice. The neighborhood
23 councils say if you have a felony you do not have a
24 voice. The neighborhood councils are saying you
25 matter now.

0166

01 We are going to be able to vote for
02 somebody from Central City East, not -- not -- not
03 somebody that has been groomed by social service
04 providers or activists or organizers, those people
05 that fight for free funding from the -- the -- the
06 people that have the money.

07 We're going to be able to be on that large
08 seat and we're going to be able to tell them which
09 -- which works and which don't work. And I would
10 hope that you understand that we need to be heard,
11 not ignored. And if we are isolated, we will
12 continue to be Marginalized and we will be --

13 continue to be ignored, and there will be a control
14 issue on the basis of organizers.

15 I have been excluded. I have been
16 excluded by certain organizations in the community
17 -- and yes, I know I got to go. But it's
18 imperative. I brought my -- my -- my -- I missed
19 class today. This is important. Please, do not let
20 us continue to drown in neglect because we think
21 that we cannot get along.

22 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you very much. If
23 the audience could please -- please refrain from --
24 thank you.

25 HERMAN JONES: My name is Herman Jones, and I'm
0167

01 on the board of directors for L.A. Coalition in home
02 and homelessness and Emergency Food and Shelter
03 Board.

04 I bring to you today a question, and the

05 question is, is this going to be a neighborhood
06 council or a city council? Because, to me, it looks
07 like it's a takeover of our little bitty small

08 communities and some people that is already got
09 everything in place to take over, and what is that
10 if it's not for money and for funding?

11 I said that I -- I am a former resident of
12 downtown Los Angeles over a decade. And I've slept
13 out on those streets and I've slept where these big
14 companies take and put water sprinklers out so we
15 will not have any place to sleep. See, I've slept
16 under those and got ran out, too, from -- from
17 downtown Los Angeles, from -- from the -- from the
18 city part to the L.A. River.

19 And here it is, is that there are some
20 agency and some people around that's trying to
21 change things, and you guys are talking about not
22 giving them a chance to make a change. This -- this
23 -- this council will not be able to change anything
24 in a couple years, even though they are big and they
25 are going to have even less concentration on the
0168

01 most needed area in the -- in Los Angeles.

02 So with a council this big, with an area

03 trying to support this big, there's no way that they
04 can target downtown. They can -- they can actually
05 target the Central City East.

06 So I'm asking you, please, please consider

07 Central City East as being independent. That's --
08 that's all we need.

09 And just one other thing before I go. I

10 heard some people speaking about educating,

11 empowerment, and engage. On Skid Row I haven't --

12 no city councilman, no anybody ever been out to

13 engage in one of those sidewalk sales with me,

14 haven't anyone came out and tried to educate me on

15 how to get up out of Skid Row and try to get a life

16 and by a home. Have --

17 COMMISSIONER STONE: Mr. Jones, if you could

18 wrap up, please.

19 HERMAN JONES: I will.

20 And there was no one that was empowering

21 me until it was some people from right there off of

22 Skid Row that reach out and help me.

23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

25 Steve -- Steve Kastin, Claude Kent and
0169

01 Nancy Kent.

02 STEVE KASTIN: Good afternoon. My name is

03 Steve Kastin, and I think of myself as a stakeholder
04 in Lincoln Heights three different ways. First,

05 I've been in business in the community on North
06 Broadway for over 30 years. I own property in
07 Lincoln Heights, and I'm a member of many local
08 organizations, primarily the Lincoln Heights chamber
09 of commerce, past president of the chamber for

10 approximately 15 years.

11 You heard our present chamber president

12 address you. Our chamber of commerce does support

13 the neighborhood council, the boundaries as drawn,

14 and we think it's a good thing for the community.

15 One of our -- one of the things that we're

16 real proud of in the community, especially the

17 chamber, we say unity builds the community. And I

18 really think that this neighborhood council can go a

19 long way in building that unity.

20 The makeup of the neighborhood council, I

21 think, is remarkable. It's well represented. I'm
22 real proud of it. I'm watching what's going on.
23 The leadership has emerged. I think you have
24 wonderful people there. I put my hands into the
25 leadership. I think my -- my business and my
0170

01 concerns will be taken care of, I'm sure.

02 And I also want to mention one of the

03 things the chamber has done for many years is
04 provided sidewalk sales in the community, which the
05 neighborhood council has embraced. They have done

06 outreach programs at our neighborhood -- at our

07 sidewalk sales when we've had probably 10, 20,000

08 people walk through the streets. So people are well
09 aware of it, they've been informed, they know what

10 it's all about, and I think they've done a great

11 job.

12 The one controversy that saddens me is the

13 controversy with the brewery. I, for one, have been

14 in that community long enough to know that the

15 brewery is in Lincoln Heights. Lincoln Heights is a

16 well-established suburb of Los Angeles. It's

17 known. It's Lincoln Heights. I'm proud of it, and
18 when I tell people where my office is, I'm proud to
19 say it's in Lincoln Heights.

20 And I think we've failed to network enough
21 with the brewery. I think the neighborhood council
22 can -- can resolve that. We did have, I think, some
23 heart -- hurt feelings because we had a business
24 improvement district in Lincoln Heights that failed
25 to embrace the brewery, and there were some
0171

01 shortcomings on that body.

02 Between the neighborhood council and the
03 chamber and the other organizations, I think that
04 will be resolved. And I would really look forward
05 to working with the brewery and I'll be the first
06 one to step forward and work with them, with the
07 neighborhood council, the chamber, and the brewery
08 together.

09 Thank you very much.

10 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Can I ask you a
11 question? Sir, before you leave, does your mail go
12 to Los Angeles or Lincoln Heights?

13 STEVE KASTIN: You know –

14 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I mean, is it

15 addressed to you in Los Angeles?

16 STEVE KASTIN: It goes both ways, to be very

17 honest with you. It is definitely Los Angeles,

18 90031, but we get letters all the time **Lincoln**

19 **Heights**. So it goes both ways.

20 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER STONE: Claude Kent, Nancy Kent,

22 and Regina Kirshenbaum. Brian Keto, Don Levi, and

23 after that. Fan Lu.

24 BRIAN KETO: Excuse me. Since I've spoken

25 already I'm going to give my name up to someone
0172

01 else.

02 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. Keep it brief, too,

03 please.

04 BRIAN KETO: Okay.

05 TAKAWA SUZUKI: Real briefly, again, my name is

06 Takawa Suzuki. I was born in Los Angeles, raised,

07 and now work in Little Tokyo. And in addition, I
08 belong to a Little Tokyo Residents Association.

09 And the one thing I would like to state
10 for the record is regarding the Little Tokyo
11 southern boundary, particularly Fourth Street. As
12 is. Little Tokyo right now is only 25 percent of
13 what it used to be in the 1930s. 25 percent. You
14 know, that's -- it's a dramatic decrease.

15 And aside from that fact. Little Tokyo
16 census tract incorporates the area up to -- up
17 Fourth Street and is within the same zip code.
18 I would like to stress that the Little
19 Tokyo community supports Little Tokyo to go up to
20 Fourth Street. Please keep Little Tokyo intact.

21 Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Don Levy, Fan
23 Lu, and Rick Mantly.

24 DON LEVY: Hi. My name is Don Levy. And I'm a
25 resident at the brewery and I've been an active
0173

01 member of DLANC since early August when I first
02 learned of it.

03 And in a few -- in a couple hours I'm

04 probably going to have to go back to the 80 percent
05 of the residents in the brewery who petitioned to be
06 part of DLANC and I'm going to have to go back to
07 the 95 percent of those in the industrial area
08 between us and the river who petitioned, who signed
09 petitions -- maybe even higher than 95 percent --

10 and try and explain to them why the word

11 "empowerment" doesn't mean what they thought it

12 meant.

13

And so if you'll bear with me for just a

14 minute, I would like to give you some facts.

15 COMMISSIONER STONE: Just a minute, though.

16 DON LEVY: Just a minute.

17 COMMISSIONER STONE: Yes.

18 DON LEVY: We've worked a year, and you need

19 some facts. And so if I can -- first of all, I

20 believe (inaudible).

21 I'm pretty nervous. I believe you all

22 have these, but I will give you a copy anyway. And

23 I refer you to the colored maps that are on there,
24 which I will also hold up for the audience.
25 So here's some facts, if I may.

0174

01 Could somebody help me with this, please?

02 Thank you, Betty.

03 Fact: This is the proposed boundaries of

04 Los Angeles, DLANC. You will notice that this area,
05 artist area down here, is an extra mile away from
06 where we and the brewery are. That's a fact.

07 Fact: Until we took our own petitions

08 out, not a single petition was signed, not one, for
09 **Lincoln Heights** and the brewery. When we went and

10 got 77 petitions -- or 75, **Lincoln Heights** came in

11 and got 66. They did it by saying that there was an

12 agreement that we could be shared by both. And I'm

13 sure you're all aware that you haven't approved

14 that.

15 We then gathered other petitions, and we

16 have five -- 300 -- I'm sorry, 257 petitions from

17 the -- from the brewery for Downtown and 57 from the

18 businesses to our west.

19 I also would like to call to your

20 attention to our exhibit number -- and then I will

21 let you go -- could you -- could you allow me?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I had (inaudible).

23 COMMISSIONER STONE: I appreciate if the public

24 please will refrain from making comments.

25 And Mr. Levy, if -- if you can wrap it up,
0175

01 we do have the materials that you're referring to.

02 DON LEVY: If you will look, there is a map in

03 there --

04 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

05 DON LEVY: Do your time, sir.

06 COMMISSIONER STONE: Excuse me, everyone.

07 Please, please wrap up.

08 DON LEVY: I will.

09 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

10 COMMISSIONER STONE: Please continue.

11 DON LEVY: I will as soon as these gentlemen

12 stop shouting over me.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You going to let him run

14 that or are you going to (inaudible)?

15 COMMISSIONER STONE: Excuse me, sir.

Excuse

16 me, sir. You had your chance to speak.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right. But who

18 (inaudible)?

19 COMMISSIONER STONE: Excuse me, sir. If we –

20 we can't argue about this. Let's just proceed.

21 Mr. Levy, please wrap up your comments.

22 DON LEVY: If you will look at the map of

23 **Lincoln Heights**' own map, which you will see there's

24 a series of dots all over their area, you will see

25 that their outreach has not been into the brewery
0176

01 and that it hasn't even been into County USC, where

02 they have not a single signature in this huge area

03 with tens of thousands of stakeholders.

04 Now, the question is, where's the

05 empowerment? What do I tell our people? And that's

06 my question.

07 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you very much.

08 Fan Lu, Rick -- Rick Mantly, and Ingrid

09 Mao.

10 FAN LU: Hi. My name is Fan Lu. I'm a student

11 at Lincoln High School, and I'm very proud for the

12 neighborhood and also I am very -- I'm -- I'm

13 nervous, I'm sorry -- I'm willing to do everything

14 to help our neighborhood council and I will tell all

15 my friends who joins in, and I want to be a part of

16 it.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Rick Mantly,

19 Ingrid Mau, and Rich Me Carthy.

20 RICK MANTLY: Good afternoon. My name is Rick

21 Mantly. I'm a long-term resident of the Central

22 City East area. I'm a veteran, honorably

23 discharged, I might add, and I'm also a member -- a

24 proud member of the Los Angeles Community Action

25 Network, L.A. Can, which is a true grassroots

01 community organization, and our organization is in
02 the forefront of this effort to bring about a Skid
03 Row neighborhood council.

04 If this process is about empowerment, you
05 don't empower people, over 11,000 residents who are
06 living in the -- in the map that we've drawn up, the
07 boundaries we have drawn up, there's been -- there's
08 11,000 residents in that area. You don't empower
09 11,000 residents by giving them one or two seats on
10 a 27-man board. That's not empowerment.

11 You don't empower residents by giving
12 (inaudible) a voice on a -- have a small voice. A
13 Central City East neighborhood council will not give
14 them a voice that will be barely heard; it will give
15 them a voice that roars. It will give them a voice
16 that will be heard loud and clear.

17 That's not going to happen on this larger
18 Downtown Neighborhood Council. They will not have
19 that voice. They will not have that
20 representation. That's why it is imperative that we

21 -- that you allow us to go forward with the process.
22 And of course it's difficult to organize
23 the people in this area. They've traditionally been
24 disenfranchised, they've been -- traditionally been
25 excluded.

01 It was curious to note that when we had
02 all these Power Point presentations that you have
03 the statistical breakdown of the ethnic and racial
04 diversity in the area. That was not presented to
05 you by the Downtown Neighborhood Council. And you
06 know why? Because the overwhelming majority of the
07 people in that area are African-American, and as one
08 of the Commissioners expressed, they are the people
09 that have traditionally been disenfranchised and
10 have not been included in the political process.

11 And you will further -- you will further
12 add to that disenfranchisement if you will not allow
13 us to go forward and create a downtown neighborhood
14 council. That is what we ask for, that's what we
15 demand actually, because we are not going to sit

16 back and be --

17 They talk about how we going to have a
18 voice. We'll have much more of a voice being part
19 -- having our own Skid Row neighborhood council than
20 being part of this larger group. We'll have much
21 more of a voice being our own organization and the
22 determining our own destiny. We will not have a
23 voice and we will not be allowed -- we don't want to
24 be passengers on the back of a bus. We want to
25 drive the vehicle.

01 Thank you.

02 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Ingrid -

03 Ingrid Mau, Rick -- Rich Me Carthy.

04 INGRID MAU: Hi. My name is Ingrid Mau. I'm

05 -- I'm a resident of Lincoln Heights and I also go
06 to the Lincoln High School.

07 I heard about the neighborhood council

08 when my teacher. Miss Abagian, presented the

09 opportunity for me to learn about it. Well, I just

10 want to say that I support the council fully, and

11 thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you very much.

13 Rich Me Carthy, Richard Marullio, Lynn

14 Myers, and Robert Nakahiro.

15 LARRY ROUCH: Hi. I'm Larry Rouch speaking for

16 Richard Marillo. He filled out a card for Central

17 City East Association, and I'm the chairman of

18 Central City East Association. Richard had to

19 leave, so I'm speaking for him in his behalf.

20 I'd like to say that we are supportive of

21 the DONE report. We want to be included in the

22 central -- in the Downtown district. We -- I'm a

23 little surprised by some of the comments I've heard

24 because there was a lot of meetings that took place

25 between us and the Little Tokyo group and there was

01 an agreement, or at least we thought there was an

02 agreement that the boundary would be at Third Street

03 with a couple of exceptions that were, historically,

04 more belonged to Little Tokyo.

05 There are six property owners in the

06 Downtown district who have property between Third
07 and Fourth and the disputed area. All six of them
08 are advocates of being in the Downtown district
09 that was -- that was described.

10 Richard Marillo is the owner of the Little
11 Tokyo center, and he polled the tenants in his and
12 he -- he said that there was no overwhelming one way
13 or the other, but he is a -- just a strong, strong
14 advocate of being included in the Downtown
15 Neighborhood Council.

16 The --one of the other speakers mentioned
17 about providing security in that interim area. In
18 fact, some of those home -- property owners in that
19 area have contracted with the BID to provide that
20 area, and in over 50 percent of those property
21 owners have expressed interest in the expanded BID
22 which will come up next year to be included in -- in
23 the current BID. They haven't formed one and, as
24 they said, don't -- you said it had been however
25 many, four, 10 years that they hadn't done it. We

01 have it, and they've asked us to expand into their area.

03 The toy district, which is significantly

04 in that area, are -- are all supportive of being in

05 the Downtown district.

06 And as far as reaching out to the -- the

07 Central City East area, there was continual outreach

08 to the Central City East. I know that our executive

09 director made monthly calls to the -- to a number of

10 the stakeholders, or who represented stakeholders in

11 that area and never got any interest in -- in

12 participating any more than they did.

13 So we are very supportive of the -- of the

14 Downtown Neighborhood Council. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

17 Lynn Myers, followed by Robert Nakahiro,

18 and Mark Nakagawa.

19 LYNN MYERS: Thank you. I am Lynn Myers. I am

20 a Downtown stakeholder and I have worked in Downtown

21 since 1994. I've seen some amazing changes going on

22 and happening in that time. And I'm looking forward

23 to working with our Downtown Neighborhood Council to

24 make that happen and continue to happen.

25 Finally, I'd like to thank everyone in our

01 group who has done a lot of hard work to pull this

02 together. It's a very diverse group, as you can

03 tell, and we look forward to continuing to work with them.

05 Thank you.

06 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

07 I have been just told by staff that we

08 only have this room until four o'clock, so we really

09 need to move it along. And if anyone is coming up

10 to speak and their points have already been made,

11 please just associate yourself with that point and

12 we'll take note. Thank you.

13 ROBERT NAKAHIRO: Good afternoon,

14 Commissioners. My name is Robert Nakahiro, and I'm

15 here as a member of the steering committee of the

16 Arroyo Seco neighborhood council, and our

17 application will be coming up on May 28th.

18 And I'm here simply to provide some --

19 some clarification for the record. As a result of

20 -- I believe, or I was informed some last-minute
21 input by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment,
22 it was necessary for the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood
23 Council to come together with our brothers and
24 sisters in the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council
25 to reach an agreement with regards to the ASNC's
01 southern boundary, which would be the Lincoln Heights
02 -- Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council's northern
03 boundary.

04 And I'm very pleased to say that we worked
05 on it yesterday, we worked on it diligently and we
06 reached agreement. And so it was signed off and it
07 is in writing.

08 It's my understanding that you may or may
09 not have received this signed agreement as a part of
10 their certification application with respect to
11 their boundaries, so we would simply request that
12 whatever vote is taken with regards to the Lincoln
13 Heights Neighborhood Council today, that that be
14 subject to and include the amendment to the

15 boundaries in writing between the ASNC and the

16 Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council.

17 And I also want to say that I'm very

18 pleased and very proud, I wish them well, and I know

19 that we in the ASNC are going to work very, very

20 well with our brothers and sisters in the Lincoln

21 Heights Neighborhood Council and all the

22 neighborhood councils to empower the communities of

23 the northeast Los Angeles.

Thank you. I'm not sure again, I can read this. I

01 only have an original. I don't have a copy. So -- okay.

03 Thank you.

04 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Mark Nakagawa,

05 followed by Howard Nishimura and Carlos Nistal.

06 MARK NAKAGAWA: I'm Mark Nakagawa, the senior

07 minister of Sentinery United Methodist Church in

08 Little Tokyo. We occupy the corner -- the southeast

09 corner of Third and Central right next to Little

10 Tokyo Square, where I've gotten to know Mr. Marillo

11 quite well. He's the principle there.

12 In addition to being the senior pastor of
13 Sentinery, this is also the church of my family and
14 where I grew up as a youth, so I have a lot of the
15 history of this congregation. And I'm here to speak
16 to the issue of the disputed boundary which is the
17 south side -- the disputed boundary between the
18 Historical Cultural council and the Downtown
19 council, which is primarily -- well, where it begins
20 is the south side of Third Street.

21 I believe my church is one of the historic
22 areas that Larry just mentioned, and I'm here to say
23 today that although we -- we really feel that we are
24 a part of the Downtown area, obviously
25 geographically, our reason for being in Little Tokyo
01 both historic and cultural. And this is very true
02 with respect to Sentinery.

03 Sentinery Methodist church was chartered
04 in 1896 as the Los Angeles Japanese Methodist
05 Mission. We were the first officially chartered
06 Christian organization ministering to the Japanese

07 immigrant population over 100 years ago.

08 From 1896 until the early 1920s our

09 congregation moved among several locations in the

10 Little Tokyo area. Because of the alien land laws

11 at that time which prohibited Japanese immigrants

12 from owning land, the Methodist church purchased

13 property for our congregation on the corner of

14 Normandie Avenue and 35th Street. Today that area

15 is called South Park, referred to as South Park.

16 And we were there for about 50 years.

17 But this is the important point that I

18 wish to raise: In the mid 1980s, our congregation

19 made the conscious decision to move back into Little

20 Tokyo, back into downtown. And think about this for

21 a second for those of us here who have memories long

22 enough to remember this: In the 1980s there was a

23 mass exodus of churches as well as businesses from

24 the downtown area out to the suburbs.

25 We went counter to that frame of thought

01 and chose to move back into Little Tokyo because we

02 realized this was the hub of Japanese American
03 community in Southern California, and that is why we
04 are now back in Little Tokyo.

05 We are not antibusiness. We have
06 prominent business people in our congregation, both
07 in the broader downtown area as well as Little
08 Tokyo. But they -- even they agree that if it --
09 when it comes to the neighborhood councils,
10 Sentinry United Methodist church as well as some of
11 the other historic Japanese locations along the
12 south area of Third Street, can best serve the
13 broader interests of downtown by being part of the
14 Historic Cultural council.

15 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you very much.

16 Carlos Nistal, followed -- okay, he's not
17 here. George -- George Pentanasis?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible), no?

19 COMMISSIONER STONE: And then Dino Pentasis.

20 Did I call you?

21 HOWARD NISHIMURA: You called me and then

22 skipped over after --

23 COMMISSIONER STONE: I'm sorry. What's your
24 name, please?

25 HOWARD NISHIMURA: I'm Howard Nishimura.

01 COMMISSIONER STONE: Yes. Go ahead, sir.

02 HOWARD NISHIMURA: Okay. I'm president of the
03 Little Tokyo Community Council and I'm also a
04 resident and I have a business that was in the
05 disputed boundary area between Third and Fourth.
06 The community council represents over 50
07 community organizations and also businesses
08 organizations. We feel very strongly and have
09 endorsed unanimously the compromise that we are --
10 have two members of the Downtown and when we go into
11 the historic -- stay in the Historic and Cultural
12 Neighborhood Council.

13 As a result, the only dispute we have at
14 the present time is the area between Third and
15 Fourth Street between San Pedro and Alameda. We
16 feel very strongly. When I had the meeting and our

17 committee had a meeting with the Downtown group,
18 they brought all of the property owners, and
19 personally I thought it was going to be a meeting
20 with just a boundary committee and not with all of
21 the people -- property owners, so I didn't bring
22 with me the affected people such as the churches and
23 the other groups.

24 And also, I'm in the professional building
25 which is at Fourth -- Third and San Pedro, which has
01 many Japanese Americans practicing, doing business
02 in that area.

03 So as a result, when we had a --
04 preliminary agreement, it was then I had a
05 subsequent meeting that day with the executive --
06 executive committee of the community council, and it
07 was voted unanimously that they would like to keep
08 that in the Little Tokyo boundaries. And that's
09 that area between Third and Fourth.

10 The main driving force of the discussion
11 is that we've had a tremendous homeless problem

12 coming in from the south -- the south, and that's
13 sort of become an area that gives us a buffer zone
14 so that we can try to keep the homeless to the south
15 of us, farther south.

16 And that was the reason that we -- those
17 members who are very strong in opposition to any
18 kind of agreement on giving up that area brought at
19 that time.

20 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

21 HOWARD NISHIMURA: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER STONE: George Pantasis?

23 GEORGE PANTASIS: Pantasis, yeah.

24 COMMISSIONER STONE: Pantasis? I'm sorry.

25 GEORGE PANTASIS: Yeah, my name is George

01 Pantasis. I'm one of the original -- myself and a

02 few other people got together, did the **Lincoln**

03 **Heights** Neighborhood Council.

04 I had a different speech made up, so I

05 threw that out the window once I saw what unity we

06 have in here, and I want to applaud the board and

07 their decision to keep our boundaries as they were
08 originally.

09 We had a lot of diverse conflicting
10 moments, but I think through the diversity we will
11 have unity, we will have some kind of confirmation
12 among us to go forward and, as the man said up here,
13 I think we should all get on the bus and drive it
14 forward and forget about everything else and let's
15 see what's positive for the city and what's positive
16 for our community.

17 And I thank you again and thank you for
18 respecting our boundaries. And again, I also want
19 to throw in I support the Central City -- Central
20 City East. Thank you very much.

22 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Dino Pantasis,
23 Charles Porter, and Larry Rausch.

24 DINO PANTASIS: Hi. My name is Dino Pantasis.

25 I'm the -- a member of the Lincoln Heights

01 Neighborhood Council steering committee and a --

02 come on. Dad -- Lincoln Heights chamber of commerce

03 board of directors, and I, in person, represent 50
04 percent of the Greek population in Lincoln Heights.

05 I'm in full support of the Lincoln Heights

06 Neighborhood Council boundaries as submitted by

07 DONE. Our neighborhood council has done a lot of

08 positive things in the area, including helping build

09 a skateboard park in Lincoln -- Lincoln Park.

10 Also, I'd like to bring up a few points in

11 regards to the point that you made, are we Downtown

12 -- are we Los Angeles or are we Lincoln Heights?

13 There is a post office named the Lincoln Heights

14 branch of the United States Post Office. There's a

15 B of A Lincoln Heights branch, not Downtown L.A.

16 Branch. There's a fire company called the Lincoln

17 Heights Fire Company Division One. And also, the

18 DWP, right on the front it says Lincoln Heights branch.

20 Also, I am a stakeholder and resident on

21 Sixth and Alameda, and I'm in full support of the

22 Central City East council's formation.

23 Thank you very much.

24 COMMISSIONER STONE: Charles Porter, Larry Rausch.

01 CHARLES PORTER: Good afternoon. My name is

02 Charles Porter, and I work in the Central City East

03 area referred to commonly as Skid Row. I'm an

04 organizer in the area.

05 And basically, just to give some history,

06 we've been involved in organizing for more than a

07 year. Basically, one of the things that we did, we

08 looked at the documents presented -- created by DONE

09 and we saw the exception for the 20,000 resident

10 criteria. That's something that I don't think has

11 come up.

12 And we looked at our community and how our

13 community is a cohesive community. It has -- it has

14 a history to it. There's two parks in the

15 community, fire station, police department,

16 concentrated services, et cetera.

17 I would have to say that led to a series

18 of meetings, the -- culminating in July 20th, 2001

19 there was a community meeting where the discussion

20 topic is should Skid Row have its own neighborhood
21 council. There were -- it was a diverse group of
22 people there, approximately 30 people, and based on
23 the consensus of the people there, the majority felt
24 that the area should have its own council, and that
25 led to a larger forum.

01 There were actually only two people in
02 opposition to the idea, and their -- they are active
03 member of the larger Downtown L.A. Neighborhood
04 Council, Orlando Ward and Erin Ulrich, who have been
05 key players in the larger Downtown Neighborhood
06 Council. But they were the only two voices in
07 opposition that day, which led to a larger forum.

08 I would have to say that there was a lot
09 of momentum. Actually in all -- in all, there were
10 approximately 150 people that participated in a
11 four-month period. And earlier the larger Downtown
12 neighborhood council stated 300 people in a year,
13 and it's a smaller area. So it was pretty
14 successful organizing efforts.

15 One of the main things I did want to
16 mention is that there is a power dynamic that's not
17 really been addressed as far as the resident voice
18 and having service providers in the business
19 community speak for the resident, and it was kind of
20 a fracture between what the residents --

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

22 CHARLES PORTER: I'm giving historical --

23 COMMISSIONER STONE: You've had your chance to
24 speak. Please respect him.

25 CHARLES PORTER: I'm giving a historical
01 background to this process so that people know that
02 there has been ongoing interest by residents.

03 And I ask that you consider that and that
04 you leave the boundaries for the -- the -- the Skid
05 -- well, the Central City East area outside of it.

06 And also, in regards to outreach, I also
07 wanted to make a closing comment. I saw one flier
08 and it said, you know, "For more information, go to
09 our website." And I think that the outreach efforts

10 have to be culturally relevant to the community.
11 The community is mostly African-American
12 and mostly Latino. Monolingual Spanish speakers
13 aren't -- aren't properly represented or outreached
14 to. And the analogy I would make is like the United
15 States dropping peanut butter in Afghanistan to feed
16 the hungry people. You know, it's like if you look
17 at -- if your efforts aren't culturally relevant,
18 why would you expect people to participate? But
19 don't think there's a lack of participation because
20 there's a lack of interest.

21 So I want you to consider all that in your
22 determination. Thanks.

23 LARRY RAUSCH: Hi. I'm Larry Rausch. I
24 already spoke so I'm going to give my time to
25 Charlie Woo, please.

01 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. Mr. Woo, if you can
02 make it brief.

03 CHARLIE WOO: All right. Yeah, I'll make it brief.

05 Charlie Woo, the former chair of the

06 Central City East Association. I own property both
07 in the Downtown Neighborhood council as well as the
08 Historic Neighborhood council and I have property
09 right on the disputed area on Third and Fourth
10 Street. And the property on there are really for
11 toy business for toy districts.

12 And I think the Downtown Neighborhood
13 Council has been very sensitive to the historic
14 buildings in that district and they -- like the
15 churches, they ought to belong to Little Tokyo.

16 However, the businesses in that disputed area, they
17 clearly would be benefited, like toy business, be
18 part of the toy district in -- in the Downtown area
19 and, also, for the Central City East neighborhood council.

21 And I'd like to add that one of the reason
22 I support that being part of Downtown is that I
23 think we all like to look to the future and upward
24 economic mobility, and I think that is important for
25 the stakeholders in the Central City East area, or
01 you would call it Skid Row area, to one day be just

02 as prosperous as the rest of Downtown, and I think
03 that's the prime motivation. I think we should be
04 part of the larger neighborhood so that we empower
05 everybody in the Downtown area.

06 Thank you very much.

07 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Yvonne

08 Renfren. Yvonne Renfren, Kevin Scott, and Kent Smith.

10 And just to let everyone know, we --

11 within probably 45 minutes, we may lose a quorum on

12 our board. If that's the case and we don't have

13 four members here, we're going to have to

14 automatically continue this hearing until our next

15 scheduled hearing, which is May 7th.

16 So we'd like to do everything possible to

17 wrap this up, so if anyone has comments and can just

18 make very brief for or against, that would help us.

19 ROMERO: Just an observation. The May 7th

20 meeting is in Sunland.

21 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Staff said that the

22 May 7th meeting is in Sunland.

23 ROMERO: (Inaudible).

24 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. Ms. Renfren.

25 YVONNE RENFREW: Thank you. My name is Yvonne

01 Renfrew. I'm an attorney. I live and work at the

02 brewery.

03 You've heard of the brewery today. The

04 brewery is the small community that's being used as

05 a pawn among larger interests who are trying to cut

06 deals without much regard for what the brewery

07 residents actually want.

08 The concept of neighborhood council, if it

09 means anything, would seem to me to mean community

10 self-determination. Here you have a small

11 community, which within that very small area, has

12 mustered more expressions of preference on the part

13 of its stakeholders than it took **Lincoln Heights** to

14 apply for certification in the first place.

15 The brewery residents have overwhelmingly

16 and clearly expressed their preference for being

17 aligned with Downtown.

18 Excuse me. I'm losing my voice. I've

19 been talking too much today.

20 It seems to me that there is a huge and

21 strong community of interest between brewery

22 residents and Downtown, that of course being an

23 interest in developing a support system and

24 infrastructure for the arts in Los Angeles.

25 Los Angeles is known at this point

01 nationwide as being enjoying a urban Renaissance,

02 due in no small part to the arts activities that are

03 going on. It's going to take cooperation among the

04 arts people in order to further develop that

05 infrastructure.

06 If you cut off the brewery, which is not

07 just L.A.'s but the world's largest concentration of

08 artists, the world's largest arts colony, from that

09 downtown infrastructure you're going to not only

10 hurt the city in terms of its arts development but

11 ultimately it's going to lead inevitably to a

12 departure of people from the brewery to a location

13 where they feel they can better become integrated
14 into that arts infrastructure.

15 Thank you.

16 ROMERO: The next speak -- the next speaker,
17 Kevin Scott, Kent Smith, Jane Zuflu.

18 KEVIN SCOTT: Hi. I'm Kevin Scott. I'm a
19 resident of Downtown and I work Downtown. I also
20 was the deputy director of the Charter Reform
21 Commission and started the discussions on the
22 neighborhood council process five years ago, and I
23 was also the plan consultant for the neighborhood plan.

25 I'm going restrict my comments, despite

01 the fact that I have a lot, to one thing that I
02 don't think you've heard today.

03 I think that it is wrong for Little Tokyo

04 not to be part of Downtown. Little Tokyo on one

05 side, on the -- on the east -- on the west boundary

06 is San Pedro Street. Parker Center is across the

07 street. City Hall is one block away.

08 A stone's throw across, which is the

09 length of -- a long stone's throw across, which is
10 the length of Little Tokyo, you can see the other
11 boundary at Alameda, which is Senior Fish.
12 If the central part of the city had said,
13 "We don't want those people in our area," you would
14 be up in arms. But effectively we've allowed a
15 situation so far to be created that makes a racially
16 segregated neighborhood council be created that
17 invades the boundaries and makes Downtown -- that
18 invoice the boundaries of Downtown Los Angeles and
19 makes Downtown less diverse.
20 And if you go to -- you have a member of
21 the city attorney here. If you go to the Charter
22 itself, it said that the neighborhood councils are
23 supposed to be inclusive. They're supposed to be diverse.
25 And creating little -- letting people go
01 to their smallest, smallest, most segregated areas
02 is totally at odds with what the whole neighborhood
03 council process is about, and I urge you to put
04 Little Tokyo in Downtown, in DLANC, and that will

05 also solve these peripheral problems you're hearing
06 about, is we're losing a little bit of Little Tokyo
07 to the west and a little bit of Little Tokyo to the
08 east. It's because it's supposed to be Downtown. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

11 Kent Smith and then James Sewerflow.

12 KEVIN SCOTT: I'm Kent Smith, executive
13 director of the fashion district, co-chair of the
14 DLANC boundaries committee.

15 Boundaries are a divisive issue as you've
16 heard. They're also a very emotional issue.
17 Compromise is difficult. I want to congratulate the
18 DONE staff. Romero Marro, in her report I think
19 she's come down evenhandedly on all of these
20 issues. I would respectfully ask that you endorse
21 the recommendations on boundary -- on boundaries on
22 page 17 of your report. Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. James
25 Sewerflow and Lisa Sugino.

01 RICHARD SMITH: Mr. Chairman -- or President,

02 my name is Richard Smith. I submitted a request to speak.

04 COMMISSIONER STONE: Yes. My apologies about

05 not knowing the alphabet. Mr. Smith, I have your

06 card right here. Go ahead.

07 RICHARD SMITH: Okay. My name is Richard

08 Smith. I'm a five-year resident of Central City

09 East. I'm here in support of a separate

10 neighborhood council for Central City East.

11 I have submitted several letters. I

12 hand-delivered a letter to the mayor, to Nick

13 Pacheco, to Jan Perry, to Rockard Delgadillo. I'd

14 like to just briefly read one sentence.

15 "Mr. Mayor, you have stated in

16 your speech of May 14th that DONE should

17 be an incubator for empowerment, but in

18 reality it is acting as an abortionist to

19 kill off the dreams and aspirations of the

20 voiceless in the heart of our great city."

21 I'd like to conclude my presentation by

22 re-emphasizing that last statement.

23 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

24 RICHARD SMITH: I thought I was coming to a
25 church, but this is an abortion clinic. I'm sorry.

01 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you very much.

02 James Sewerflow. Lisa Saghen. And Takahau Suzuki.

04 LISA SAGHEN: Hi. I spoke a little earlier.

05 But I was just -- I was surprised to hear some of
06 the comments that were being made about that there
07 were deals cut on the boundaries.

08 I think that there was a proposal put
09 forth, but it was not accepted on Little Tokyo's
10 side so, therefore, there was no deal cut.

11 And, you know, if we want to start talking
12 about deals being cut, actually there was a deal cut
13 about a year and a half ago with CCA senior staff
14 member on this that Little Tokyo and the artist
15 district were going to be their own area and that
16 there would be a greater sort of confederation of
17 Downtown associations type of bringing together of
18 all the different neighborhood councils that were

19 looking to form within the area that CCA had started
20 considering to be Downtown, which included all the
21 way to Pico Union, way north into Lincoln Heights
22 and even south down to Exposition Park.

23 So that -- that agreement, obviously, you
24 can tell today as you're having to sit here through
25 seven hours, was not respected once that staff
01 member left and then we were left in the situation
02 where we are.

03 As you can see on that map over there, the
04 whole area east of that line that was drawn, it's
05 three to four times bigger than the whole Little
06 Tokyo piece between Temple and L.A. So that piece
07 was already traded out in this -- in this compromise
09 -- businesses. So you know, I feel like
10 there's already this piece in there. And
11 unfortunately, you know, every time that there's
12 money on the table, that we've been getting, for
13 example, through the state, the state has issued
14 like a Japan town's piece already as policy, and

15 we're one of three Japan towns in the state.

16 There's money that may be flowing.

17 And so for now people are happy getting

18 money out of these projects that they've chosen to

19 buy or chosen to live in or whatnot in Little Tokyo,

20 but, you know, now they're saying they're not in

21 Little Tokyo but when the money flows then suddenly

22 people are at a meeting.

23 So I just am hoping for some kind of

24 consistency on your part as far as deciding where

25 people really historically have been.

01 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

02 LISA SAGHENO: Thank you.

03 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Excuse me. Where is

04 -- can you show me the toy district?

05 LISA SAGHENO: Pardon?

06 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Can you show me the toy district.

08 LISA SAGHENO: Sure. (Inaudible). What I'm

09 talking about is this area (inaudible) cut out and

10 (inaudible).

11 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Oh, that's where the
12 toy district is?

13 LISA SAGHENO: Yeah. There's a reason why this
14 is (inaudible).

15 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: That's the toy
16 district?

17 LISA SAGHENO: The toy district goes down to
18 there.

19 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Oh, okay. That's
20 fine.

21 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

22 Takau Suzuki, followed by A1 Tyra, and
23 Kevin Tomaki.

24 AL TYRA: Hello, Commissioners. My name is A1
25 Tyra. I'm a resident, a businessman, and a property
01 owner in the Little Tokyo area and the Little Tokyo
02 arts district area since 1945.

03 I'm here to -- I'm also a member of the
04 Little Tokyo Businessmen's Association. And the

05 association took a vote just this last Thursday and
06 they unanimously voted to go into the downtown
07 committee council.

08 However, there was no objection to the
09 compromise that was made. The only objection I have
10 is the objection of the Third Street, or the south
11 border. I am the developer of the medical building,
12 Jodosu Temple, Sentinery Methodist Church, and
13 Little Tokyo Square. That's approximately
14 two-thirds of the length from Alameda to San Pedro.
15 I know some of those property owners
16 personally, and I did not know of this meeting they
17 had. I am totally object -- I totally object that
18 the property line be moved to Third Street with the
19 exception of the two churches. I want to keep and
20 maintain the property, the boundary at Fourth
21 Street, with the exception maybe the one block that
22 really relates to the toy section. Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

25 Kevin Tamaki, Frank Tamberillo, and Leslie Taplan.

02 KEVIN TAMAKI: Good afternoon. Commissioners.

03 I'm Kevin Tamaki. I'm an external affairs director

04 with SPC Pacific Bell, a major employer downtown,

05 and we've been around for a long time downtown.

06 I've been working with the Downtown

07 Neighborhood Council formation process for about a

08 year. It's been a wonderfully inclusive, diverse,

09 thoughtful, constructive, and compassionate

10 experience, and I certainly urge that you approve

11 the application for certification as presented by

12 the Downtown Neighborhood Council applicants.

13 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

14 Frank Tamberillo, followed by Leslie

15 Taplan and Ian Treveri.

16 FRANK TAMBERILLO: Good afternoon. Frank

17 Tamberillo, L.A. Coalition to end hunger and

18 homelessness. I work in Skid Row area. I just want

19 to say we totally support a Central City East

20 separate neighborhood council.

21 This process is about empowerment, and

22 this is a group that has been ghettoized for a long
23 time. They've been ghettoized geographically. We
24 don't want to ghettoize them further by making them
25 just a small subset of a huge Downtown city council.
02 There's 11,000 people in Skid Row. They
03 need more than two representatives to be adequately
04 represented. The wealthy already have their
05 neighborhood council. It's called city council.
06 And let's just remember this neighborhood process is
07 about empowering the stakeholders, not the steak
08 eaters. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

11 Leslie Taplan, Ian Trevari, and Erin Ulrich.

13 LESLIE TAPLAN: Yes, my name's Leslie Taplan.

14 I'm with the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood
15 Council. I've worked from the beginning primarily
16 on the boundaries committee.

17 I just wanted to say how much the members
18 of the brewery have been a part of our council.
19 We've been talking about them as if this is some

20 decision to be made for the future, but the reality
21 is their input has been critical to the formation of
22 the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council.

23 I would like you to please consider that
24 they should continue working with us in our council
25 from now on. Thank you very much.

02 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

03 ERIN ULRICH: Hi. It's hard being at the end
04 of the alphabet, but my name is Erin Ulrich, and
05 I've been organizing in the Central City East
06 community around the neighborhood council and DLANC
07 issues consistently for over one year.

08 First of all, I just wanted to point out
09 that I think your decision should come down to --
10 there are people advocating on both sides of this
11 Central City East inclusion in the DLANC
12 neighborhood council issue, but I want you to look
13 at who's done the work, who's put in the time, who's
14 submitted the evidence, who's written, and who has
15 their stuff together.

16 It's -- it's fine to come here a week --
17 you know, prepare a week before, but that -- it's --
18 that's not a good indicator of who would run a
19 better neighborhood council.
20 I wanted to mention that Romero's report
21 was great but she forgot to note that over 350 of
22 the DLANC signatures were from Central City East
23 stakeholders and most of them were from residents.
24 We've had over 50 communities and tenant
25 meetings in which outreach was done about DLANC and
01 neighborhood council, including every resident
02 meeting and every tenant advisory council meeting
03 that took place in 20 SRO hotels that included over
05 1400 residents. As short as a month ago a meeting was
06 held, a Central City East DLANC meeting was held to
07 organize neighborhood residents and ensure and
08 strategize over them having a strong presence and a
09 strong voice in the neighborhood council.
10 And I'd appreciate your attention. Thank you.
12 We've done a ton of outreach. Over 2,000

13 fliers have gone out to residents. Don't think that
14 our residents aren't connected with computers or to
15 the internet. There are about 15 computers in the
16 neighborhood. And I'll tell you something, almost
17 every single resident I know in Central City East
18 has an e-mail address.

19 This is an unprecedented and unrepeatable
20 opportunity to give a historically disenfranchised
21 -- to give a historically disenfranchised
22 stakeholder a seat at the table. I strongly
23 encourage you to approve the inclusion of Central
24 City East in the DLANC boundaries. Thank you.

01 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Sats Sueda, and Luke Vincent.

03 IAN TRIVERS: Trivers, Ian Trivers.

04 COMMISSIONER STONE: I've called you before,
05 yes. Your name again?

06 IAN TRIVERS: Ian Trivers.

07 COMMISSIONER STONE: Ian Trivers.

08 IAN TRIVERS: And I just want to comment that

09 I've been working with the Downtown Neighborhood

10 Council since it pretty much got started, and I'm
11 very proud of the way the different groups'
12 interests and people have come together in something
13 that I -- I don't think is seen anywhere else.
14 And the kind of interests that we
15 originally came to the table with were so different
16 and how we've come together, and I think it would be
17 a real shame if that wasn't recognized.
18 I don't think it is clear enough in some
19 of the reports, in a lot of things being said here
20 today and a lot of the power plays that certain
21 people are making, but we'd be happy, if you had any
22 questions for any of us, to let you know the real
23 diversity of people, the kind of people working on
24 this aren't, as it's been put forth, big business.
25 They're people like me who are a resident. I spend
01 my own time working on this. And most of the people
02 who do are. And a lot of unfair characterizations,
03 and I think that -- I would hope that you would look
04 past those. Thank you.

06 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Sats Sueda,

07 Luke Vincent, and Frank Wadda.

08 SATS SUEDA: Hi. My name is Sats Sueda. My

09 family has had a business in the Little Tokyo area

10 for over 55 years, and also a property owner.

11 What I'd like to say for the record is

12 that my family and I would like to see Little Tokyo

13 be part of the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council.

15 There was a speaker earlier that was

16 saying that he didn't think it was a good idea for

17 Little Tokyo to split off into a smaller area and it

18 should become part of the downtown area. But I

19 think I have some reasons why many of us feel Little

20 Tokyo is more comfortable going with the Historic

21 Cultural Neighborhood Council.

22 One, going back about eight years ago in

23 the area of public safety, at the civilian police

24 advisory board monthly meetings there was Augusto

25 from Olvera Street and there was another gentleman,

01 Henry from Chinatown, was saying that car break-ins,

02 aggressive panhandling, and the homeless population
03 in general are dissuading visitors and tourists to
04 come to their areas. Well, Little Tokyo had the
05 very same problem.

06 What -- what we did through the Little
07 Tokyo Anticrime Association was help Chinatown get
08 their public safety association together and, also,
09 to put their voluntary program together to help
10 diminish the amount of crime in that area.

11 As far as the businesses. Little Tokyo has
12 a lot of mom and pop businesses. Chinatown has a
13 lot of mom and pop businesses, and so does Olvera
14 Street. So we feel comfortable there.

15 In terms of community, the Little Tokyo
16 service center works -- over the years has worked
17 with the Chinatown community service center
18 providing services to the elderly and senior housing
19 and also small business advice.

20 Little Tokyo also is interested in going
21 with ACNC, because if they go with ACNC they have a

22 possibility of 10 representatives out of 29, which
23 would be a 35 percent impact. Well, if they went
24 with Downtown they would only have five
25 representatives out of 27, which would mean only 19
01 percent representation.

02 And finally, the reason Little Tokyo would
03 -- well, in my opinion. Little Tokyo would like to
04 go with ACNC is in their goals and programs that
05 they would like to effect is the development of
06 tourism, which is common to the three areas, Olvera
07 Street, Chinatown and Little Tokyo, and they also
08 want to do cultural historic preservation and
09 development and, thirdly, give residents and other
10 disenfranchised population empowerment. These other
11 populations include seniors --

12 COMMISSIONER STONE: Sir, if you could please wrap up.

14 SATS SUEDA: Okay. -- youths in the area and
15 nonresidential workers. So these are some of the
16 reasons why Little Tokyo --

17 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

18 SATS SUEDA: -- would want to go to ACNC.

19 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you very much.

20 Luke -- Luke Vincent, Frank Wadda, and Orlando Ward.

22 LUKE VINCENT: Hello. My name is Luke Vincent,

23 with the Los Angeles Community Action Network and

24 the Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and

25 Homelessness. I'm now a resident of Skid Row.

01 And I'm urging you to support the Central

02 City East Neighborhood Council, 'cause a lot of

03 people don't have transportation to come to, say,

04 this far to this meeting or to go down to USA, which

05 I'm not sure if they're still trying to claim that

06 for the Downtown Neighborhood Council.

07 My idea of neighborhood council is you

08 should be able to walk to where meetings are,

09 especially for dense areas like downtown. I might

10 say that downtown, as far as I'm concerned, includes

11 **Lincoln Heights** and down to USC and out to

12 Mac Arthur Park and quite a bit east of the river,

13 really, but it's an area that should be at least 10

14 neighborhood councils, not one or four.

15 Another thing I'd like to mention is
16 succession. An important purpose of the
17 neighborhood councils is to enable people to be
18 empowered without succession, because succession is
19 a very deadly idea. Los Angeles needs it like a
20 hole in the head. We would become a mess in the
21 west with the succession movements.

22 To suit the purposes of neighborhood
23 councils, they need to be compact enough for people
24 to get to the meetings, and that will maximize
25 participation. Thank you.

02 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

03 Frank Wadda, Orlando Ward, and Bill Watanabe.

05 FRANK WADDA: Hello. My name is Frank Wadda.

06 I'm a long-time resident of Lincoln Heights. To
07 make my comment short and brief --

08 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

09 FRANK WADDA: -- I support the Lincoln Heights
10 Neighborhood Council's application, also support the
11 DONE's report on the application.

12 So thank you very much.

13 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

14 Orlando Ward. And Mr. Ward, if you can

15 just be brief since you've spoken already.

16 ORLANDO WARD: Yeah, I'll be real brief.

17 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

18 ORLANDO WARD: Yeah, my name is Orlando Ward,

19 a former unhoused resident in Skid Row and currently

20 working in the Skid Row area. And -- and I got to

21 say real quick that I'm extremely excited about the

22 enthusiasm that the Skid Row neighborhood has in

23 organizing. I know that's essential for that

24 particular neighborhood.

25 And I've been working with this process

01 with DLANC for about a year now, and -- and I ' m

02 torn, frankly. I think there's some capable people

03 in Skid Row and I certainly think that -- that it's

04 possible that the Skid Row neighborhood could

05 survive and do very good for that neighborhood.

06 I guess my conflict comes, as you know,

07 when, because Skid Row is an embattled, very, very
08 marginalized community, and -- and it's time for
09 that particular area to stop talking about it and be
10 about it, and it's time get something done.

11 I believe, from the work that I've done
12 with DLANC, it can happen, and so I'm in support of
13 that.

14 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Bill Watanabe,
15 Pete White, Cecilia Ybarra, and then Evelyn Yoshimura.
17 Mr. White.

18 PETE WHITE: Oh, I am next. I will strive for
19 brevity. Thank you.

20 My name is Pete White, with the
21 Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and
22 Homelessness, where I serve as organizing director,
23 and I have served in that position for the past
24 decade.

25 We've heard lots of testimony today from
01 the Community Action Network, very impassioned
02 residents of this community talking about the

03 Central City East neighborhood council, who I founded.

05 Our proposed neighborhood council will

06 reflect the voices of the disenfranchised, the work

07 of the abject poor, the small mom and pop business

08 owner, the truly destitute people that are

09 struggling to survive without risk of being lost

10 once again in the shuffle.

11 Our neighborhood council will

12 strategically -- strategically place those same

13 disenfranchised voices in the rooms and at the

14 tables that they have been historically closed to

15 and traditionally omitted from, serving as a check

16 and balance to ensure the much needed changes in our

17 neighborhood can come to fruition for the benefit or

18 the detriment of those stakeholders.

19 There were many points made this morning

20 and many observed assertions. One that I would like

21 to note is that how could anyone devalue one year of

22 organizing, one year of grassroots organizing in the

23 Downtown residential community? I think if I looked

24 at a Webster's dictionary, that would be the
25 definition of arrogance.

01 Two questions that I want to give you.

02 Why doesn't the large group meet our needs

03 historically and how would we best use a

04 neighborhood council to our advantage? Why a large

05 group doesn't meet our needs historically, because
06 the vast majority of the large group interests are

07 the same folks who continue to push Skid Row into a

08 black hole. We don't feel that today or yesterday

09 or tomorrow they can represent the people of our community.

11 How will we best use a neighborhood

12 council to our advantage? We will organize. We

13 have the capacity. I have 10 years organizing

14 experience. I'm with an organizing organization

15 that's been around 15 years.

16 We have the capacity to get it done. Give

17 us a deadline, we shall meet that deadline.

18 I truly support the efforts of this

19 community -- not of my organization, of all the

20 individuals that came up today to speak to you, a
21 truly diverse -- a truly diverse representation of
22 what Skid Row is. Thank you very much.

24 COMMISSIONER STONE: Cecilia Ybarra, followed
25 by Evelyn Yoshimura.

01 CECILIA YBARRA: Hi. I'm with the Lincoln
02 Heights Neighborhood Council. I live in Lincoln
03 Heights and I work in education with L.A. Unified.
04 And I do support the Lincoln Heights
05 Neighborhood Council and I hope that you certify it,
06 but I also just wanted to address a couple of really
07 quick general comments.

08 You guys have a very, very big job in
09 front of you. And you're going to make some people
10 angry with the decision that you make, whatever happens.
12 I deeply, sincerely want to encourage you
13 to remember the people who could not get their
14 signatures together because they lack money or
15 resources or transportation, who are not able to
16 show up and have their application together and be

17 really smooth and be really professional, the people
18 who are really disenfranchised and the people I
19 think that the neighborhood councils were really
20 created for.

21 I don't know what you should do exactly
22 about Central City East or about the William Meade
23 housing project, but please remember them and have
24 them be huge in your mind as you make these
25 decisions. They need to be represented. And a lot
01 of them aren't here, the people who need to be represented.
03 Please remember them. Thank you.

04 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. Evelyn Yoshimura.

06 EVELYN YOSHIMURA: And I will be brief.

07 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

08 EVELYN YOSHIMURA: I have two points. One is
09 that I just wanted to set the record straight.

10 There was a statement made -- this is again about
11 the Third and Fourth Street boundary of Little Tokyo
12 in the HCNC proposal.

13 There was two meetings supposedly to

14 negotiate that border. I was in one of them and I
15 got feedback from the people in the other.
16 Neither meeting was there ever an
17 agreement made. And the second meeting I wasn't at,
18 but the people who reported felt a little bit
19 frustrated because there was no agreement made, they
20 stated that they were willing to let the board
21 decide. And at that point I guess the staff person
22 made a recommendation in one way or another, and I
23 guess there was a little frustration about that process.
25 So I just wanted to set the record
01 straight there were no agreements made.
02 The second point I wanted to make, I just
03 wanted to address the whole question of Little Tokyo
04 and how we should -- some people feel we should be
05 part of Downtown because then it will be more
06 diverse. Downtown Neighborhood Council will be more
07 diverse and that they always wanted to be inclusive
08 and all that stuff.
09 First, Little Tokyo is historically a
10 Japanese American community, but it's today a very

11 multicultural, too. Like the building that I work
12 in is an affordable housing place where there's 16
13 languages spoken and, you know, everybody is there.
14 So it's a very multicultural place itself, although
15 it's, you know, historically Japanese American.
16 Also, I just wanted to say that
17 personally, I'm not speaking for anybody but myself,
18 I -- and I -- I really hear a lot of the things that
19 the people from the central city group are saying,
20 because I define inclusive as meaning that you are
21 included if you want to be included, not you're --
22 you're being forced, you're in any way from the
23 outside to be included in something. And I think
24 people themselves have a right to decide where they
25 should be represented and how.

01 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

02 That is all the public cards that I have
03 for number -- for number 3. Has anyone else
04 submitted a card that I have not read? I have one
05 here. Is Alicia Aguilla -- no?

06 Ms. Avila.

MS. AVILA: Good afternoon. I'm here

08 representing a group of residents at the William

09 Meade, and I just want to say that I -- that we

10 support the **Lincoln Heights** Neighborhood Council.

11 Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

13 What I'd like to do now is call up each of

14 the applicants for a three-minute each rebuttal.

15 We're going to go in the same order that we went in

16 before: The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood

17 Council first, then **Lincoln Heights**, and Historical

18 Cultural.

19 MICHAEL GAGAN: Thank you, Mr. President,

20 members. I wouldn't characterize my own approach to

21 this assignment as a rebuttal.

22 The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood

23 Council is very proud of the process that we used to

24 arrive at the product that is before you today. We

25 have made many compromises, especially on

01 boundaries, and we've followed the process of
02 inclusion that was contemplated by the Charter, by
03 the ordinance, and by your own guidelines.

04 We respectfully request that you support
05 the staff recommendation that is before you.

06 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you very much. Does
07 that conclude your rebuttal?

08 MICHAEL GAGAN: Yes, it does.

09 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. And now we'll
10 call up the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council.

11 MICHAEL GAGAN: Wait. I'm sorry. I didn't
12 realize that -- go ahead.

13 COMMISSIONER STONE: If we can keep it brief.
14 It's part of your -- part of your 10 minutes.

15 UNIDENTIFIED DLANC SPEAKER: Just a point –
16 just a point on the issue between Third and Fourth
17 Street in Little Tokyo, we just want to point out
18 that there were a number of meetings. Property
19 owners and businesses are stakeholders, too. There
20 are no residents in that one-block area.

21 The two cultural institutions that were in
22 question, we -- we readily let them go to Little Tokyo.
24 Thank you.

25 UNIDENTIFIED DLANC SPEAKER: I just wanted to
01 speak one more time to our inclusiveness. I know
02 that you've heard about 15 really vocal people from
03 Central City East today, but I want to remind you
04 that we have over 350 signatures, most of them
05 residents of Skid Row, who support the Downtown
06 Neighborhood Council and have been attending our
07 meetings. And as people have noted before, they
08 can't always get to meetings like this, but they are
09 supporting us and they're part of our group.

10 And on all of our fliers that we've sent
11 out, we had phone numbers, and they were invitations
12 to public meetings, most of which were in the down
13 -- all of which were in public areas. And they also
14 did mention in fine print at the bottom a website,
15 which I know all SRO housing residents have web
16 access. But for the ones who don't, we have phone numbers.

18 And we invited them to come to our public
19 meetings, and over 350 people have supported us and
20 have been working with us and are part of this
21 group. They just aren't here today to make a scene.

23 But we really are inclusive and we're
24 really proud of the work that we have done.

25 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. And we'll turn

01 now to **Lincoln Heights**. Feel free, you don't have
02 to use the three minutes, but go ahead.

03 OSCAR GARCIA: I'll try to – I'll try to make
04 it very, very brief.

05 First of all, I just want to thank the
06 Downtown Neighborhood Council, and it's been a real
07 interesting moment today. It's been exciting. And
08 the reason why I'm thanking you is at least we got
09 to get together and have some dialogue.

10 I think it's understandable the **Lincoln**
11 **Heights** Neighborhood Council did a lot of outreach.
12 We reached out to most of our constituency in trying
13 to reflect our demographics. As you can see the

14 strong support that we have, we're urging you to
15 accept our application and certify us that we can
16 continue doing the strong work ahead, and we're
17 urging you also to support the DONE report.

18 And with that. I'll -- once again I just
19 want to thank all of you for taking the time to
20 listen to us. Thank you.

21 JOEL BLUME: Yeah, hi. I'm Joel Blume, sort of
22 representing the HCNC. I'd just like to reiterate
23 the HCNC thoroughly endorses a compromise,
24 especially in regards to Little Tokyo and the arts
25 district having representation in both councils.

01 I don't really want to get into the
02 Third/Fourth Street debate, thinking hopefully that
03 the compromise takes care of whatever border
04 decisions, boundary decisions we have.

05 But Lisa?

06 LISA SAGHENO: But of course I'll address the
07 Third/Fourth Street compromise. Well, I've already
08 spoken on it, and we're already leaving out quite a

09 few groups. The Rafasheem Poet is the largest
10 Japanese daily newspaper in the country. It's
11 across the street on L.A. Street at Third. They
12 were very disappointed to hear they weren't going to
13 be in the HCNC. They assumed all along that they would.
15 You know, the Gardeners Federation,
16 Japanese Gardeners Federation is on San Pedro on the
17 west side just south. You know, all these groups
18 are being left out. So please just keep that area
19 intact between San Pedro and Alameda, and attached.
20 Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you. We have now
22 gone through all of the speaker cards, we've had
23 rebuttal, so I'm going to ask staff to come up and
24 give a three-minute summary of staff's
25 recommendation.

01 ROMERO: Regarding the Downtown, the staff
02 recommended that you adopt the findings in the
03 report and move to certify the Downtown Los Angeles
04 Neighborhood Council and to approve the boundaries

05 submitted by DLANC with the exclusion of Little
06 Tokyo as bounded by Temple on the north, Los Angeles
07 on the west. Third Street on the south, and Alameda
08 on the east.

09 Based on public testimony, the Board may
10 consider -- may wish to consider modifying this
11 proposal for the boundary, the southern boundary of
12 Little Tokyo. The -- this particular recommendation
13 would exclude Little Tokyo and the brewery from the
14 Downtown's boundaries.

15 Based upon public testimony, we have the
16 request for the Central City East own neighborhood.
17 I've asked one of the representatives to draw what
18 that boundary might look like.

19 If the -- the Board wishes to consider
20 approving that particular request, the Board would
21 also want to make findings as to how that allows for
22 the Downtown neighborhood to continue to be compact
23 and contiguous.

24 And in the event there are any boundary

25 revisions, we had recommended that the board advise
01 the applicant to amend their bound -- their bylaws
02 to incorporate any of those changes.

03 In the case of **Lincoln Heights**, we
04 recommended that the board move to certify the
05 applicant and accept the findings in the staff
06 report and approve the boundaries, the final
07 boundaries as determined in the staff report.

08 There was testimony that one of the
09 overlap situations was finally resolved, and so we
10 need to amend the boundaries as given. And that
11 would be on the north, the 110 Freeway, and -- okay,
12 great.

13 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Start over again.
14 please. Thank you.

15 ROMERO: On the north, it would be the 110
16 Freeway to Avenue 42, ending at Heritage Square,
17 down along Heritage Square to Idlewild Avenue to
18 Avenue 33 north, to Lupin Terrace to Von Ket- --
19 Keithian Street, to center of the Flat Top Hill, to

20 Sierra Street, Mercury Avenue.

21 And this would also advise the applicant
22 to amend their bylaws to reflect the boundaries of
23 the neighborhood council as determined by the
24 commission.

25 For the Historic Cultural, the staff --

01 oh, one other -- one other, in the case of Lincoln
02 Heights there would be -- you also would be adopting
03 the staff's findings with a modification to delete
04 any language about shared boundaries with the
05 Greater Valley Neighborhood Council since that
06 application will come at a later time.

07 In the case of Historic Cultural, we would
08 request that you adopt all the findings in the staff
09 report including -- including a finding that -- let
10 me see -- including a finding that the proposed area
11 as identified, because it is in the community plan,
12 areas of city planning, because it is historically
13 -- is historic and identifiable neighborhoods that
14 are served by city services and that provides HCNC

15 with services, then the approximate population of
16 15,000 does meet the plan requirements.

17 So we'd ask that that is mentioned is in
18 the report, we wish to call it out, but that is a
19 finding that you will be making, that they qualify
20 for the exception to the 20,000 limit.

21 We would also approve the boundaries of
22 HCNC in such a way that the artist district would be
23 with the Downtown Neighborhood Council and that
24 Little Tokyo would be -- or the artist district's
25 northern boundary would be up to Third Street, with
01 the exception of the religious facilities, and
02 advise the applicant to reflect your changes to
03 their boundaries in their bylaws.

04 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you, Romero. With
05 that, public hearing for item number 3 is closed.

06 And we are now on to commissioner discussion,
07 deliberation on -- on this item. Appreciate the
08 patience of everyone in the crowd. We've been on
09 this item for five hours, now in addition to the

10 other one we approved, so thank you for everyone for
11 staying around.

12 I guess what I'd like to do to kick it off
13 is to see if -- given time constraints, see if we as
14 a commission -- I'd like to hear what my fellow
15 commissioners have to say to see if we feel like
16 this is something that we can -- that we can approve
17 and certify today or if we'll have to look at
18 postponing until the next hearing.

19 And whoever wants to speak.

20 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I would certainly
21 hate to postpone, but I know because of time
22 constraints some of our commissioners have other
23 commitments, and it's been a long day.

24 My statement, I -- I want to, like someone
25 else said, drive the bus forward. What I'm going to
01 say will not be favorable to everyone in the
02 audience, but I want everyone to remember that we
03 all live in Los Angeles, our neighborhoods are
04 different, they have different needs. They reflect

05 the uniqueness and the specialness of all of us in
06 Los Angeles.

07 You are all to be commended for the work
08 -- the many hours of volunteer work that you've
09 done, and you've really -- I am very much energized
10 by the downtown community to see that you are as
11 excited as I am, because as I travel throughout this
12 country, downtown areas are being rejuvenated and
13 revitalized, and that's great to see that people are
14 interested in living and working in downtown
15 Los Angeles, because I don't plan to move and I want
16 it to continue to be a great city. And the Downtown
17 is very important to that.

18 What we want to do is to make sure that
19 everyone is included as we work to improve our city
20 and our neighborhoods. First of all, I question
21 whether Central City East could and would be
22 represented by the larger Downtown interest of the
23 Downtown Neighborhood Council.

24 There are many underlying issues that we

25 never discuss at a meeting like this. I'm not sure
01 how many of the businesses or the groups in Downtown
02 Los Angeles have had -- who have the ability to do
03 so have offered assistance to the residents of the
04 Central City East by jobs or other -- or in other
05 ways before this particular event took place.
06 I -- because of the historical nature of
07 Little Tokyo, I believe that it should be approved
08 to be a part of the proposed map that I have here in
09 front of me that puts it with Historical
10 Neighborhood Council, the Historical Cultural
11 Neighborhood Council.
12 And for the Downtown area, again, I've
13 already said I was excited to see what's happening
14 there, but I am still concerned about the Meade area
15 and the brewery. And for that reason I would
16 exclude Central City East, Little Tokyo, the
17 brewery, and William Meade area from that particular
18 neighborhood council.
19 Lincoln Heights has outreached and has

20 indicated a desire to work with the William Meade
21 group, and for that reason I would consider putting
22 William Meade there along with the brewery.

23 I would accept some of the staff findings
24 other than what I've already stated.

25 COMMISSIONER STONE: Commissioner Membreno.

01 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Well, it's been a long,
02 long day, and it doesn't get any easier at this
03 point. We've heard enough testimony from all groups
04 that are here this afternoon, but I have to agree
05 with Commissioner Woods Gray. It is really
06 disturbing to me to see some groups feeling left out
07 because things were not perceived as being of inclusion.
09 It is also tough to see that areas that
10 are being included in parts of the neighborhood
11 councils have not yet been outreached to the full
12 extent by the groups claiming those areas.
13 I think the brewery is an issue that has
14 to look at itself and look at what it -- what
15 Downtown would do for the rest of the community, not

16 just for the brewery. The brewery is not an
17 isolated island there. It is part of a larger piece
18 of area in Lincoln Heights and in that part of the city.

20 So for me to -- to go to the stretch of
21 having the brewery be part of the Downtown
22 Neighborhood Council is very, very hard. I don't
23 see it as a fit into that community, into that
24 length of -- of the parts that Lincoln Heights --
25 that Downtown is claiming as their boundaries.

01 I also don't see that William Meade fits
02 into Downtown. In the same fashion that Central
03 City East has a problem with representation, I would
04 believe William Meade would have the same problem.

05 So at this point I'm willing to hear from
06 the rest of the commissioners, but the boundaries on
07 -- as they have been proposed, I'm willing to accept
08 parts of the reports but not the entire reports as
09 they have come forward to us.

10 COMMISSIONER STONE: Commissioner Lucente.

11 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Thank you,

12 Mr. President.

13 It -- it may seem as some -- as one

14 speaker today said that the -- all of the situation

15 that we're dealing with right now might be best

16 characterized as a mess in the west, but I think

17 that it can be sorted out.

18 And I share -- based on the testimony and

19 the staff report, I share the feeling of my fellow

20 commissioners relative to the brewery area, that it

21 should be included in -- that it's more

22 appropriately included in **Lincoln Heights**.

23 I don't think that it -- that as we've

24 seen it at many other meetings, you know, having one

25 area into another neighborhood council area doesn't

01 preclude neighbors from being involved with other

02 neighbors, but I think this is a real stretch to be

03 included in the Downtown Neighborhood Council.

04 Furthermore, I concur that the area north

05 of Vignes Street that we've characterized as the

06 William Meade housing project area it is also
07 seemingly not part of Downtown as I would describe it.
08 But I -- I don't know whether there is
09 another neighborhood council that's being formed,
10 you know, immediately adjacent to that area that --
11 where it might be -- where it might have a better
12 fit. However, it seems that there are some
13 similarities in demographics and that would lend it
14 to being part of the Lincoln Heights area.
15 I also concur based on the testimony today
16 and the staff report that the Historic and Cultural
17 Neighborhood Council should -- should go forth as it
18 is currently proposed, that is as indicated on this
19 map here with that area below Third Street extending
20 to Fourth Street and to include that artist area.
21 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: I'm sorry, Tony. I
22 believe that the recommendation is excluding east of
23 -- it's the one, the further --
24 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Yeah, I don't agree with
01 that.

02 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. You agree with

03 this one?

04 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Yes.

05 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Right. Okay. I – I

06 -- I'm sorry.

07 COMMISSIONER STONE: No, go ahead.

08 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: I also had a problem

09 with that area, just contiguous and putting together

10 the -- the areas of interest and of history, I had a

11 problem with that also in the -- as the way that

12 staff has recommended the -- on the boundaries, so I

13 would concur with Tony that we look at this map as

14 the boundaries for the Historical Cultural

15 Neighborhood Council.

16 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: The – the question that

17 I would raise is --

18 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: If staff can identify

19 the boundaries on that, please.

20 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Well, they're in the

21 application -- I believe it's in the --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Oh, the map?

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Yeah. The -- for future meetings it might be appropriate to have these maps numbered or labeled, because then we can always --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Can you put a number on it as --

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: -- refer to those.

That's just an observation. But --

COMMISSIONER STONE: (Inaudible).

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: -- it's currently.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Can you -- clarify for us, because the map here has --

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Sure.

COMMISSIONER STONE: On it has some colored markers on it, too. So I don't know if you're talking about the original --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Proposed.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Yes, the original proposal or the -- something that has been compromised.

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Yes, I'm happy to clarify it broadly with further explanation by

staff. I'm talking about an area on the southern portion of this neighborhood council map bordered on -- by Los Angeles Street, preceding down Third Street to Boyd Street and then crossing the cross -- across to Omar and along Fourth Street down to Alameda Street and then on the -- proceeding south on Alameda Street to Seventh Street and bordered on the other side by the Los Angeles River.

Does that help?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: That's fine.

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Okay. The other thing that I would put -- you know, just say regarding the William Meade, I don't know if it's appropriate for us to, you know, go ahead -- it seems like a last-minute kind of decision to throw that into -- or have that included, rather, in **Lincoln Heights**. But you know, I'm open to that but -- but certainly it may -- you know, maybe we want them to petition and really demonstrate that outreach. That's another option obviously --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Fine .

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: -- that's available.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: And I think --

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: I was kind of --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: And I think Lincoln Heights was --

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: That's what I was kind
of thinking.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: -- was in accordance or
was okay with having that area.

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Well, we --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Is that --

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: We heard from one
person, but as Commissioner Woods Gray indicated and
the maps indicate, it's a highly dense --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Right. Correct.

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: -- area and it seems
problematic in terms of --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: So recommend a petition
of it, okay.

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Yeah, so -- so the proposal would

be to include the two -- accept the

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

as DONE has recommended --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Correct.

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: -- and amend the

Downtown Neighborhood Council to exclude that area

which is -- now we're --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Alameda. (Inaudible).

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: We're over on another

one. We're over on that map now.

COMMISSIONER STONE: We don't have a motion in

front of us yet. We're just --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: No. It's just --

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: We're just going

through, just outlining it.

COMMISSIONER STONE: -- not going through --

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: But to exclude the area

which would be north, I believe, of the 101 --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Correct.

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: -- Freeway.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: It's right in that little area.

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Yeah. That's correct.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Mr. President, I

would support petitioning that community also so that we can move ahead. And the -- it would not

help -- hurt to petition that community to be clear on who they would like to represent them.

ROMERO: Point of clarification.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: I'm sorry. The only concern that I would have with the entire area is because Twin Towers is there along with -- what's the other -- the other facilities there.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Uh-huh.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: No, lower.

COMMISSIONER STONE: But we're looking between the 101 and Vignes, the MTA headquarters.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Right. So could those be --

COMMISSIONER STONE: And Union Station is in that area as well; is that correct?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. Right.

01 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Right.

02 COMMISSIONER STONE: Right. That -

03 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

04 COMMISSIONER STONE: Right.

05 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Would there be some

06 concern, however, because the other group did

07 provide information saying it was very difficult to

08 make contact? Should that be considered in just

09 placing them?

10 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Are jails considered shares?

12 COMMISSIONER STONE: No.

13 MR. MARTINEZ: You have to make the finding, I

14 believe, that it's a -- hold on -- it's a landmark of -

16 COMMISSIONER STONE: It is public serving.

17 MR. MARTINEZ: What is it?

18 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Public service landmark.

20 MR. MARTINEZ: If you could find -- the example

21 or the language that you're given with respect to

22 what would be considered shared under the plan is --

23 hold on one second --

24 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Did anyone request to share it?

01 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: I don't believe so.

02 COMMISSIONER STONE: While the city attorney is

03 looking for that, can I ask staff to clarify

04 something for me?

05 I think we have a couple -- when we're --

06 this issue, we're talking about anything north of

07 the 101, possibly carving out from an application

08 and not certifying a portion, excluding the brewery.

09 We're talking about between the river and the 101.

10 I see Vignes as a dividing line there.

11 ROMERO: Fine.

12 COMMISSIONER STONE: And that would be my --

13 and my feeling, and staff, is there any -- is there

14 a residential area southwest of Vignes?

15 ROMERO: I'd have to defer.

16 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: He -- I think it was

17 characterized in the comments that it was primarily

18 small businesses, i.e., bail bonds and the jail.

19 COMMISSIONER STONE: And the MTA headquarter

20 and Union Station.

21 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: That is -- no, that is
22 -- the MTA Gateway building is in the Historical
23 Cultural; is that correct, Marco?
24 MARCO PEREZ: (Inaudible).
25 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: The -- yeah, does that
01 answer your question?
02 MARCO PEREZ: I think they would be in the
03 Historical (inaudible).
04 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Right. 'Cause it kind
05 of -- (inaudible) kind of jogs a little bit down
06 there by the 101.
07 COMMISSIONER STONE: Right.
08 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Uh-huh.
09 ROMERO: A point of clarification on the -- the
10 artist district and the industrial district over
11 here. The -- we -- in the staff report we talked
12 about a compromise that was supported both by
13 Historical Cultural and by the Downtown, and that
14 compromise was that Little Tokyo would go with
15 Historic Cultural and the artist district would go

16 with Downtown.

17 Commissioner, when the -- when the lines

18 were being drawn did you intend to put the artist

19 district in Historic Cultural?

20 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Yes.

21 ROMERO: You did?

22 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Yes.

23 ROMERO: Contrary to the compromise?

24 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Yes.

25 ROMERO: Okay.

01 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: I think one of the --

02 one of the main reasons that I see that that's more

03 of a contiguous and whole piece of historical, as

04 opposed to breaking it down and trying to leave it

05 just as one piece, you know, holding on to the rest

06 of the -- the area.

07 ROMERO: And --

08 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Plus, I think there's

09 also enough -- enough history on the other side to

10 make it one whole piece. For me, it just doesn't

11 work to have Little Tokyo just standing alone and
12 going with Historical unless it goes with the rest
13 -- with the rest of the area.

14 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. We have several
15 issues at play here. I guess we have -- we can do
16 -- right, time being a concern, but we can do a
17 number of things. We can --

18 MICHAEL GAGAN: Mr. President, sorry to interrupt.
20 The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood
21 Council is going to --

22 COMMISSIONER STONE: (Inaudible).

23 MICHAEL GAGAN: -- respectfully withdraw its application.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, excuse me.

01 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: How dare you.

02 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. Please. Okay, let's put --

04 MICHAEL GAGAN: The price is --

05 COMMISSIONER STONE: Please. Please --

06 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: You're right on.

07 COMMISSIONER STONE: Please, let's stop with
08 the public comment.

09 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: How dare you.

10 COMMISSIONER STONE: We're still -- we're
11 still deliberating here and I don't think we've made
12 any final decision yet.

13 MR. MARTINEZ: And -- and the process, in
14 addition, would be to petition for decertification.

15 COMMISSIONER STONE: We -- we can take the -- I
16 guess the less controversial issue, which is the
17 brewery and the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council
18 and look at that one first.

19 We have the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood
20 Council, then we have Downtown, which we haven't --
21 we have to be unanimous today to do anything. I
22 think the -- the issue that could be the sticking --
23 the Little Tokyo or the arts district sounds like
24 that can be worked out. I think we have a major
25 issue with Central City East and Skid Row, and I'd
01 --I'd like to hear where I guess some of the -- the
02 rest of the commission is.

03 I -- from the testimony I've heard today I

04 think there is a split. I'm of the belief that the
05 Central City East group, the Skid Row group, should
06 be part of the larger Downtown Los Angeles
07 Neighborhood Council.

08 And I'm willing to -- to hear what others
09 have to say, if that's a -- if that's a sticking
10 point that can't be resolved, then it can't be
11 resolved and we can't -- then we certainly can't do
12 anything on the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood
13 Council today.

14 I'm -- I'm impressed by the fact that
15 that several residents of the Skid Row area, of the
16 Central City East area, did testify in support of
17 the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council, that
18 they -- that area has seats on the board. And
19 whether that goes far enough, I don't know.

20 But it's also -- also possible for us to
21 discuss whether there is just some language, some
22 intent that we would like to impress upon the
23 applicant that if they are not -- if that group is

24 not receiving adequate representation, then we will
25 -- that -- that we'll be able to take another look
01 at that and look at some type of carve-out.

02 Now, I'm not sure whether we have the
03 ability to do that without the Downtown council
04 coming back to us and voluntarily requesting it.

05 Anyway, I'd like to hear what some of the
06 others on our commission have to say on that issue
07 in particular.

08 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: I don't think staff was
09 able to give us numbers in that particular area in
10 terms of the representation -- I'm sorry, in terms
11 of the residents in that area, in that carved-out area.

13 ROMERO: We're perfectly willing to -- we're
14 talking about Central City East, correct?

15 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: The identified area, correct.

17 ROMERO: I'm willing to take the estimates of
18 the organizing group in that area, and they gave it
19 as 11, 000.

20 MR. MARTINEZ: Darren Martinez, deputy city attorney.

22 Really, also one of the other additional
23 factors that you would want to make with respect to
24 any carve-out of the Central City East area was that
25 there would not have been any outreach or, you know,
01 a rational description for the drawing of the
02 boundaries presented by the Downtown Neighborhood
03 Council in order to make the findings to exclude
04 this area from the -- the larger neighborhood, or
05 Downtown neighborhood area council.

06 COMMISSIONER STONE: Could you repeat that,
07 please? Can you wind the clock back to three
08 o'clock and repeat that?

09 MR. MARTINEZ: The neighborhood -- the Downtown
10 neighborhood council has presented this boundary
11 that includes the Central City East area within it.
12 If you're going to want to consider the
13 facts necessary to reach the decision that you may
14 want to exclude that area, you'd also want to
15 include within those factual findings reasons for
16 insufficient outreach, perhaps that there's not a

17 rational description for drawing the boundary in
18 such a way.

19 COMMISSIONER STONE: So provide findings (inaudible)?

21 MR. MARTINEZ: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: My -- my feeling on
23 this, you know, I have very mixed feelings about the
24 Central City East area because I think the most
25 compelling argument to keep it in the -- the
01 Downtown Neighborhood Council is that I -- I -- is
02 the argument that was mentioned by numerous speakers
03 that, you know, to isolate this area that has been
04 isolated, you know, in the past is not the way to --
05 the path to, you know, greater empowerment of this
06 area and that they could be more -- achieve more
07 through this greater entity.

08 I think that, you know, I -- I would lean
09 towards including them in the Downtown Neighborhood
10 Council because, frankly, the -- you know, it will
11 -- by excluding them, it will create very much of a
12 situation of the rich and the poor. And I'm not

13 sure that that's good for Downtown.

14 I think that Downtown, that based on this

15 application, that they recognize that this is a core

16 part of the Downtown area and, you know, it is. And

17 they've addressed it through having -- in their

18 bylaws by having at large homeless representative.

19 We had several speakers testify that --

20 you know, that -- that outreach has occurred. And

21 also, you know, I noted the number of speakers that

22 opposed that, but several of those were numerous

23 speakers that supported separating Central City

24 East, were from Lincoln Heights area and several

25 were also representatives of these same organizations.

02 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: I think also, there was

03 -- based on the maps and the plotting that staff did

04 in terms of signature collecting and all that, it is

05 obvious that there was large outreach done in that area.

07 So I mean, I'm comfortable leaving it in

08 there with the recommendation that they work with

09 the leadership that is evolving out of the central

10 city to see how they can come to agreement on the
11 concerns and the needs for that area.

12 COMMISSIONER STONE: I think another concern
13 that I would have about it, just based on what
14 Romero said about Central City East being
15 stand-alone, would be the -- the size. If it is
16 really 11,000 in residents, that is definitely too
17 small a number -- small a number for the plan for us
18 to be able to certify on its own.

19 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: And I agree with you
20 that 11,000 probably would be a difficult number.
21 It's smaller than the Charter or the ordinance calls for.
22 And hearing all of the other
23 commissioners' concerns, I would certainly be
24 willing to allow that area to continue with the
01 Downtown area and ask for a -- some kind of a report
02 back from them if there is not -- if there is some
03 concerns from that particular section of the
04 Downtown Neighborhood Council that we would need to
05 know about.

06 COMMISSIONER STONE: And would that be a report
07 from -- from staff or from the neighborhood council?

08 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I would even -- I'd
09 like for the central city area people to come to a
10 meeting and sign a paper to us, address us, if there
11 is a concern about what's going on in that
12 particular neighborhood council, just as every other
13 citizen has a right to do. I just want to make sure
14 they know that they can do that if they have
15 concerns. We are -- we meet regularly. And there's
16 always an area for public forum.

17 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. Well, it that seems
18 to at least have some resolution on that issue.
19 The -- I think I'd recommend that we go
20 forward with the Lincoln Heights -- Lincoln Heights
21 Neighborhood Council first. I think we're going to
22 have to do -- or city attorney, correct me if I'm
23 wrong -- we're going to have to do separate motions
24 for each of these (inaudible).

25 MR. MARTINEZ: It would be preferable, yes.

01 COMMISSIONER STONE: I would recommend that we
02 do then the Lincoln Heights first and then deal with
03 the remaining issues we have with Downtown and
04 Historic Cultural.

05 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: So Tammy, you're the
06 commissioner in that area. You want to --

07 COMMISSIONER MEBRANO: Sure. Let's see. I
08 move to adopt the findings on the staff report and
09 to move to certify the applicant, that's the Lincoln
10 Heights Neighborhood Council, and approve the
11 boundaries presented in the final staff report
12 boundary determination, and I believe that you list
13 there, Romero, the new boundaries as they were
14 carved out on that map. Correct?

16 COMMISSIONER STONE: Yeah, (inaudible).

17 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. Which will
18 result in the inclusion of the brew --

19 ROMERO: -- to -- to deal with this as
20 separate, correct? So you're -- you're simply
21 approving the boundaries as -- as the -- for Lincoln

22 Heights as the Department recommended, correct?

23 COMMISSIONER STONE: With the modifications you outlined --

25 ROMERO: Right.

01 COMMISSIONER STONE: -- relative to shared --

02 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: On that one, of the

03 shared.

04 COMMISSIONER STONE: -- boundaries and the

05 Arroyo Seco.

06 ROMERO: Correct.

07 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Correct. The other

08 piece of the William Meade will come back --

09 ROMERO: Okay. Got you.

10 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: -- on the downtown.

11 ROMERO: Yeah.

12 COMMISSIONER STONE: And then also, that we're

13 amending the boundaries to delete any reference to

14 shared boundaries until we've reached that issue

15 with respect to any type of certification. And I

16 believe you will accept the applicant's consent

17 during the public hearing to amend that that bylaw

18 revision be made.

19 MR. MARTINEZ: And Commissioner Membreno, you
20 were talking about to the boundaries to the L.A.
21 River as proposed --

22 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Correct.

23 MR. MARTINEZ: -- by staff.

24 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Correct.

25 MR. MARTINEZ: Thank you.

01 COMMISSIONER STONE: Then we have a motion and
02 a second. Any additional discussion?

03 We will put the question to the
04 commission. Commissioner Lucente.

05 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Yes.

06 COMMISSIONER STONE: Commissioner Woods Gray.

07 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Yes.

08 COMMISSIONER STONE: Commissioner Membreno.

09 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER STONE: And I, Commissioner Stone, yes.

12 We now have the 25th neighborhood council.

14 Okay. We still -- obviously we still have

15 work to do, and now that we're down to two
16 remaining, the boundaries issues are probably a
17 little easier to resolve.

18 I yield to Commissioner Woods Gray.

19 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I move that the
20 commission certify the Historical Neighborhood
21 Council as proposed in the map presented --

22 ROMERO: That's number one.

23 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Number one, map
24 number one. And -- I'm not sure about the findings
25 of the Department -- adopt the findings of the
01 Department if they include the boundaries as
02 proposed in this motion and were -- were there any
03 amendments to the

04 ROMERO: There were some amendments.

05 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: And also change
06 bylaws to reflect any amendments that are
07 necessary.

08 COMMISSIONER STONE: Romero.

09 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Were there any

10 amendments?

11 COMMISSIONER STONE: Romero.

12 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: We are on this map.

13 ROMERO: I'm sorry. We were talking about the

14 -- the Historical Cultural, correct?

15 COMMISSIONER STONE: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Right.

17 ROMERO: The recommendation of the department

18 that the boundaries that was in the staff report did

19 not include the artist district, so I think that one

20 of the things --

21 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: We'll modify the findings --

23 ROMERO: Right.

24 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: -- to reflect the

25 proposed map, number one, and adopt any other

01 findings that do not affect those boundaries.

02 ROMERO: Okay. And I again defer, the Downtown

03 --the Downtown had included that in their

04 boundaries, so I believe that we want to modify the

05 staff's findings to reflect that the allocation of

06 the artist district to Historical Cultural provides
07 for a more perfect expression of a compact and
08 contiguous --

09 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: In the Historical.

10 ROMERO: -- in the Historical. So that would
11 be a finding that you would -- you would want to adopt.

13 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Yes, be based upon
14 that. That's very true.

15 ROMERO: And that, of course, then would
16 override -- I assume in your discussion the compact
17 and contiguous is deemed at a higher level than the
18 stakeholder -- any stakeholder information that you
19 received about the -- the artist district voting to
20 be in Downtown. Correct?

21 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: And the Historical.

22 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: And the Historical.

23 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Yeah. And I think
24 testimony -- well, first of all. I'll second that
25 motion.

01 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Second.

02 ROMERO: Okay.

03 MR. MARTINEZ: And just one further

04 clarification. Was that area that has been added,

05 was that presented within the initial applicant's

06 boundary proposal?

07 ROMERO: Yes, it was.

08 MR. MARTINEZ: Okay.

09 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: It's on the map that

10 I have. It's on the --

11 COMMISSIONER STONE: Then we want to

12 (inaudible) a finding --

13 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: It's on the proposed

14 map that I had.

15 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: It's also on the

16 application, I believe.

17 COMMISSIONER STONE: All right. All right.

18 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: From the packet that

19 we got, Romero --

20 ROMERO: Yeah.

21 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: It's on the application.

23 ROMERO: Just one quick -- yes. Historic

24 Cultural did submit an application with the artist

25 district included, correct?

01 Yeah, yes, they did.

02 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: They do not exclude it

03 (inaudible). Okay.

04 ROMERO: The application as received did

05 include the artist district.

06 COMMISSIONER STONE: That's correct.

07 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: So I will second.

08 COMMISSIONER STONE: And we have a motion and a

09 second.

10 Commissioner discussion. Romero, can I

11 ask during some discussion just maybe return to the

12 map and clarify the artist district -- clarify the

13 entire artist district, which goes all -- from the 101

15 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: To seventh.

16 COMMISSIONER STONE: -- to Seventh Street.

17 Alameda to the L.A. River. And the area that was

18 proposed as a compromise that under the staff report

19 the staff recommended we include within Downtown
20 area -- oh, the artist district, all of the artist
21 district.

22 ROMERO: All of the artist district.

23 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Correct.

24 COMMISSIONER STONE: From the -- okay.

25 ROMERO: But in the testimony that we heard, we
01 heard of the historical institutions and landmarks
02 and other things that were in there that were a part
03 of Little Tokyo.

04 COMMISSIONER STONE: I guess my concern is that
05 -- is that, at least in reviewing testimony, that it
06 was kind of mixed on that.

07 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Well --

08 COMMISSIONER STONE: There was support --
09 support for including that part within downtown and
10 support for including that within Historic Cultural.

11 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Yeah, Mr. President,
12 that -- that is precisely the issue in my view, is
13 that it was not clearly demonstrated that that

14 compromise was, (a), clear to those people involved,
15 (b), fully communicated to the people that were
16 involved, and (c), accepted by the people involved.
17 But setting that aside, I mean certainly

18 that sways my testimony, but I think more important
19 is the fact that without that area you have a -- a
20 specific area that one would refer to as Little
21 Tokyo extending essentially into the heart of
22 downtown and bisecting the Downtown area.

23 And -- and to me that doesn't -- you know,
24 I don't think that the findings of the staff support
25 making that -- making that change. I mean, either
01 it's part of Downtown or it isn't, but the
02 attributes seem to support that this area is
03 specific and notably different from the other area
04 of Downtown.

05 COMMISSIONER STONE: I guess the -- the only --
06 the only other option that we've done in
07 circumstances similar to this -- and nothing is the

08 same, certainly -- would be to consider a carve-out
09 and -- and exclude for a certain time a portion with
10 the idea that both groups would spend more time with
11 outreach to that area, I guess what we're looking at
12 as the artist's area.

13 We certainly don't want it to be a -- if
14 we did something like that, and I don't know if
15 there's any kind of support for that on the
16 commission, but that we would want to limit it to a
17 date certain.

18 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Well, I think there
19 were numerous dialogues in terms of -- of Downtown
20 and Historical in terms of that area. And the
21 decision, it doesn't seem to me that it's strong
22 either way in terms of one showing more support than
23 the other. I think those discussions were not
24 articulated by either group that one group had claim
25 to it much stronger than the other.

01 COMMISSIONER STONE: I agree with that, and
02 that's -- that's my quandary, which is if no one --

03 no one's made a -- the strongest -- a strong showing

04 -- I think they both made strong showings, but then

05 what are we to do with that area in question?

06 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Well, again, you know,

07 I think we're basing our recommendation on what the

08 plan has asked us to do to look at the contiguous

09 and compact and historical parts of how a community

10 needs to be put together. And based on that, I

11 think those boundaries that we have described for

12 historical or -- or based on their application makes sense.

14 COMMISSIONER STONE: Yeah, basically by -- by

15 excluding it you create a question --

16 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Right.

17 COMMISSIONER STONE: -- of compactness and --

18 whatever that word is.

19 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Contiguousness?

20 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Yeah, contiguous and

21 historical.

22 COMMISSIONER STONE: Continuant.

23 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Continuity.

24 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: I think there's a
25 motion on the table.

01 COMMISSIONER STONE: Yeah, we have a motion and
02 a second and we're in discussion. Any more discussion?

04 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: No. I support
05 Commissioner Membreno's comment and Commissioner
06 Lucente, and I think we're ready to vote so I can go
07 to (inaudible).

08 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. I will then poll
09 the commission. And this is -- the question is on --
11 Actually, city attorney, if you could read
12 the -- or tell us what we're voting on again.

13 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: You're the
14 secretary?

15 MR. MARTINEZ: Romero. We'll have the
16 representative from DONE do that.

17 ROMERO: Okay. This is Historic Cultural. I
18 believe that you wish to make a finding based upon
19 -- on the fact that you -- you wish to make a
20 finding that based upon Historic Cultural as well as

21 the fact that the area is -- is named in community
22 plans, that it meets one of the requirements to come
23 in under 20,000.

24 You wish to make a finding to modify the
25 staff's report regarding the boundaries and to -- to
01 find that the inclusion of the arts district with
02 the balance of Historic Cultural makes for a more
03 compact and contiguous neighborhood council in
04 accordance with the intent of the plan.

05 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Correct.

06 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. The --

07 ROMERO: Then the last one, of course, is to
08 advise the applicant to modify bylaws and -- in
09 agreement with the commission's findings.

10 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: And that would not be
11 on boundaries, because I believe -- well, yes, that
12 will be on bylaws as well.

13 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. Then --

14 ROMERO: The other would be that you wish to
15 modify the staff's boundary of the Little Tokyo area

16 to -- to have the boundary reflect as it was
17 submitted by the Historic Cultural, which would put
18 the boundary at Fourth Street.

19 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: At Fourth Street and
20 also Vignes, I believe, correct?

21 COMMISSIONER STONE: We -- we've outlined that
22 by street name, I believe.

23 ROMERO: Okay.

24 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: It was (inaudible).

25 ROMERO: Those are -- each one of those are
01 contrary to the staff's report, so we call them out
02 as -- as a change.

03 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Yes.

04 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. With that, I will
05 put the question to the commission on the motion.
06 Commissioner Lucente.

07 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Yes.

08 COMMISSIONER STONE: Commissioner Woods Gray.

09 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER STONE: Commissioner Membreno.

11 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER STONE: And I will vote yes as
13 well.

14 We -- congratulations. We now have number
15 26, the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council.

16 Okay. The last remaining issue we have is
17 the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council, and
18 I'll recognize Mr. Gagan.

19 MICHAEL GAGAN: Yeah, we respectfully request
20 not to be certified.

21 COMMISSIONER STONE: Is the public testimony
22 closed?

23 MICHAEL GAGAN: The balkanization of --

24 COMMISSIONER STONE: I recognize -- I
25 recognized him.

01 MICHAEL GAGAN: The balkanization of downtown
02 after the good faith effort of so many people over
03 such a long period of time to simply be undone by
04 the apparently, you know, ad hoc processes used by
05 the commission undermines the entire effort, so I

06 respectfully request that you not certify the

07 Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council.

08 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. The –

09 COMMISSIONER STONE: I – I'd like to ask the

10 city attorney --

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're not certified yet

12 anyway.

13 COMMISSIONER STONE: – the city attorney

14 whether we have --

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) certified.

16 MR. MARTINEZ: They're making a request that

17 you not certify them. If you wish to not certify

18 them, you would make it based on the facts that have

19 been presented to you.

20 If the applicant is indicating in any way

21 that there's an attempt to withdraw the application,

22 that's not true. I doubt it highly unlikely that

23 this one individual can speak for the entire

24 Downtown area, much less the provisions in the

25 bylaws that are being considered for the process as

01 to how it's to be done.

02 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE SPEAKER: Our point

03 exactly.

04 MICHAEL GAGAN: Mr. President, we're –

05 MR. MARTINEZ: There is -- there is a process.

06 There is a process for withdrawing the application

07 that needs to be followed.

08 COMMISSIONER STONE: I'd like to ask the public

09 to please stop with the comments. We're listening

10 to the city attorney's advice.

11 MR. MARTINEZ: Or the applicant during public

12 comment can request any type of reconsideration of

13 the decision. Right now, however, the public

14 comment has been closed. This is for

15 commissioner

16 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE SPEAKER: You're

17 destroying the city of Los Angeles today.

18 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE SPEAKER: You people have

19 ruined this city.

20 MR. MARTINEZ: Right now this is for –

21 COMMISSIONER STONE: Please, I've -

22 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE SPEAKER: We have

23 (inaudible).

24 COMMISSIONER STONE: All right. If - I'd like

25 to please -

01 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (Inaudible)

02 neighborhood council.

03 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Should we move to

04 adjourn?

05 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE SPEAKER: - for

06 political purposes and the (inaudible).

07 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Better make his

08 motion so we can start (inaudible) and then they'll

09 have (inaudible).

10 COMMISSIONER STONE: I'd like to recognize -

11 I'd like to recognize Commissioner Lucente.

12 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Thank you,

13 Mr. President. I would like to move certification

14 of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council

15 application to adopt the findings of the department

16 but to modify the findings of the department to
17 support modified boundaries as we -- as we have
18 outlined that are consistent with the boundaries of
19 the Historic Cultural and neighborhood councils.

20 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

21 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: So I have made a motion.

22 COMMISSIONER STONE: All right. Please.

23 Please.

24 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

25 COMMISSIONER STONE: Please. We're --

01 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE SPEAKER: We're doing
02 (inaudible) and we're going to speak there.

03 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

04 COMMISSIONER STONE: We have a motion on the
05 table.

06 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

07 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Second. Second.

08 COMMISSIONER STONE: We have a second. Is
09 there any more commissioner comment?

10 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: No.

11 COMMISSIONER STONE: There's no more

12 commissioner comment.

13 Okay. I -- I put -- put the question -- staff.

15 Excuse me. Excuse me. Romero.

17 Excuse me. I'd like to -- I'd like to ask

18 staff to please -- I'd like to ask staff to please

19 come up and tell us what the -- what the motion --

20 reiterate for us what the motion is that we're

21 approving, or voting to --

22 ROMERO: You would be approving to adopt the

23 findings in the staff report with the exception of

24 that -- the findings regarding boundaries, and you

25 would be modifying the -- the recommended boundaries

01 to exclude the area that -- known as the artist

02 district, and to -- to exclude -- I'm not sure, was

03 there a decision made on the area north of the 101?

04 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Yes. (Inaudible).

05 ROMERO: Okay. To exclude the area north of

06 the 101 and to -- let me see here. I think that's

07 it -- and to advise the applicant to amend their

08 bylaws to reflect the neighborhood council as
09 determined by the commission.

10 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Thank you. Okay.

11 Okay.

12 (Inaudible)

13 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

14 COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. Thank you, staff.

15 I'll put the question to commission on that motion.

16 Commissioner Lucente.

17 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: The question is? I'm

18 sorry.

19 COMMISSIONER STONE: The motion is to approve

20 the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council.

21 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Yeah, and I think I'd

22 like to point out that -- that the -- there are two

23 boundary areas that -- that are different as

24 proposed. One is that area north of the 101 Freeway

25 which remains in question and so for further

01 discussion and petition by residents, businesses or
other stakeholders in that area.

And secondly, I am not modifying the boundaries to exclude the Central City East area, otherwise known as Skid Row.

COMMISSIONER STONE: You are not.

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Not.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Right. So Central City East would be included within the downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council.

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER STONE: And then we'll put the question.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE SPEAKER: This is a vote for succession. We're taking -- we're taking this experience to everyone who tries to seek (inaudible).

COMMISSIONER STONE: We will now -- the commissioners will now vote on the motion. Commissioner Lucente.

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Commissioner Woods Gray.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Yes.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Commissioner Membreno.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Yes.

COMMISSIONER STONE: And I will vote yes as well. We've now voted to certify the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council and --

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (Inaudible) certified racism.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: And central city.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE SPEAKER: That's what you did.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Including the Central City East area.

We have -- we have other things on the agenda today as well. I think I'd recommend that we take a -- a brief two-minute break and then --

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Mr. President, Mr. President, could we --

COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: I'm out of here.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Oh, okay. He has to go. We don't have decisions to make, do we?

COMMISSIONER STONE: We're going to take a two-minute break, and then -- then we'll return with

item number 4.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: It a voting issue?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Well, for public
comment do we need a quorum?

MR. MARTINEZ: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER STONE: We have one -- we were
going to go to number -- number six, public
comment. We have -- do we need a quorum for that?

04 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: You have to have a
05 quorum for public comment?

06 MR. MARTINEZ: Yes. Yes, it -- we -- we --

07 COMMISSIONER STONE: Then Mr. Brink has waited
08 -- he submitted a card and he's --

09 MR. BRINK: Seven and a half hours.

10 COMMISSIONER STONE: So please, please,
11 Mr. Brink, go ahead with your comment.

12 MR. BRINK: They're very simple. You don't
13 need a quorum for it.

14 The Northridge Community Council has
15 delivered you a letter dated yesterday that demands

16 that you put our application on the next meeting for
17 certification. You illegally removed it on 3/19.

18 We went forward and made some minor
19 changes in our bylaws. We incorporated as a
20 compromise the exact language giving our
21 stakeholders the rights guaranteed in the Charter to
22 determine to the extent possible the actions of the
23 council.

24 I get an e-mail that came back that said
25 well, that's problematic. That is too much
01 authority to grant it.

02 You failed your 10-day period. We want to
03 be on the 7th on the agenda for an up/down vote by
04 your board, commission, without a report as called
05 for in the plan. If you vote for us, we'll accept
06 it. If you vote no, we'll go to the city council.
07 If they vote no we'll go to a file a mandamus to go
08 forward.

09 We are tired. We are six months into the
10 process and we've been sandbagged and not empowered.

11 And frankly, today, the episode I just witnessed
12 does not exactly make me feel great about the
13 process of empowerment in Los Angeles.

14 As you know I am a thorough
15 successionist. And I see I've got a bunch of
16 support today for the idea.

17 But put us on for the 7th, give us a vote
18 up or down for the Northridge council, because you
19 have no authority whatsoever to pull us off on the
21 3/19. Our application isn't incomplete. It's
22 some of your staff doesn't like it, and that's what
23 they intend to do, is to sandbag us. So if we're
24 not on the 7th you will not like our next step.

25 Thank you.

01 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you very much.

02 Commissioner comment? I'm assuming that
03 we've -- we've -- anything else from the commission
04 today? Commissioner Woods Gray.

06 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I move that we adjourn.

08 COMMISSIONER LUCENTE: Thank you, Mr. Stone,

09 for your presence here today in a very trying
10 situation.

11 COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Thank you, Mr. Stone.

13 Yes, you did a great job.

14 COMMISSIONER STONE: We have a motion to a
15 adjourn and a second.

16 COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Second.

17 COMMISSIONER STONE: And all in favor?

18 MR. MARTINEZ: And just a clarification, it is
19 being adjourned and continued to the next scheduled
20 meeting on May 7th, 6:30, at the Polytechnic High
21 School that is on the agenda.

22 Or where is it?

23 COMMISSIONER STONE: Our next meeting will be
24 held on May 7th, May 7th at the John Francis
25 Polytechnic High School. That's correct.

01 We're adjourned.

02 Greg.