

## District 3 and 7 Redistricting COI Testimonies

Michelle Nelmidia <[REDACTED]>

Mon 9/13/2021 10:09 AM

To: redistricting <redistricting@sanjoseca.gov>

 4 attachments (196 KB)

9\_11 District 3 - Robert Ragsac Testimony.pdf; 09\_11 District 3 - LEAD Filipino Testimony.pdf; 9\_11 District 3 - Dennis Lozano Testimony.pdf; 09\_11 - District 7 Testimony (1).pdf;

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Hello Redistricting commission of the City of San Jose,

My name is Michelle Nelmidia from LEAD Filipino, a local non-profit organization based in San Jose/South Bay Area. I have attached testimonies to represent our organization, as well as individual testimonies from concerned people from our community.

Please keep our COIs in mind when redrawing the district lines of District 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8. Thank you.

Best,  
Michelle Nelmidia

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**Michelle Nelmidia** (she/her)

Co-Director of Community Health Initiatives

L.E.A.D Filipino

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**L.E.A.D Filipino**  
**San José based non-profit organization**  
**September 11, 2021**

Good afternoon members of the Redistricting Commission. My name is Michelle Nelmda and I am representing L.E.A.D Filipino, a local nonprofit organization based in San José. We are focused on advancing civic participation and civil rights within the Filipino/a/x American and broader communities. In the 6 years that we have been active, we spearheaded a coalition of 250 organizations and have helped thousands of FilAms in leadership, education, advocacy, and dialogue. In 2018, L.E.A.D Filipino has led Census education and outreach efforts with the FilAm community in the City of San Jose's Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) and we are continuing to advocate for our community's representation and visibility in this year's Redistricting.

Our community lives within San Jose City Council Districts 3, 4, 5, and 8 connected together by small businesses, parks, community organizations, churches, and schools.

We ask that you keep our community together when lines are redrawn. 50 years ago, Japantown used to have a large Filipino-American population. It was large enough to establish a Pinoytown in the area with FilAm owned businesses such as grocery stores and community spaces like the Filipino Community Center that is still on North 6th Street. This community center is the only Filipino American community space left from that time, however, our community has started Pinoytown tours to revive and sustain the historical knowledge of the area. Over time, a lack of resources and increased housing prices pushed our community into different areas of San José. There are Filipino American youth, ranging from middle school to high school students, who gather as the Filipino Youth Coalition at Northside Community Center on North 6th Street. It is also a center for FilAm seniors and veterans. The Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph Church on South Market Street is an important church for the Catholic members of our community. We also have a demographic of FilAm students attending San José State University from various parts of San José such as Berryessa, Milpitas and East Side San José. There are also a large number of our community members living along 4th Street.

In addition, FilAm members of D3 utilize the FilAm business corridors located in Berryessa & Milpitas (connected by Landess) or at the Great Mall that members of our community from different districts would often travel to eat, shop, and socialize. In addition, Sam's BBQ Diner on San Felipe Rd. and Pinoy Lechon BBQ Grill on Tully Rd. are restaurants in which our community frequent.

The communities in which Filipino Americans live in have shared needs and interests around transportation, public health & safety, housing, jobs, and education. Our community has shared policy concerns with other AAPI communities around these needs and interests and it would be best-served if the areas in which they live in are kept together within the districts.

Thank you.

**Alan Gouig**  
**Resident of San José**

Written Testimony to the San José Redistricting Commission

Good morning. My name is Alan Gouig and I have been living in Downtown San José for over 5 years now. I moved to San José after my second year of undergraduate studies to be closer to San José State University. I have been a part of San José based organizations such as Akbayan SJSU, Malaya South Bay and L.E.A.D Filipino.

During my time living here in San José, I've enjoyed visiting Filipino American owned restaurants such as Tapsilog Bistro in Campell, the FIAM business corridors alongside Landess Avenue, the Great Mall, and Eastridge with other FilAm peers.

Overall, our community members have been living in areas of San Jose such as Downtown San Jose, Berryessa, North San Jose (Milpitas), and East Side San Jose (South White Rd., Tully Rd., Quimby Rd., Evergreen).

As a Downtown San José resident and Filipino-American community advocate, I ask that the commission keeps our community together when the lines are redrawn.

Thank you.

**Karen Manalac**  
**Resident of San José**

Written Testimony to the San José Redistricting Commission

Good morning. My name is Karen Manalac and I have been living in Downtown San José for over 3 years. I moved to San José after my second year of undergraduate studies to be closer to San José State University. Many Filipinx/o/a American college students like myself lived in the Gateway Apartments on 4th Street near the exit towards the 280, on 10th Street, or formed on campus. I have also been a part of San José based organizations such as Akbayan SJSU and L.E.A.D Filipino for over 5 years now.

During my time living here in San José, I've enjoyed visiting Filipino American owned restaurants such as Tapsilog Bistro in Campell, the FilAm business corridors alongside Landess Avenue, the Great Mall, and Eastridge with other FilAm peers.

Overall, our community members have been living in areas of San Jose such as Downtown San Jose, Berryessa, North San Jose (Milpitas), and East Side San Jose (South White Rd., Tully Rd., Quimby Rd., Evergreen).

As a Downtown San José resident and Filipino-American community advocate, I ask that the commission keeps our community together when the lines are redrawn.

Thank you.

**Dennis Lozano**  
**Resident of San José**  
**September 11, 2021**

Hello, my name is Dennis Lozano and I am currently a resident of Downtown San Jose (District 3). My family immigrated to reside in Redwood City from the Philippines. I work in the tech industry.

Growing up, my family and I went to Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Currently, my son goes there to attend CCD (religious education). The following areas are places that my family and I often visit: Eastridge Mall, Almaden Filipino American community group.

As a current resident of Downtown San Jose, I ask that this Commission does not divide our community.

Thank you.

**Robert Ragsac**  
**Resident of San José**  
**September 11, 2021**

Hello, my name is Robert Ragsac. I grew up in Japantown, San Jose, in the area of what used to be known as "Pinoytown", in the 1930s. The Filipino community was located in the blocks between Heinlerville Chinatown and the expanding Japantown before its residents were removed during WWII. I am a board member of the Filipino American National Museum (FANHS) in Stockton, California's "Little Manila Town", devoting my time to local history research and involvement with the local Filipino American community. I organized the first known formal walking tour of Pinoytown for local college students, as well as presentations on the FilAm history in San Jose to community members.

There is a FilAm community gathering spot that still remains in Japantown called the "Filipino Community Center" on N 6th Street. As a San Jose resident for over 80 years who has knowledge about the Filipino American community and their history, I ask that this Commission keep our community together when lines are redrawn.

Thank you.

**L.E.A.D Filipino**  
**San José based non-profit organization**  
**September 11, 2021**

Good afternoon members of the Redistricting Commission. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am from LEAD Filipino, a local nonprofit organization based in San José. We are focused on advancing civic participation and civil rights within the Filipino/a/x American and broader communities. In the 6 years that we have been active, we spearheaded a coalition of 250 organizations and have helped thousands of FilAms in leadership, education, advocacy, and dialogue. In 2018, LEAD Filipino has led Census education and outreach efforts with the FilAm community in the City of San Jose's Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) and we are continuing to advocate for our community's representation and visibility in this year's Redistricting.

Our community members have been living in areas of San Jose such as Downtown San Jose, Berryessa, North San Jose (Milpitas), and East Side San Jose (South White Rd., Tully Rd., Quimby Rd., Evergreen).

We ask that you keep our community together when lines are redrawn. The Iglesia ni Cristo Church is an important church for the Christian members of our community. We also have a demographic of FilAm students attending schools within the East Side Union High School District such as Independence, Silver Creek, and Evergreen Valley. There are also a large number of our community members living along with the housing near Independence High School especially on Checkers Drive.

In addition, we have a huge area of business corridors located in Berryessa & Milpitas (connected by Landess) or at the Great Mall that members of our community from different districts would often travel to eat, shop, and socialize. In addition, Sam's BBQ Diner on San Felipe Rd. and Pinoy Lechon BBQ Grill on Tully Rd. are restaurants in which our community frequent.

The communities in which Filipino Americans live have shared needs and interests around transportation, public health & safety, housing, jobs, and education. Our community has shared policy concerns with other AAPI communities around these needs and interests and it would be best served if the areas in which they live are kept together within the districts.

Thank you.



## Testimony: COI Penitencia Neighborhood Assoc., District 4

Gloria Lee Collins <[REDACTED]>

Thu 9/16/2021 10:26 AM

To: redistricting <redistricting@sanjoseca.gov>

 2 attachments (108 KB)

COI Dist. 4 Collins.docx; PNA Boundaries II.jpg;

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[External Email]

Please see attached documents.

Gloria Collins

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**District 4, Penitencia Neighborhood Association, San Jose**  
**Gloria Collins**

9/16/21

**Community of Interest:**

The PNA, founded in 1992, now consists of 560 members within boundaries that include portions of

N. Capital Ave., Penitencia Creek Road, N. White Road, and Mabury Road. (see attachment map).

--We have a list serve of our members and have organized with the City including:

--getting speed bumps installed on Salt Lake Drive.

--getting 24 "Security Cameras in Operation" signs posted.

--installing seven "Welcome to the PNA" signs for the neighborhood.

--holding National Night Out potlucks with over 50 people in attendance, including police officers, our councilmember, Board of Supervisor representatives, and other civic leaders.

--organizing 3 dumpster days every summer.

--doing road and creek clean ups with neighborhood volunteers.

--holding meetings for our members and civic leaders.

--working with landlords who may be neglecting their property's management.

--We alert each other about crime problems and crimes in progress via email.

--We promote local cultural festivals, lectures, and educational opportunities in our community and beyond.

--We have four mini-libraries in our neighborhood, installed by local Eagle Scouts.

--Our diverse community is made up of residents mostly of Chinese ancestry; in addition, we have residents of Vietnamese, Filipino, Latino, and European backgrounds.

Important landmarks for us:

--Penitencia Creek Park

--Alum Rock Park

--Berryessa Branch Public Library

--Berryessa Community Center

--Silicon Valley Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

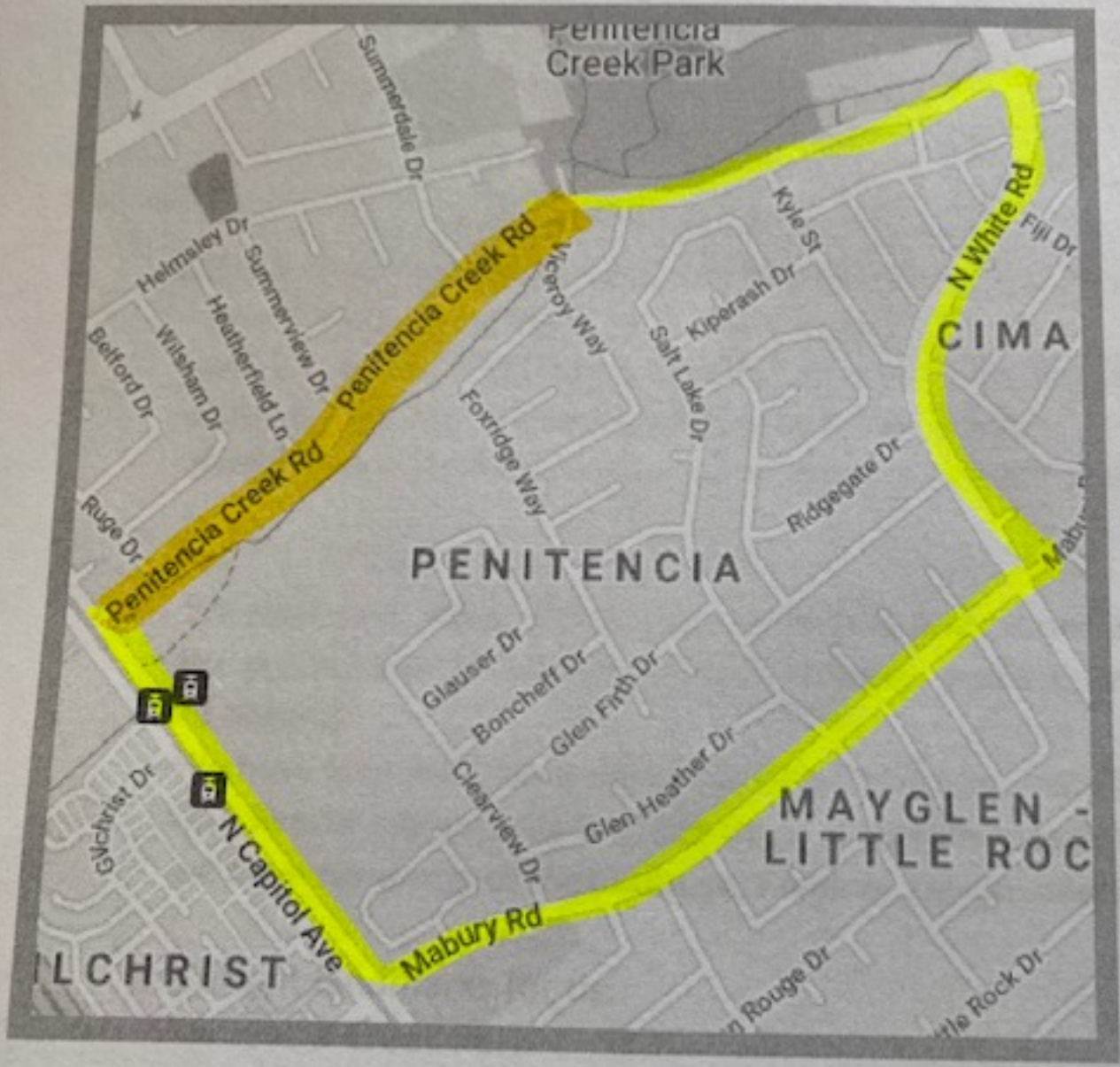
It is important to us that our community not be split by new district boundaries.

Thank you.

Gloria Collins



San Jose, CA



Penitencia  
Creek Park

Summerdale Dr

Helmsley Dr  
Summerview Dr  
Heatherfield Ln

Penitencia Creek Rd

Kyle St

N White Rd

CIMA

PENITENCIA

MAYGLEN -  
LITTLE ROCK

ILCHRIST