

1 one.

2 And then as far as the newsletter goes, we did
3 create the first draft of the newsletter, and it's been
4 reviewed by Deputy Director Lori; and then our Executive
5 Director, Director Schmitt, will be reviewing it and then it
6 will be placed on -- on the website. In addition to that,
7 it will be sent out to those that have signed up to receive
8 the website, and there's at least over 300 -- close to 400
9 names on those that have signed up to receive the
10 newsletter. And we will be sending that out with e-mail
11 and/or SendGrid, which is an internal State mailing, and
12 that also it will be placed on our social media sites.

13 And so, with that, those three areas -- addressing
14 those three areas -- and then in addition to that, I just
15 want to share with you that the newsletter is going to be a
16 weekly publication. We hope to have information about
17 upcoming meetings within the newsletter, so it goes out the
18 week -- the week before the schedule -- the scheduled
19 meeting; and then, again, it's just kind of quick snippets
20 within the newsletter.

21 So, with that, I'd like to turn it over to Alex.
22 Alex will talk about the social media piece of it that he's
23 working on, in addition to that his outreach; and Marie will
24 also talk about her outreach activities as well.

25 Alex.

1 MR. PENA: Good morning, Madam Chair, Vice Chair,
2 and Commissioners. I just want to make sure everybody can
3 hear me?

4 Yes? All right, awesome.

5 So I'm going to touch on a couple things that
6 Michele had mentioned. Currently, we are working on the
7 redesign of the website; and once we get that up to speed,
8 I'm going to be able to have the ability to go in and -- be
9 able to go in and make minor edits so that way we won't have
10 to rely on IT all the time for changes, so I can take over
11 that once we get up to speed on that process.

12 I'm currently in the process of creating a series
13 of marketing -- marketing collateral that will consist of
14 content toolkits. These toolkits will be informative social
15 media toolkits and interactive one-sheets with prewritten
16 content and graphics created for our partners,
17 organizations, and individuals to utilize and share with
18 their networks and communities of interest.

19 In addition to social media outreach, I'm updating
20 our platforms to be consistent all with each other; and then
21 in addition, utilizing our social media platforms which are
22 Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube and leveraging
23 them to promote upcoming Commission meetings and directing
24 them to where they can submit public comment.

25 In addition to that, I'm working on creating a

1 series of cool spotlight videos that work with our local
2 representatives in our cities, towns, and counties capturing
3 two- to five-minute video clips of local mayors, city
4 council members, and town representatives highlighting the
5 importance of having communities of interest come out and be
6 present at upcoming Commission meetings.

7 And then in addition to that, I am tracking all of
8 our metrics. So once we start pushing this stuff out on
9 social media, I will be able to capture the amount of
10 impressions, views, and shares that will be pushed out.

11 Yeah, and then I'm going to hand it over to Marie
12 who will go a little bit more into the outreach and the
13 groups that we are working with.

14 MS. CAMACHO: Thank you, Alex.

15 Can you hear me? Good. I have a new set here,
16 headset, so I want to make sure.

17 So I have a working list of governments,
18 governmental associations, and minority representing groups
19 that I have started. And this week I started reaching out
20 to them.

21 So I started with the city and towns, and I will
22 work my way through that list, and I hope to have it
23 completed by this week -- at least the majority of folks on
24 those lists. So that's, like, my initial outreach to folks.

25 I've already got some feedback from cities and

1 towns. They have -- they were very grateful for the
2 outreach. They know how important the work you guys are
3 doing; and, in fact, we even have one request from Kingman
4 to attend their city council meeting in November, so I'll be
5 working with the Commissioners as to which one of you would
6 like to take part in that. You can do it remotely or in
7 person if you prefer.

8 So that's kind of in summation what I've got going
9 right now.

10 DIRECTOR SCHMITT: Great. Thank you, all.

11 Were there any questions from Commissioners so far?

12 COMMISSIONER LERNER: I just want to say thank you.
13 This sounds like you're doing a great job pulling together
14 this community outreach; it will really be helpful for our
15 community that's been involved to be hearing from it.
16 Sounds like a great plan and you all divided up things
17 really nicely, so I just want to say I appreciate that.

18 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And I'm excited about the
19 synergy because as we're up and running with these broader
20 outreach tentacles when we have additional public hearings
21 and opportunities to convene our outreach, you know, is just
22 going to go so much further, and it's all synergistic. So
23 it's -- it's exciting.

24 So, thank you.

25 DIRECTOR SCHMITT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 Next up, just a quick update, with Marie and Alex
2 coming on board, they have completed or are working through
3 their new employee training. We're also going to all go
4 through ADOA public records training, in addition to having
5 them review the presentations that were already presented by
6 our legal counsel, so we'll have that -- I think that is
7 next week.

8 And then next up I'm going to turn it over to Lori
9 to talk about public records requests.

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you, Chairman Neuberg and the
11 rest of the Commissioners.

12 I wanted to basically just make sure the public
13 knows, on our website at IRC.AZ.gov you can submit a public
14 records request under the "contact us" tab. There's a form
15 right there that you can submit as well.

16 And I believe just generally, Director Schmitt
17 talked about before, we have had a solution to the
18 integration process, and so if you'd like more detail about
19 how we're going to respond to public records request, as the
20 Chairwoman said before, we would go into executive session
21 right now.

22 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.

23 With that, we will come back and give a thorough
24 update to the public. If there's no other specific
25 questions, I'm going to suggest that we make a motion to

1 move into executive session which will not be open to the
2 public, for the purpose of obtaining legal advice to further
3 implement the ability of the Commission to honor our
4 responsibility to provide public records and to advance all
5 legal issues associated with this pursuant to A.R.S.
6 38-431.03(A)(3).

7 If there's no other discussion, I will entertain a
8 motion to go into executive session.

9 COMMISSIONER YORK: This is Commissioner York.

10 I motion we go into executive session.

11 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Vice Chair seconds.

12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Any other conversation?

13 We'll do a quick vote.

14 Vice Chair Watchman.

15 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Mehl.

17 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Lerner.

19 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner York.

21 COMMISSIONER YORK: Aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Neuberg is an
23 aye.

24 With that, we'll move into executive session.

25 With us will be our legal counsel, our entire

1 staff, as well as our transcriptionist. Please "X" out of
2 this link.

3 And to the public, we don't expect this to be very
4 lengthy. We'll see you soon. Bye-bye.

5 (Whereupon the proceeding is in executive session
6 from 8:32 a.m. until 9:09 a.m.)

7
8 * * * * *

9
10 (Whereupon a brief recess was taken from 9:09 a.m.
11 until 9:15 a.m.)

12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Come back to Commissioners
13 and the public and staff, we'll wait until we have all
14 Commissioners live and our staff ready to go; but it will
15 resume very shortly.

16 Okay. I see Commissioner York.

17 COMMISSIONER YORK: Sorry, I was trying to figure
18 out how to get my camera to work again.

19 I got it.

20 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: No problem.

21 We're waiting for Commissioner Mehl and then we
22 will reconvene in public session.

23 (Brief pause.)

24 Give it another minute or two and then maybe we'll
25 check in with Commissioner Mehl and make sure that his

1 technological ability to connect is working okay.

2 (Brief pause.)

3 Director Schmitt, do you want to check in with
4 Commissioner Mehl and see if he's having any difficulty
5 connecting with us? Oh. Here he -- here he is. Wonderful.

6 We were just speaking about you.

7 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Sorry, I was having computer
8 trouble.

9 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: That's what we figured.

10 COMMISSIONER MEHL: It locked me out and wouldn't
11 let me in.

12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: It's frustrating. But, well,
13 welcome back and welcome to everybody.

14 Thank you for everybody's patience while we were in
15 executive session.

16 Public records is -- is such a meaningful,
17 important topic and legally something that actually has
18 great complexity as we, you know, just experienced.

19 Just as an update to the public what was discussed,
20 we reviewed the process through which there will be a data
21 migration of all of the information or correspondence from
22 Google into the e-discovery system at Ballard Spahr; there
23 will be a thorough review of all of that correspondence of
24 what's privileged, what's a matter of public record, such
25 that when the requests come in, we can more efficiently

1 provide that data.

2 In addition to that, it was a helpful opportunity
3 for the Commissioners to review legislative privilege, our
4 responsibility to document the, you know, organizations,
5 their interest in contacting us to provide information, as
6 well as how we handle our efforts to learn from, you know,
7 mentors and -- and opportunities in the public. And,
8 really, the most important aspect of this, how is it that we
9 as Commissioners can organize our correspondence and our
10 work such that we can honor the public records requests as
11 efficiently and effectively as we can.

12 And -- and that was the conversation. And -- and
13 thank you to the legal counsel.

14 With that, we will move to Agenda Item No. VII,
15 update, discussion, and potential action regarding retention
16 of Voting Rights Act consultants.

17 With that, I turn it over to our counsel.

18 MR. HERRERA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

19 As we discussed in last week's meeting and I think
20 prior to that, legal counsel has retained consulting experts
21 related to the Voting Rights Act in order to assist us as we
22 advise the Commission on the requirements of the Voting
23 Rights Act and the compliance of the maps that the
24 Commission draws in relation to compliance with the Voting
25 Rights Act.

1 So, at this point, both Ballard & Spahr and Snell &
2 Wilmer have retained respective consulting experts. We're
3 at a point now I think now that they've been retained where
4 we can actually discuss them in public. So I'll just start
5 and I'll turn it over to Brett on -- on Snell & Wilmer's
6 consulting expert.

7 So Ballard Spahr has retained -- and this is going
8 to be a bit of a mouthful, so let me -- let me try it and
9 then I will spell it, and he luckily allows me to call him
10 Professor Stephen, because it's much easier.

11 But Ballard Spahr has retained Professor Stephen
12 Ansolabehere, who is a professor at Harvard University.
13 He's a nationally recognized expert in Voting Rights Act and
14 redistricting; he's an expert that has provided expert
15 testimony and expert reports in over a dozen lawsuits, has
16 experience in Arizona in Voting Rights Act. And he will be
17 working alongside with a graduate assistant to -- to help
18 us, you know, again provide that consulting advice.

19 I don't know, Brett, if you want to just sort of
20 provide a brief introduction of -- of the expert that Snell
21 & Wilmer has retained.

22 MR. B. JOHNSON: Yes. Thank you, Roy.

23 So Snell & Wilmer has retrained Professor Sean
24 Trende from The Ohio State University -- I got to get the
25 "The" in there.

1 And Sean Trende is also a recognized expert on the
2 Voting Rights Act; has testified in multiple cases
3 throughout the -- throughout the country, including several
4 here in the state of Arizona where he has acted as an expert
5 witness for the state of Arizona under both previous
6 Secretary of State Reagan and current Secretary of State
7 Hobbs, as well as Democratic County Recorder F. Ann
8 Rodriguez down in Pima. So he's very well versed in Arizona
9 and all the different factors that would go into a VRA
10 analysis.

11 The good thing is that both Shawn and Stephen --
12 I'll call him Stephen too -- know each other, and just like
13 the Ballard and Snell team, believe we'll all be able to
14 work collectively as part of the legal -- the legal team to
15 make sure you're getting the best advice possible.

16 MR. HERRERA: Yeah, and I'll just add of course we
17 will share CVs of the respective experts to the Commission
18 so you can review.

19 And, actually, for purposes of the
20 transcriptionist, Angela, I will spell Professor Stephen's
21 last name. It is A-N-S-O-L-A-B-E-H-E-R-E.

22 So that's our update, Madam Chair. And, obviously,
23 if the Commissioners have any questions, we'll happy to
24 answer them.

25 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I want to thank you for doing

1 your due diligence, finding experts that work well together
2 such that we are able to honor our responsibility to honor
3 the VRA.

4 I mean, you know, we will do our due diligence and
5 thank you for, you know, making it a little easier for us to
6 do so.

7 If there are no further questions, we'll move
8 forward to Agenda Item No. VIII, which is discussion of
9 future agenda item requests.

10 I know there was one issue that was brought up
11 earlier in the meeting having to do with a report from
12 mapping on compactness and contiguity. Any other future
13 agenda item requests that have not otherwise been on our
14 radar?

15 COMMISSIONER LERNER: So, Chair Neuberg, I had a
16 thought. We are looking at bringing in some outside
17 speakers, academic speakers I think, on, like, the five Cs
18 and the Copper Corridor and some other issues. One of the
19 things that we heard was that we didn't -- that -- that we
20 haven't had enough outreach with the Latino community, and
21 so I was wondering if we could bring in a speaker that could
22 maybe speak to little bit of the history of the minority
23 communities in Arizona; give us some background.

24 We had that good presentation that Roy had given us
25 on some of the legal things that Native Americans have gone

1 through, might be helpful if we had -- rather than having
2 lots of different organizations be coming in, potentially
3 having more of an academic overview like we're talking about
4 with some of these others on some of the history.

5 And, you know, in terms of where people are
6 located, population dynamics, demography, things like that
7 might be interesting to hear.

8 So it's a thought for the next agenda item to place
9 that on there for discussion of.

10 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: It -- it sounds like what I'm
11 hearing from you, Commissioner Lerner, is a desire to
12 understand from a demographer's perspective the history of
13 all of our population. You know, minority, yes, but -- but
14 to have an equal playing field, to understand who our
15 population is, where they are, you know, so we can
16 collectively understand who -- who we're redistricting for.

17 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Yeah. I mean, I think and it
18 goes with -- that's a great summary, actually, much better
19 than I presented.

20 But that -- that goes with a little bit of us
21 trying to understand some of the other aspects: The
22 economy, it goes with the communities of interest. So, to
23 me, you know, when we talked about locations of meetings and
24 we were talking about not being in certain areas, there's
25 reasons people are settled in those areas.

1 So, yeah, that would -- that would be very helpful,
2 I think for us to understand -- better understand
3 communities of interest that are out there as well and our
4 populations.

5 So I thought we could add that potentially for
6 agenda item to find a speaker on that or something.

7 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Yeah, no, I -- I think that
8 that's an important topic and -- and, you know, a question:
9 Do we need an additional speaker?

10 Does -- I mean, maybe this is deferring to mapping,
11 and I'm not going to put you on the spot, but you have a
12 demographer, you know, is it an issue of seeking out
13 additional expert, you know, testimony, is it an issue of
14 having our current staff further flesh out that data for us
15 to consider?

16 I think that's -- that's an important question.

17 And maybe we don't have to answer it right now, but
18 we can give our staff a few days before, you know, the --
19 the next agenda comes out to think through how it is that we
20 tap into, really, the question that you're asking.

21 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Right, exactly. Thank you.

22 And that's what I was thinking it might have to be
23 on -- I didn't know it could -- it might have to be on an
24 agenda or not, I wasn't sure.

25 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Right. 'Cause from my

1 perspective as I'm just thinking this through as you're
2 bringing this up, there's two components to this: One is an
3 objective analysis of who our population is, all minorities,
4 everybody included; the other is having opportunities for
5 those groups to speak to us.

6 And I -- I see them as separately. You know, one
7 in terms of being able to speak to us, you know, we've
8 discussed with staff we want to ensure an equitable system
9 through which -- and we will have many additional public
10 hearings. Aside from that, us understanding the scheme of
11 the context to digest that information.

12 And I -- I like this -- this idea, and maybe, you
13 know, again prior to us, you know, firming up an agenda, we
14 could ask our staff to think through who the best speaker
15 might be for us to understand the constituency of Arizona.

16 DIRECTOR SCHMITT: Absolutely. We will look into
17 it, Madam Chair and Commissioner Lerner.

18 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you.

19 And I think, Chair Neuberg, you're right, it's the
20 former of what you said not -- the latter in terms of
21 speakers I understand we have to do during our public
22 hearings --

23 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay.

24 COMMISSIONER LERNER: -- but you -- you are correct
25 in terms of what I'm -- I'm hoping to hear from.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Excellent.

3 Thank you.

4 Anything else in terms of agenda, you know, future
5 items?

6 Okay. With that, we'll move to Agenda Item No. IX,
7 announcements.

8 For the public's awareness, the Commission and our
9 staff will be joining Esri for a software training,
10 four-hour opportunity at 11:30. There will be no business
11 addressed during that meeting, nothing advanced; and so it's
12 an e-session only because that was our opportunity to take
13 advantage of -- of Esri's availability, and it was just, you
14 know, expedient for the Commissioners' schedule.

15 And as mapping has already discussed, there will be
16 abundant opportunities for the public to also be trained in
17 the software technology.

18 And, with that, we'll move to Agenda Item No. X,
19 next meeting date.

20 We will reconvene next Tuesday, August 31st, at
21 8:00 a.m.

22 With that, we'll move to Agenda Item No. XI,
23 closing of public comments.

24 Please note members of the Commission may not
25 discuss items that are not specifically identified on the

1 agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.01(H),
2 action taken as a result of public comment will be limited
3 to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any
4 criticism, or scheduling the matter for further
5 consideration and decision at a later date.

6 With that, we'll move to Agenda Item No. XII,
7 adjournment.

8 I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

9 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Vice Chair Watchman motions
10 to adjourn.

11 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Commissioner Lerner seconds.

12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay.

13 Vice Chair Watchman.

14 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Mehl.

16 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Lerner.

18 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner York.

20 COMMISSIONER YORK: Aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Neuberg is an
22 aye.

23 With that, we will adjourn this public meeting. I
24 thank everybody for your partic- -- participation, I thank
25 the public for joining, and I will see my fellow staff and

1 team members at 11:30 and the public next Tuesday at
2 8:00 a.m.

3 Thank you, everybody. Bye-bye.

4 (Whereupon the proceeding concludes at 9:35 a.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me, Angela Furniss Miller, Certified Reporter No. 50127, all done to the best of my skill and ability; that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced to print under my direction.

I CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of the parties hereto nor am I in any way interested in the outcome thereof.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-206. Dated at Litchfield Park, Arizona, this 8th of September, 2021.



Angela Furniss Miller, RPR, CR
CERTIFIED REPORTER (AZ50127)

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