
Commission Meeting

of

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

*“The Commission will take oral testimony from members of the public
on the establishment of State legislative districts in New Jersey”*

LOCATION: Meeting via Zoom

DATE: November 23, 2021
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS OF COMMISSION PRESENT:

LeRoy J. Jones, Jr., Democratic Delegation Chair
Al Barlas, Republican Delegation Chair
Senator Stephen M. Sweeney
Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Assemblyman Jon M. Bramnick
Honorable Philip S. Carchman
Cosmo A. Cirillo, Ph.D.
Linda DuBois
Michael B. Lavery, Esq.
Gary Taffet
Diane T. Testa, Esq.



ALSO PRESENT:

Raysa Martinez Kruger
Office of Legislative Services
Commission Secretary

Jessica Oestreicher
Roshard Williams
Office of Legislative Services
Commission Aides

Saily Avelenda
Democratic Delegation
Executive Director

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Therefore, portions of this transcript may not be completely accurate as portions were inaudible and/or indiscernible.*

Meeting Transcribed by
The Office of Legislative Services, Public Information Office,
Hearing Unit, State House Annex, PO 068, Trenton, New Jersey

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LeROY J. JONES, JR. (Democratic Delegation Chair): Good evening, everyone, and welcome to the third meeting of the New Jersey Apportionment Committee.

I'd like to welcome all of you on behalf of myself, Chairman Al Barlas, Judge Philip Carchman, the entire collection of Commissioners, as well as staff on both sides of the aisle.

We're going to start this evening with a roll call; so Roshard, if you could do us the honors of taking us through the roll call.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Mr. Chairman
Commissioner Testa.

MS. TESTA: Here.

MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Taffet.

MR. TAFFET: Here.

MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Sweeney.

SENATOR SWEENEY: Here.

MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Laverly.

MR. LAVERLY: Here.

MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Kean.

SENATOR KEAN: Here.

MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner DuBois. (no response)
Commissioner Cirillo.

MR. CIRILLO: Present.

MR. WILLIAMS: Eleventh member Carchman.

MR. CARCHMAN: Present.

MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Bramnick.

MR. JONES: Let the record reflect that he is having difficulty logging in.

MR. WILLIAMS: Chairman Jones.

MR. JONES: Present.

MR. WILLIAMS: Chairman Barlas.

AL BARLAS (Republican Delegation Chair): Here.

MR. JONES: So we have a quorum, ladies and gentleman; we can begin with the first witness.

I'm going to call on Commissioner John Kelly from Nutley.

J O H N V. K E L L Y III: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen; my name is Commissioner John Kelly from Nutley. I'm here to talk about Nutley and how it can fit into your potential plans for redistricting.

I want to talk about some aspects of Nutley that I think would help benefit you. Nutley is an increasingly diverse but very tightknit community. As Commissioner, I've guided Nutley through its COVID crisis, I've helped found a Diversity Council on Inclusion, and helped celebrate our first Juneteenth event. Like Tom Kean, Sr., we believe in the politics of inclusion. Nutley residents are about 65 percent homeowners, and we tend to pick candidates from both parties.

For example, with the exception of the most recent gubernatorial election, going back about 50 years, Nutley has always chosen the winner. And in the most recent legislation contest, one of the incumbents won the town; two didn't. Just to give you a flavor -- that Nutley likes its politics competitive.

Currently, Nutley is in the 28th District, and I think Nutley being in the 28th District does it a disservice. And that's because half the

district is suburban, the other half is inner city. And because of that, there's an unwritten rule between the two Assembly people that one is going to cater to the needs of the suburbs, the other is going to cater to the needs of the inner city. However, we're at a disadvantage because most other districts will have two Assembly people advocating for their interests on their behalf. With the one-and-one split, it doesn't do anyone any service, whether it's the suburbs or the inner city. We'd be better to have a more homogenous district for Nutley and for the inner city as well.

Nutley was formerly part of the 36th District, which was, I believe, a better fit for Nutley, being that the towns in southern Bergen and southern Passaic were a much more homogenous group -- common interests, common issues facing the municipalities. If Nutley doesn't fit into the 36th in your redistricting scheme, just looking along the Route 3, Route 46 corridor there's a lot of other communities that face similar issues and have similar interests as Nutley -- going as far out as Hudson County with Secaucus; moving back further west you've got some of southern Bergen, which is still currently part of 36.

Across from Route 3 you have Clifton; even though it's a city, it still has a lot of interests and commonality with Nutley in that we share a border. And then going further west you have Little Falls, Totowa, and some more of southern Passaic. All of these towns have similar interests and similar issues as Nutley.

I think Nutley would be better served being placed in a more congruous and homogenous district, rather than being half in a suburban and half in an inner city. I believe a full suburban district that Nutley is placed in would be beneficial.

Thank you for your time, and thank you for hearing me.

MR. JONES: Thank you very much, Commissioner, we really appreciate those thoughts and comments.

Mr. Secretary, you can just call the next witness; start at the top of the list there.

MR. WILLIAMS: The next witness that is present would be Christopher Binetti.

MR. JONES: Mr. Binetti, you're up.

C H R I S T O P H E R B I N E T T I, Ph.D.: Thank you, Chairman.

My name is Dr. Christopher Binetti; hopefully you remember me from last week and the first meeting. I am a political scientist, I've lived in New Jersey my whole life; I'm actually from Edison, New Jersey, in the -- I think it's the 18th. Yes, it's the 18th Legislative District.

I believe very strongly that access to politicians -- and by that I mean transparency -- is probably difficult in every state, but I've only lived in one state, so it's hard to compare. I find it very hard in New Jersey to get even my favorite representative to take Italian American issues seriously. And there's a number of issues why.

Number one, obviously, we're not a nationally recognized minority. That's very important and that's probably the biggest issue. It's also the fact that because we're not a nationally recognized minority, we struggle in terms of getting jobs in academia, getting jobs in the State bureaucracy, etc. etc. And as a result, it's actually very hard to find sympathetic staffers, sympathetic academics, etc., to our cause.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: One of my State representatives -- not the one I normally talk about, but another one -- he

had a staffer who actually point blank told me he wanted less Italian legislators. He just flat out said he wanted less Italian legislators in our State Legislature. And, you know, he said, well, it was because we need more diversity, more minority rights, and I said, "But our rights are not being adequately achieved." He just said, you know, "You don't count," basically.

And when I confronted him by e-mail, he kept saying, "Oh, I didn't really say that. I said it, but I didn't really mean it." Whatever. But this is what happens a lot in the 18th District, because I don't know if our percentage is that high, but no one really knows what the percentage of Italians are because of the statistics issues. And what generally happens is I can't get EDO to talk to me -- the Edison Democratic Organization won't talk to me. I've tried for, I don't know, off and on, probably six months. The Middlesex County Democratic Organization won't talk to me for a year.

And we're in a -- you know, we're a one-party district, so it's not like talking to anybody else really matters. And so as a result, no one ever -- nothing ever changes, no one ever listens to me, and when you try to talk to people outside of the district, to a politician, they say, "Why don't you talk to the people in your district?" Well, they won't listen to me, they won't do anything. They're like, "Your fault for living in that district."

And I think that's a big problem a lot of Italians face, is the fact that if we don't live in a district with enough Italians, we'll be ignored; and if we live in a district with a lot of Italians we might still be ignored, because a lot of the concerns we have are more left-leaning concerns, and a lot of the Italian politicians tend to be right wing.

So that tends to be a big problem, and you can sort of get caught in the middle. And I feel like it's a very important thing that we be allowed

to have proper representation so that we can actually get the civil rights bill we've been trying to get passed for a couple years actually introduced in the Legislature. No one will introduce it for these kinds of reasons.

So two important things. Number one, our representation is lower than it should be because of the inclusion of unauthorized residents, which, by one estimate, are 440,000 people. And as a result of that kind of malrepresentation, there are actually less districts that either are represented by Italians or have significant Italian percentages, just because the way we live and where we live, and where the unauthorized immigrants live.

So that's been a big, big problem for us. And also, even if you don't listen to that argument, the fact that we've largely just been ignored is true whether you include those 440,000 people or not. And at the end of the day, we can't get civil rights legislation passed because we can't get properly represented. So it's sort of this vicious cycle.

So what I'm hoping is that we start to be taken seriously by the Democratic party -- by both parties -- as a constituency in the State and in the districts, in this process, so that we get properly represented so that we can actually get the recognition of minority status and the civil rights that we deserve once the districts are properly drawn.

So all of those concerns are very important concerns, and I will keep coming up to different meetings with different angles. But those are the main issues I have.

Thank you so much.

MR. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Binetti, we certainly appreciate your perspective. And yes, we do remember you, and I'm sure members on both sides certainly understand the gravity of your comments.

We once again thank you.

Secretary, you can call the next witness.

MR. WILLIAMS: Joseph Marchica.

J O E M A R C H I C A: Hi, everyone, good evening; give me just a moment.

All right. Thank you all for having me on here and hearing from me. I am here both as a New Jersey citizen and as the Co-Chair of Our Revolution Trenton Mercer, which is a grassroots advocacy and activist organization. We're part of a national network that pushes for progressive policy and candidates at all levels of government.

And this inherently includes working to make New Jersey's democracy healthier, because right now I don't know you can say that New Jersey has a healthy democracy. To have that, our elections must be competitive and they must not be pre-decided.

But even a decade after the last redistricting process happened, the way New Jersey's districts were drawn still has minimized the number of competitive districts, and has prevented peoples' voices from being heard in a meaningful way. We expected very few competitive elections back before election day. LD16, for example, was expected to be hotly contested, but the vast majority of the other districts in New Jersey were not. They were seen as generally non-competitive.

Now, 10 years of demographic changes and a number of other factors have made for some surprises on election day. So you had a handful of incumbents losing, you had a handful of other elections that did turn out to be close or competitive. But even with that, we saw four districts that had the incumbent party lose a seat, and we had three districts that were closer

than expected. The incumbents lost a seat in 2, 3, 8, and 16, and they were closer than expected in 11, 21, and 38. So now we're up to 7, right?

But this is a decade since redistricting; we've had demographic changes and a number of other things occur, and even 10 years later it's only 7 out of 40 districts that have competitive general elections. That's not a healthy democracy.

So when we have so few competitive elections, people feel that their votes don't matter, so they don't vote. If we want to engage New Jerseyans in their government and elections, we have to show them that their vote does matter, we can't just tell them. Otherwise our words will ring hollow.

So, some data on this. LD16, as I highlighted earlier, was highly expected and known to be a competitive race this year. Because of this, turnout in LD16 was up 23 percent this year versus 2017. If we compare that to the statewide number from the Governor's race, right, that was only up 19 percent. Now, that's 4 percent, right? That 4 percent, applied statewide, is 90,000 more people voting.

That's 90,000 more people engaged with their government and exercising their basic right. When you show people that their vote matters, they come out and they vote. Competitive elections matter to good government; they engage people with the local and state governments, and if we want people to care about and support government, this is where it starts. We have to stop drawing virtually every district to not be competitive. We have to stop giving districts to one party or another entirely. We have to allow for more competitive, meaningful elections if we want to call ourselves a democracy.

When this is combined with the power that the local party committees have to basically decide primary elections on their own by rigging the ballot, you end up almost entirely cutting voters out of the process. Is it any wonder that New Jerseyans consistently express that they feel disengaged with their government, when we routinely show them that their vote doesn't matter?

So, some closing thoughts. Local party committee leadership is disproportionately white across the state -- I want to touch on this specifically. There's a whole lot of folks who look like me, and not a whole lot else. And when these county committee chairs select candidates, they disproportionately pick people who look like me -- look like us. Then, by putting them on the ballot line, on the county line, these candidates disproportionately win primaries. I mean, we're talking -- accounting for 35 percent of the vote, according to recent studies; we're talking about State legislative incumbents not having lost on the line in 10 years.

So because of this, we end up with a lack of diversity in the State Legislature -- where 73 percent of the State Legislature is white, versus 54.6 percent of New Jersey residents. That's per the latest census in 2019. We end up, then, with only 2.5 percent of the Legislature that is Asian American-Pacific Islander, versus about 10 percent of New Jersey residents. We end up with 7.5 percent of the Legislature is Hispanic or Latino versus 21.6 in the New Jersey population.

I know you've likely, throughout this process, heard a lot about trying to increase the diversity of the New Jersey Legislature, but I specifically want to mention it here, because it all ties together. By not having competitive districts, that means stagnation. That means the already

predominantly white and male figures that hold sway over county parties will continue to -- by the nature of the lens that we/they, as white males, view things through -- we will tend to select less diverse candidates, we will tend to select people who are already in positions of power; which right now are predominantly white male.

So if we want to do something about diversity, we have to make for more competitive elections; so that we have to pick candidates that reflect the community to earn more votes. New Jersey's legacy is rife with systemic racism, and it's long past time that we take some decisive action to try to change it, so that we don't have over-representation of people who look like me at the expense of people of color.

So, to close, I urge you to do two things. Please draw fair, competitive districts that allow for healthier -- an overall healthier New Jersey democracy, where voters' voices are actually able to decide their representatives and hold them accountable. And number two, draw districts that enhance rather than diminish the voices of people of color in our government. They are as much New Jerseyans as you or I -- obviously, there are people of color on this Committee.

And given our State's history with systemic racism, those community's voices need to be heard in order to have any sense of justice.

Thank you for the time, I really appreciate this.

MR. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Marchica, I really appreciate your comments.

Mr. Secretary, we're going to call Patricia Campos-Medina, who is the President of the Latina Action Network -- I believe it is the Latina Civic Action.

MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, I don't believe she is on.

MR. JONES: Okay. We will go in the order of the list that we have.

MR. WILLIAMS: Currently we have two of the witnesses on -- two more witnesses.

MR. JONES: Go right ahead and call them.

MR. WILLIAMS: So that would be-- Well, first, I would like to acknowledge that Commissioner Bramnick has joined the call, and the record does reflect that.

The witness will be Angelica Moreno, followed by Victor Rivera.

ANGELICA MORENO: Good evening, Commission; my name is Angelica Moreno, and I have been a resident of Greenbrook, New Jersey, for all 27 years of my life.

I am here representing a group of my neighbors and would like the Commission to hear a little bit about my community and what it means to me, us, and our way of life.

Latinos in Greenbrook are normally small in numbers. The population could be so spread out that one might guess why any of them lives here and not in a place with a higher Latino population. Our district, District 22, however, is now ranked 7th in the state for proportion of Latinos to other races and ethnicities, having jumped from being 25 percent to 34 percent Latino population. The communities that make up District 22, and the community surrounding my town, are what make Greenbrook an attractive place for Latinos, in an area where Latinos are a plurality, even if not inside of Greenbrook itself.

A second reason why Greenbrook is attractive within the area/district is because of its schools. Towns in District 22 that have more Latinos often have lower quality, underfunded schools. This difference is even more notable at the high school level, where Greenbrook students joined the children of much wealthier communities at Watchung Hills Regional High School, versus, say, North Plainfield students being right next door yet remaining in North Plainfield.

Situations like this one perpetuate cycles of poverty and inequality, and are direct results of having representatives that don't represent our community. I believe fair maps are essential to beginning a process of equality and justice for the Latino communities of this state. Fair representation is the tool that ensures that whoever is in Trenton needs to pay attention to our needs.

Please consider all map submissions from the Latino community as we aid you in seeing places where we can greater better, fairer districts.

Thank you.

MR. JONES: Thank you, Ms. Moreno, we really appreciate your testimony.

Mr. Secretary, call the next witness.

MR. WILLIAMS: The last speaker is Victor Rivera.

MR. JONES: Mr. Rivera, you're up.

VICTOR MIGUEL RIVERA: Good evening, everybody; thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My name is Victor Miguel Rivera, I'm from Hamilton, New Jersey, and I'm here as a Community Organizer for the Latino Action

Network Foundation; and as Co-Chair of the Communications Committee for Our Revolution Trenton Mercer.

Following the 2020 Census count, New Jersey, along with the rest of the nation, now undergoes the decennial redistricting and apportionment of its Congressional and legislative maps. Having been born and raised in the capitol county of Mercer, and being represented in the 14th Legislative District for as long as I can remember, I've grown up seeing Latino representation lag, and top political appointments -- both in New Jersey and my hometown -- despite us representing 21.6 percent of the population.

In fact, I represent the second-fastest growing Latinx legislative District, with a 98 percent increase in the proportion of Latinos that make up District 14, reflected in the 2020 Census. I've seen out-of-touch politicians fail to amend the wounds of structural racism within the public education system, even when the Superintendent of my hometown defined it as, "De facto segregation."

Before everyone here today, I present my testimony to a Commission composed of zero Latinos, in a state where I am represented by a Legislature composed of only 8 percent Latinos. However, there is now an opportunity for New Jersey to put forward a fairer and accurate redistricting effort that can respect the power of the Latino vote. This is especially important for a new generation of Latinx voters, with the Latinx youth comprising 21.8 percent of the New Jersey school-aged children.

Despite the clear imbalance of economic prosperity and political representation between Latinos and whites in my hometown, the redistricting process provides the opportunity to build a more equitable, inclusive, and

fairer New Jersey -- one in which Latinos have appropriate representation at the State and Federal levels.

To be clear, I'm advocating for appropriate legislative districts. These districts must respect our communities of interest and ensure that our communities are neither packed nor cracked, so that our influence is not diluted. There are opportunities to create greater Latino representation all over the great State of New Jersey. The number of Latinx communities over our state has only increased and spread out in the last decade.

So with that, I urge you to incorporate this growth into the future map, because Latinos are wide awake in the fight for fair representation in the Garden State.

Thank you.

MR. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Rivera. Well done.

Mr. Secretary?

MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, no other witnesses have joined the call.

MS. AVELENDA: Roshard, just one second.

Patricia said she was having trouble logging on. She was just texting me.

MR. JONES: Okay.

MR. WILLIAMS: Is her Zoom account under her name?

MS. AVELENDA: Trust me, I went down the whole list of instructions. Just give me a second.

MR. WILLIAMS: Saily, if she's having difficulty with Zoom, she can also call in, as an option.

MS. AVELENDA: Thank you, Brian, for giving me the call-in number; I appreciate that. I just sent it over.

DR. PATRICIA CAMPOS - MEDINA: Hello, thank you for waiting.

MR. JONES: We waited for you now.

DR. CAMPOS-MEDINA: I know, thank you so much, Chairman, for waiting. I was having a hard time getting on, logging in, so I apologize.

MR. JONES: We might be saving the best for last, maybe.

DR. CAMPOS-MEDINA: (laughter) Yes, I hope so. I hope so.

Well, I just wanted to make sure I logged in and talked a little bit about some of the issues that we would like to see you address during the redistricting process. I know that it is very early in terms of where the maps are looking like, but for myself-- Let me introduce, properly, myself -- I'm assuming that everybody knows who I am.

Patricia Campos-Medina, I am a labor activism political leader. I am also the President of Latina Civic Action. We are a statewide organization that advocates for Latina issues and for Latinas to be able to run for office, and be competitive and win.

So the issue of redistricting is at the core of how we create opportunities for Latinas and Latinos to run in New Jersey. As you saw with the numbers, the Latino population has increased in New Jersey -- it's almost 21 percent. And it has increased in areas that we expected it to increase -- in the middle of the state, in Mercer County, Middlesex, the southern part of Somerset County. That, and a little bit of the northern part of Monmouth. So those -- in Union County. Those are areas of the state that we don't

traditionally think Latinos can be competitive or ought to run. And we think that, as we redraw this map, as we think about the legislative districts, that we ought to keep those districts competitive, and be able to create opportunities for Latinas to run.

As you know, Chairman, our predecessor organization was very active in the 2010 Census redistricting process, where we did have a Latina representing us on the Commission; this time around we don't. We do have the capable support of Saily leading the efforts. And I know that you care about issues about representation as well.

So during that redistricting process, we were able to increase representation for Latinos in the state from simply three legislative seats that we had in 2010, to now having -- we went up to nine; now we lost a seat in Bergen County when Caride -- Assemblywoman Caride moved out of that district and that representation was not replaced with a Latino. So we lost her. So we have lost two seats.

I think that barely comprises about 9 percent in legislative representation -- in political representation and the Legislature. And we think that we ought to increase it to a number that is more representative of the population and also of the voting block of Latinos, which is about 14 percent at this point.

So we will-- We are working in collaboration with Latino Action Network and all the Latino groups, and we will be analyzing the data and proposing, hopefully, having a discussion with all of you about where do we think our population is heading in these areas of the state; and when we think that we ought to have opportunities to build a bench for Latinos to be able

to run; not just in traditional areas that we think about -- like Hudson and Union County, or Essex County -- but in other districts.

I always believed that we don't just have to represent Latino districts, we can represent any district as long as that district is competitive and it allows for diverse representation to run.

So those are some of the thoughts that I wanted to make sure that were included in the testimony. I live in Hunterdon County. Hunterdon County has been trending blue, and that is how we were able to change Congressional District 7 and Tom Malinowski. So I know this is not a Congressional Redistricting Commission, but I think for me, keeping a district like this part of Hunterdon, with Somerset, competitive is the same idea that we ought to apply to the legislative districts -- you know, keeping them competitive so more people can run, and have more opportunity for voters to be engaged.

So I just wanted to make sure to say that, and to open up the communication with the Redistricting Commission so we can continue to have these discussions once the maps are drawn, we urge you to allow for community feedback, and for us to actually have a discussion with you on how a map impacts our community or not.

One of the big concerns that we have is that, you know, the Latino population is young -- 25 percent of children in schools are Latinos. And so that, in the next 10 years, the population is going to turn 18 and is going to be active. And also we have a large population of undocumented that needs representation because they're living and they're working in New Jersey. So even though they don't vote, representatives and people who run in the 6th ought to be aware of the presence and the needs that they have for

services, so that they are able to advocate on behalf of those children and those workers.

So thank you for waiting for me and for opening this opportunity, and I hope to continue this direct dialogue in how the maps ought to be drawn to create a more competitive map for Latino representation in New Jersey.

MR. JONES: Thank you, Patricia, the wait was well worth it; and your comments are always value added, and certainly will be taken into great consideration by this Commission as we move forward.

So thank you so much for that.

DR. CAMPOS-MEDINA: Okay, I appreciate it. And we'll be in touch.

MR. JONES: Yes we will.

Mr. Secretary.

MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, no other witnesses have joined the call.

MR. JONES: So I guess that brings us to a close.

Before we get to the close, I just want to mention that the transcripts are on file on the website from previous hearings, which there have been two already. Anyone who cares to peruse the website for those transcripts and information certainly has the wherewithal to do so.

Thank you to Chairman Barlas for bringing that to my attention, and we'll make a point of making that clear on as many of these sessions as we can.

Chairman Barlas, do you have anything that you'd like to share before we move to adjourn; and then I'll move to Judge Carchman and any of the Commissioners for that matter?

MR. BARLAS: No, Co-Chair Jones, thank you; I think I'm good.

I do think we should probably point out that our next Public Hearing is Wednesday, December 8, which is a virtual hearing.

MR. JONES: Thank you, sir.

Judge Carchman?

MR. CARCHMAN: Thank you, Chairman.

I have nothing to add except to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

MR. JONES: Thank you, sir, I appreciate that.

Any members of the Commission? (no response)

Seeing none, I don't see any hands raised or anything like that, so I am going to wish everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

I look forward to seeing you all again on the 8th of December.

All of the witnesses, we appreciate your testimony; and again, it is going to be duly noted and seriously considered as we move forward with this awesome responsibility as a Commission.

Mr. Secretary, do we have a motion to adjourn?

MR. MARCHICA: May I briefly just ask if the recording will also be posted on the website with the transcript, or is that going to be located in a different location?

MR. JONES: I'm sorry, Mr. Marchica.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, transcripts and the recording will be posted on the website.

MR. MARCHICA: Great, thank you.

Sorry to interrupt.

MR. JONES: Not a problem, you have a happy Thanksgiving.

Do we have a motion to adjourn?

SENATOR SWEENEY: Motion.

MR. LAVERY: Seconded.

MR. JONES: Moved by Commissioner Sweeney, seconded by--

MR. LAVERY: Lavery.

MR. JONES: Commissioner Laverly.

All those in favor.

ALL: Aye.

MR. JONES: Opposed. (no response)

The ayes have it. We're adjourned.

(MEETING CONCLUDED)