

**MAJORITY MINORITY SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING**
April 16, 2022

In Attendance

Commissioners	Interns	Vendors
Campbell, Marie Allen, Chair-P	McCarthy, Justine	Mathur, Priti (ARCBridge)-P
Bulluck, Dona S. -P	Ramdani, Nassim-P	Mathur, Sam (ARCBridge)-P
Graves, Constance -P		Wice, Prof. Jeffrey-P
Kissee, Adrienne-P		Zanfardino, Marissa
Mauldin, Larry-P		
Mazza, Dominic-P		
Owens-Cody, Keshana-P		

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- Meeting was called to order by Chair Campbell at 9:04 am followed by Roll Call.

II. Approve Meeting Minutes

- Chair Campbell discussed that minutes had been provided to everyone for March 26, 2022, April 2, 2022 and April 9, 2022 and inquired as to comments. Commissioner Bulluck expressed that the meeting minutes for April 9, 2022 needed to be amended to revise language discussing a motion that had been made. She proposed that the MMD proceed with approval of March 26 and

April 2nd Minutes. Commissioner Graves moved that the minutes of March 26 and April 2, be approved. The April 9, 2022 meeting minutes will be submitted to the MMD for approval after they have been corrected.

III. Legal Discussion/Update

- Professor Wice provided quick update on State Redistricting case. Although the litigation is interesting; it is unrelated to the mission of the Albany County Redistricting Commission (“ACRC”) or the Minority Majority Subcommittee (“MMD”).
- Indicated that he had received and subsequently provided Dr. Handley with the election data she needed to complete the racial voting analysis. He would ascertain with her over the weekend if there was anything else she required and what her timeframe is for completing her analysis. There was also discussion about Dr. Handley coming to the next meeting to discuss racial voting analysis and other aspects of her work with the MMD. Chair Campbell clarified for everyone that the data being discussed reflected election results data from 2015 to 2021 for County Legislature and countywide races.
- There was significant discussion about a comment made during the April 14, 2022 public hearing that the definition of “minority,” as set forth in Judge Kahn’s 2015 decision, was limited to Blacks, and did not include other minority groups in Albany County. This fed into the mapping discussion. Prof. Wice expressed that Judge Kahn indicated districts of more than one race could be considered and left it as an open question. He further indicated that there is nothing in law that prevents the use of multi-racial groups when creating a district, but it is still very much a grey area in courts. Prof. Wice cautioned against creating bizarrely shaped districts and encouraged the creation of districts that consider race and other factors.

Action Items:

- Prof. Wice to speak with Dr. Handley about the racial voting analysis and attending the next MMD Meeting and will get back to the group.
- Mr. and Ms. Mathur will provide their availability for next week to Chair Campbell to schedule mapping meeting.

IV. Mapping Discussion/Update

- Discussed initial map with Mr. Mathur reiterating that initial map was essentially based on census data, consideration of where minorities populations were concentrated, and whether the current MMD districts could be maintained.
- Prof. Wice inquired as to whether an attempt had been made to draw districts from scratch without regard to current districts. Mr. Mathur indicated that

they looked at areas where the current population exists.

- There was mutual agreement that more public input is necessary. Public input and points of view are critical to create maps that reflect their concerns where possible. The MMD must consider all input and be able to justify any map we put forward to the ACRC. It was suggested that the MMD conduct neighborhood walk throughs to assist in identifying varying possibilities.
- Ms. Mathur advised that in reviewing minority populations, while there are concentrations in some areas in other areas the minority population is not large enough to support the creation of a majority minority district.
- The group discussed issues related to voting patterns and voter turnout and possible outcomes of the racial voting analysis. Prof. Wice indicated that depending on Dr. Handley's analysis, you may not need to draw districts to constitute a 50% or higher minority population if data and analysis indicates that minority candidates can win in districts where there is a smaller concentration of minorities.
- ARCBridge has been reviewing and analyzing the maps that have been submitted by the public and will continue to do so. Ms. Mathur expressed that the maps, created using Dave's Redistricting Mapping software, use precinct data whereas other mapping programs use census block data.
- Discussed scheduling mapping meeting for next week.

Action Items:

- ARCBridge will identify areas where minority populations might be grouped or reconfigured.
- Subcommittee reaching out to community to get their perspective on preliminary map
- ARCBridge providing an updated preliminary map to the Subcommittee

V. Review Open Action Items

- Chair Campbell suggested that the MMD move forward with small group presentations, and attending community events in-person to raise awareness, in addition to public hearings.
- Commissioner Owens-Cody reiterated a request that everyone update their availability in the MMD Calendar. A brief tutorial is available on the calendar to assist those who are unfamiliar with this calendar feature.
- Prof. Wice mentioned he may not be receiving all of the MMD emails. Chair Campbell to check to ensure he is part of the MMD email distribution list.

VI. Review Work Plan/Commissioners Report Out

- Commissioner Owens-Cody presented the workplan. Commissioners broke down several tasks and created backups to a few deliverables (ex. meeting minutes, hosting live meeting forums online. etc.).
- Commissioner Bulluck suggested rescheduling the public meeting to allow for more time to publicize and promote the meeting.
- Commissioner Kisse will reach out to the Arbor Hill Community Center to ascertain availability to conduct a community engagement forum there.

Action Items:

VII. New Steps

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Action Items:

VIII. New Business

XIV. Meeting Adjourned

- Commissioner Bulluck moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Owens-Cody. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:24am by Chair, Marie Allen Campbell.