STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLAN
AND
LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING PLAN

Prince George's County - Prince George's Community College
July 25, 2011    7:00 P.M.

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So we're standing tonight to let you know that we know that this is not the end, but the beginning, and, along with members of the Central Committee, our civic and faith and business communities, we look forward to working with you as we move forward through this process and come up with a plan that meets your goal in terms of numbers and our goal in keeping Prince George's County -- they say the second strongest, but I will say the strongest delegation in the State of Maryland. So thank you very much for your time.

MADAME CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. How about Mr. Trevor Otts.

MR. OTTS: Otts.

MADAME CHAIRPERSON: Otts. Okay.

MR. OTTS: We will be submitting a combined plan.

MADAME CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

MR. OTTS: Again, my name is Trevor Otts and I represent the Fannie Lou Hamer Political Action Committee.
MADAME CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

MR. OTTS: All right. The Fannie Lou Hamer Political Action Committee submits to the 2011 Redistricting Advisory Committee the following testimony regarding legal requirements impacting on African American communities in Maryland. Please note that the Fannie Lou Hamer Political Action Committee is a grass roots organization created solely for the purpose of impacting upon in a positive manner the issue of redistricting in Maryland.

The Fannie Lou Hamer Political Action Committee has developed a progressive African American empowering redistricting plan for African American communities in Maryland. This black political empowerment redistricting plan will be transmitted to the Advisory Committee in GIS maps and demographic data creating African American districts that are a mirror reflection of the African American communities statewide.

To accomplish this task, the Fannie Lou Hamer Political Action Committee has partnered with the
Southern Coalition for Social Justice and the NAACP's legal defense and education fund. From their (indiscernible), we submit the following legal arguments to the Governor's Redistricting Advisory Committee.

Issue one, Jingles Test in Mobile versus (Indiscernible). Issue two, the Judge Bell decision regarding due regard to political subdivisions and/or jurisdictions. Issue three, equal protection caused by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. With regards to the Jingles test, we believe the Jingles court decision raised up the following question that must be asked regarding racial gerrymandering or staffing impacting.

Question one. What is the extent or history of discrimination in state and political subdivisions that dilute black voting strengths? Question two. To what extent is voting in elections at the congressional or state level regularly polarized? Question three. Is there a candidate slating process where members of the minority group have been denied access?
Question four. To what extent have members of the minority group been elected to congressional or state office? Question five. What policy underlines the state or political subdivision you (indiscernible) practice or procedures which are tenuous, vague, or obtuse? Question six. Can a minority group demonstrate that it is sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single member district?

The questions we believe must be addressed by the Governor's Redistricting Advisory Committee to evaluate racial gerrymandering in Maryland. The presentation of just a map, the presentation with just a map, without documentation to support the Jingles Test analysis is incomplete. The concentration of African Americans in five jurisdictions in Maryland suggests 16 legislative districts and 3 congressional districts that should be majority African American voting districts.

We believe the Governor and the Attorney General must present a detailed explanation and
congressional and state districts do not reflect the 30 percent African American communities in Maryland.

With regard to the Judge Bell decision, we believe that this opinion is the operating legal standard for the creation of legislative districts in Maryland. If due regard to political subdivisions and/or jurisdictions is unilateral by the Governor's Redistricting Advisory Committee, the 16 African American legislative districts would have to be created in the following jurisdictions: Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Charles County.

These five jurisdictions have compact and contiguous African American communities that will lead to the creation of 16 legislative districts. Further, in Anne Arundel County, Howard County, and Eastern Shore, three additional African American single member House of Delegate districts will be created. The Judge Bell decision, if properly implemented, will lead to legislative districts which will reflect communities of interest.
With regard to the equal protection clause, now is the time to seriously consider the creation of 141 single delegate districts nested in senate delegate legislative districts. The Fannie Lou Hamer Political Action Committee believes that every legislative district should be spread into an A, B, C House of Delegates pool. We believe that the State of Maryland’s legal requirement for resident delegates for legislative districts containing two or more counties is wrong.

The goal of ensuring representation for small towns makes a mockery of the at large delegate district process. The concept of one person, one vote is a fraud if residents of Southern Maryland who live in District 27B or 29C have only one delegate vote and all the residents who live in Montgomery have three delegate votes.

MADAME CHAIRPERSON: How much longer?
MR. OTTS: I’ll wrap it up.
MADAME CHAIRPERSON: Okay.
MR. OTTS: This scenario is also subject to
the Jingles Test with regards to disparities to communities and the delivery of state funding and/or programs. Therefore, the Fannie Lou Hamer Political Action Committee requires a detailed explanation and not just a map which presents a single member versus multi member legislative districts. The Fannie Lou Hamer PAC is prepared to go to federal court to overturn any plan that violates the Fourteenth Amendment, equal protection clause under the U.S. Constitution, which violates one person, one vote.

MADAME CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Are you leaving that with us?

MR. OTTS: Yes. It's already been submitted to you.

MADAME CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you. Pat Fletcher?

MS. FLETCHER: I'm also with the Fannie Lou Hamer Political Action Committee. And my testimony will be testimony for legislative redistricting in the State of Maryland, Prince George's County.

The Fannie Lou Hamer Political Action