

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

April 2, 2002

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

MS. CHAIRMAN: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Can we please come to order? The special meeting of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners for April 2nd, 2002, will now come to order.

Will the Commissioners say aye as they are present? Commissioner Stone?

COMMISSIONER STONE: Aye.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Woods Gray?

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Aye.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Membreno?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Aye.

MS. CHAIRMAN: And Commissioner Pat Herrera Duran.

I'd like to welcome all of you tonight. We are here to discuss two items on the Agenda. One of them will be the application by Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council, and another one will be a discussion of a previous application which is the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council.

(Discussion held off the record.)

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: One of the items tonight is the boundary overlap with Glassell Park Neighborhood Council, so we wanted to not do public comment three times or two times on the same item tonight. So we're asking from the applicant if it would be okay for us to have public comment from everyone since the issue on the overlap boundaries will affect the outcome of Eagle Rock in terms of their application. So we wanted to know if that was okay with you guys so that we can proceed with that item to move it in terms of the public comment. So Romero will do the presentation first?

MS. CHAIRMAN: No. Let's see how the other Commissioners feel about it. Commissioner Stone?

COMMISSIONER STONE: I think it makes sense for us to hear everything before we make any determinations on any type of certification. So however we want to structure the presentation that makes sense is fine with me.

MS. CHAIRMAN: All right.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I support (inaudible).

MS. CHAIRMAN: You support which, moving the agenda around or hearing --

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I support hearing all of the relevant information first and then hearing the next application.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Then, Romero --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Let me just ask for clarity.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Sure.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: City Attorney Poindexter, are you just taking public comment on item three, Glassell Park, and then reserving any sort of decision after the fact?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Is this the --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Or are you going to take both at the same time?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Which is the desire of the Commission?

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I think we should just do the Glassell Park and then move to the -- have the regular public comment.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to hear the -- do you want to reverse the items, Glassell Park first and then the Eagle Rock application?

COMMISSIONER STONE: And that would include having the staff report on Glassell Park?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER STONE: As I said, I would be comfortable hearing all the information first and then -- on our Agenda item three we have possible determination.

MS. CHAIRMAN: All right.

COMMISSIONER STONE: I would want to put off that determination until we hear public comment on the other item. Is that okay, Gwen?

CITY ATTORNEY: Yes, you can do that.

MS. CHAIRMAN: We will reverse, then, the order of the Agenda. We will hear the information on Glassell Park first, if that's all right with you, Romero.

MS. MALVO: Okay.

MS. CHAIRMAN: And then we will hear Eagle Rock. Oh, yes, thank you. If anyone wants to comment, please fill out a card first. Tanita, she will have them for you.

Tanita's in the back there and she will bring them up here. And be sure you put what item it is that you want to comment on.

Mrs. Membreno will -- Commissioner Membreno will make an announcement about translation.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: (Speaking in Spanish.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. So we will begin with Glassell Park.

MS. MALVO: Romero Malvo, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. The Glassell Park report comes as a result of the Commissioner's review of the Glassell Park application. At the time the report was heard by the Commission, there were two areas that were in dispute. One was the area known as York Valley and the other one known as Nob Hill.

At that time there was considerable report and from the community essentially making presentations of feeling that they had allegiance to other neighborhood councils. The Department was asked to go back to look at the information that was submitted and to come back with an analysis of the information.

Initially it was to simply review the information that had been submitted in the application. Subsequent to that, particularly in the case of Eagle Rock, there was -- we were -- it was reported to the Department that there was a lot of stakeholder interest in being a part of Eagle Rock. And so the Department allowed the

neighborhood councils to go out and do additional outreach until March 5th, and then submit the information that had been collected up to that point. And then the Department essentially plotted the information and that's what we have presented to you.

And in many ways the information is not 100 percent conclusive.

MS. CHAIRMAN: It's not 100 percent --

MS. MALVO: It's not 100 percent conclusive. We do find that in the Nob Hill area there's very strong feeling in that area. What we -- and we looked at it from a number of different standpoints. In basically the report for Eckle -- I'm sorry, the report for Eagle Rock, we have tried to summarize the information for you. Our summary, our recommendation is that we do acknowledge that there exists a lot of stakeholder support for the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council. But we recommended that the Glassell Park also had substantial support in the area. I'm sorry. I'm going to have to have Elizabeth to come up and just summarize this for you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: That's fine. Thank you. Romero, we switched on you, so don't worry.

MS. MALVO: Okay. It just --

MS. MACIAS: Okay. I'm not sure where you left off, Romero. So Elizabeth Macias. Okay. Well, a summary of the findings for the Glassell Park follow-up report. As you all recall, January 8th you just carved out two areas that were basically in dispute by three neighborhood councils. And it was basically undetermined what specific outreach had been done in those two areas.

So per your request, the Department was instructed to do a report on what specific outreach had been done in those two areas, the Nob Hill pertaining with the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council, and the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council, and the York Valley slash now Sparklets Hill area which involves the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council, and the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council, and the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council.

The other component of that report was to outline what attempts were made to resolve those boundary conflicts. So that is basically the charge of the report.

What we found was that in the Nob Hill area, Glassell Park had -- in terms of outreach, they had gone and canvassed the area. Almost every single street in that area. And they had distributed literature, had basically tried to educate the community about what the neighborhood council system was.

In addition to that, they set up at nearby supermarkets a post in which they additionally informed the community about the neighborhood council that was forming in the area. That was basically in January what they had done. And they submitted approximately, I believe -- let me just double-check the numbers here, but I believe there was about -- probably like 55 signatures in that area.

And they in addition had stakeholders that belonged to the Formation Committee, the leadership in their neighborhood council. So that was really another piece in terms of why this area was so important to the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council.

And since January, the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council has indicated that they have not gone out to do additional outreach primarily because they've lost the leadership -- half of the leadership as part of the outreach committee, formation committee that lives in that disputed area.

I'll let them I'm sure speak for themselves as to other reasons why they haven't gone out to the community, but in a gist, that's what they've done in terms of outreach.

With regards to the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council, they submitted their application early January. With their application there was about 75 signatures that they had collected and as part of a referendum or a poll in which the stakeholders were asked to choose between Glassell Park and Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council.

Since then, since mid-February, we had a group of stakeholders that have called -- are calling themselves the Five Points Coalition that came to the Dunn office and submitted over 500 signatures in support for that area in favor of Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council.

In terms of the Arroyo Seco in terms of outreach, basically they've done traditional outreach in terms of holding the general meetings, going door to door, providing literature as well to the stakeholders regarding their forming neighborhood council.

That's outreach.

In terms of efforts to solve that Nob Hill area, the two groups came together to try to -- for a boundary dialog in September to try to basically find a common ground as to how they could resolve the boundary overlap. What Arroyo Seco Neighborhood

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Council proposed was that a polling or an election take place in which stakeholders would self-determine which neighborhood council they wanted to belong to. Glassell Park basically did not accept that proposal because they felt that they had sufficient empirical data to support their boundaries. And therefore, that was in September.

Since then, the groups did not formally meet, although in December both leaders of the respective neighborhood councils indicated to myself, to Dunn staff, that a possible compromise could be reached by the specific area referred to Nob Hill being bounded by Jessica and Cleveland, that that might be a compromise in which that would be -- that area would be -- would pertain to Arroyo Seco, and the area north would go to Glassell Park. That was in December.

As I stated, since then, after the hearing, a lot of the community, the stakeholders in that area came to the office and indicated that they had a specific preference. They carried out the referendum, the poll. And I think there's about 637 homes in that area. And there's I think about 536 signatures or homes that have indicated preference for Arroyo Seco. That's basically where we're at with that group. I'll switch over to the other area, which is York Valley. We're calling it now also Sparklets Hill/York Valley because since the January hearing there's a group of stakeholders in that area that have heard about the neighborhood council process and have basically indicated that they prefer to be with Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council.

To step back, in terms of York Valley, there was two boundary dialogs that took place between those two groups. And the first one, it was the groups introduced their boundaries, the rationale. Nothing really came of it.

Second one, Glassell Park introduced a proposal to adjust their boundaries to reflect Historic Highland Park's original boundaries. And ultimately that was not accepted because Historic Highland Park indicated that the reason they adjusted their boundaries south of what they originally had indicate from Toland to El Paso was because stakeholders from the community indicated that they identified with Highland Park and wanted to be with Highland Park.

The York Valley Association, being that it was a stakeholder group that Glassell Park had to contend with since Historic Highland Park had said initially that, you know, they were open-minded in terms of allowing stakeholders decide if they wanted to go with Glassell Park, York Valley Association had formed the previous summer, so it was an organization that was less than a year old, and had indicated that they didn't have formal service areas, but that they identified with the area in dispute as part of their service area.

And so Glassell Park basically attempted to engage or cultivate a relationship with many of the members of York Valley Association. That never came about. There was attempts from the Department to hold a "meet your neighborhood council" forum, which would include Eagle Rock since they were a neighboring neighborhood council in the area. And basically, that didn't come to fruition, in part because it was late December and the holidays came about and so a lot of the groups decided to leave it for the new year.

Ultimately, there was no cultivation between the groups, and Highland Park and Glassell park did not meet again for formal dialog. And since January 'til now, there basically has not been interaction between those two -- well, the respective groups.

Switching to Eagle Rock, Eagle Rock came in after the hearing, January 8th hearing, and indicated that there was movement in the orphan area by some stakeholders and had indicated to the Department that should steps be taken to canvass or have general meetings or a series of attempts to resolve the area, could they be included. And the Department acknowledged that should any of those efforts be incorporated, that they would be.

In terms of Eagle Rock and Glassell Park, since Eagle Rock adjusted their boundaries mid-March, it was sort of a short turnaround time to have them dialog. And the only thing there is that the groups had initially had an agreement to respect the boundaries that each respective neighborhood council had outlined before submitting applications.

But as stated, since stakeholders in that area had surfaced and were indicating preference with Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council, therefore Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council adjusted their boundaries.

Let me stop there and see if there's questions or you wish to move forward with public testimony.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions from the Commissioners?

COMMISSIONER STONE: Pat?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Elizabeth, can you show us on the map the York -- I guess the York Valley/Sparklets Hill area?

MS. MACIAS: Sure. (Inaudible.) This is Eagle Rock. But basically, York Valley stems from Eagle Rock down to (inaudible) down to Toland Way, Toland Way intersection with Baltimore, up Baltimore, (inaudible) all the way west (inaudible). And this area here (inaudible). (Inaudible sentences.)

The only -- I'm sorry.

(Inaudible from the audience.)

MS. MACIAS: Yeah. The only other thing that I do want to I guess put on the table for your consideration is that -- and it's something that you see outlined in my report, that the challenge that a lot of the groups have had is not being clear as to what criteria is ultimately being used to solve the boundary conflict. And so I think that that's in part, even though solutions were put forth for resolution, why many of them either chose to proceed or not to proceed with those options that they had on the table.

And the -- I guess the last point is just to summarize the Department's recommendation in terms of these areas of dispute in which I think Romero had started saying that, although that there was stakeholder support in the area by Eagle Rock, the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council also identified community support. And based on that analysis, the recommendation is to include the Sparklets Hill area within the boundaries of Glassell Park Neighborhood Council. And the --

MS. CHAIRMAN: All right We won't have any demonstrations. No demonstrations.

MS. MACIAS: Yeah. The other point in terms of -- let me see. Well, I think there's various issues that come to play, and I think that they would be best summarized by each respective neighborhood council during public testimony.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Okay. I have a question for her. I wasn't clear. What did you say about York Valley agreed to some adjustment or they did not? I wasn't clear.

MS. MACIAS: In terms of the York Valley area, Historic Highland Park did not agree to the boundary adjustment proposed by Glassell Park. They had initially started off Toland -- basically from Toland Way to Charters to Baltimore. That was the original boundary. But they moved southward to incorporate basically down to El Paso, which is the current area that you have in front of you.

They did not agree to it because they indicated that the York Valley Association stakeholders and other stakeholders living in that area had indicated that they wanted preference to the Historic Highland Park. So Glassell Park made an offer. Historic Highland Park did not accept to adjust their boundaries.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Commissioner Membreno?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: In terms of the recommendation, you made the recommendation for the York --

MS. MACIAS: Sure.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: And the Nob Hill recommendation is?

MS. MACIAS: The Nob Hill recommendation is that it stays within the boundaries of the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: The entire area?

MS. MACIAS: The entire area. As indicated, that initially, at the time of the January 8th hearing and the outreach that had been conducted, it was basically relatively the same in terms of Glassell Park and Arroyo Seco, 75 signatures, and I think about that many also in favor of Glassell Park.

The signatures for Arroyo Seco, the concentration were in south of Jessica Drive. And if there's a boundary overlap map, I'll show you. But basically, there was a concentration of that in that area. And then north of Jessica Drive, there was a concentration of Glassell Park -- great. Thank you.

Okay. Basically, this area which is --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Can you bring the microphone with you?

MS. MACIAS: Sure.

MS. CHAIRMAN: No. Make sure that every one of the Commissioners can see it.

MS. MACIAS: Okay. Can you just put it in front of -- be Vanna White. Be Vanna White for me.

Okay. Basically, Jessica Drive, if you follow that to make like a half circle, that area, there was concentration from Arroyo Seco in that area of signatures. And in addition, a lot of the people that came in January that spoke in favor of Arroyo Seco lived in that area.

North of that area was -- there was more concentration along Palmero, Alegra Place, Latin Way. There was signatures of Glassell Park. Yeah, that basically. You're following it correctly. Thanks.

And so initially the Department, when we analyzed the outreach that had been done at that time, we were thinking that it compromised. And based on the conversation between the respective neighborhood councils, that that could be a solution in terms of cutting the area in half.

However, as indicated after the January hearing and, you know, when we announced to the community that we're going to incorporate the information gathered from the signatures and from the public hearing, the community responded by submitting a letter on February 14th to the Department indicating that they had incorporated themselves as the Five Points Coalition and canvassed the area and turned in about 500 plus signatures in favor of Arroyo Seco. As indicated, there's about 637 homes.

They submitted 536, I believe, homes in favor. And ultimately, based on that information of self-determination.

In addition, the groups belong to Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance and Mount Washington Association, identifying with the Mount Washington community. So we felt that they made their case that they saw themselves as a whole community and ultimately that area should stay within the boundaries of Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council.

Does that answer your question? I'm sorry.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Yeah. Thank you.

MS. MACIAS: Okay. And see, the other area in terms of -- and I'm not sure if we presented you, we presented (unintelligible). But in terms of the recommendation for the other area, the dispute with Eagle Rock and Historic Highland Park, west of Avenue 46 had this basically strong support from Eagle Rock stakeholders and Glassell Park stakeholders.

And east of Avenue 46 was basically 186 signatures were submitted on behalf of Historic Highland Park. About -- I would say about 170, 165 were all concentrated in that area. And therefore, the recommendation from the Department was that that area might make sense to stay within the boundaries of Historic Highland Park.

Also, in analyzing the speaker cards, a lot of the people that came and spoke lived around Mendota and Huff Street and along those streets. So that was another area to incorporate.

The Sparklets Hill area, basically there was 65 signatures that were submitted on behalf of Eagle Rock that we had in our hands. And for Glassell Park I believe there was about -- almost about that same number in terms of signatures within the boundaries. And strong concentration along El Paso and Toland Way areas.

MS. CHAIRMAN: That was -- concentration along there was for Glassell Park?

MS. MACIAS: Glassell Park Neighborhood Council. And as indicated, because of the timeframe in which Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council adjusted their boundaries, there was really no time for the two groups to really come together to try to really dialog about the area. But I believe that they might have some potential options for your consideration, and I'll let them speak to that.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Stone, any questions?

COMMISSIONER STONE: (Inaudible.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Woods Gray?

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Not at this time.

(Inaudible sentences.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: All right. We will listen to the public comment from those who have submitted cards. I'm hoping I've got these straight because remember we did switch.

We did switch the item numbers. So I'm going to be calling those who have a number three on their card because that would have been Glassell Park.

MS. MACIAS: On behalf of the respective neighborhood councils, I had been asked if the leaders of each respective neighborhood council can be heard first.

MS. CHAIRMAN: That would be -- well, let's hear -- what is the -- what is the Commissioners' desire? I have several here who want to speak on behalf of the Glassell Park issues.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: And are they (inaudible)?

MS. CHAIRMAN: I beg your pardon?

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Are the leaders of the (inaudible)?

MS. CHAIRMAN: I'm sure they're here. But you're saying that you would like to hear all -- the leaders of all of the respective neighborhood councils?

MS. MACIAS: Well, basically, there's one or two from each. So two from Eagle Rock, two from Arroyo Seco, two from Glassell Park, two from Historic Highland Park. They

would like -- there's basically either the president or vice president would like to speak before the rest of the stakeholders, if that's acceptable.

MS. CHAIRMAN: What is the desire of the Commissioners, to hear all of Glassell Park now that we've heard what we -- or to hear the respective neighborhood councils (inaudible)?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: The only concern that I have is that it's three different areas that we're talking about. So I think that I would prefer to hear the applicant present -- or Department present the application first, and then take public comment. Can we do that?

CITY ATTORNEY: A clarification. If we're referring to item three, item three is before you as a report that you had requested from the Department. There's no application pending. Just so we want to make sure we understand. The only application you have before you is with respect to Eagle Rock. So if you want to hear public comment on item three, I think you should -- just for -- to make the record clear, it would be best to get public comment on the report and the information that was received all at once, and then have the application of public hearing be held afterwards.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. So at this point, then, we have to hear the -- we should hear the Glassell Park -- remember, we are talking about the report and the boundaries in terms of Glassell Park. And someone -- is that right?

CITY ATTORNEY: That's correct. It's unclear. I know the Agenda makes reference to a determination, but really what you receive is information about the outreach that took place for the purpose of Glassell Park, which may be relevant to your decision on Eagle Rock.

MS. CHAIRMAN: So bear with me. We are attempting here to get straight what -- who should speak on what item. Someone had asked to speak first because she needed to leave, apparently, or something. Is that Anna Carpenter?

MS. MACIAS: Yes. She's one of the leaders of --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS. MACIAS: -- the respective neighborhood councils. I have one person that has to leave for a class, and he's asking -- from Glassell Park -- to speak first because he has to leave in 10 minutes. Is that --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Is that Mitchell Farrell?

MS. MACIAS: Mitchell, yeah.

MS. CHAIRMAN: All right.

MS. MACIAS: Thank you, Anna.

MS. CHAIRMAN: All right. And then we will -- after that we will have Ann Carpenter.

MR. FARRELL: Thank you, Commissioners. Yeah. I have a class that begins at 7:30, so I do appreciate permission to speak first.

I had submitted before the meeting started this, so all of you should have this in front of you. It is a flyer that looks just like this. And that's what I'm here to speak about.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Does that relate to the boundaries for Glassell Park?

MR. FARRELL: Yes, it does. Uh-huh. It relates to the boundaries of Glassell Park in the Arroyo Seco disputed area.

Okay. I've highlighted for you statements on the flyer circulated in the Nob Hill area by the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council leadership and the Five Points Coalition that I find slanderous and inflammatory against Glassell Park and injurious to the neighborhood council process.

Especially misleading is the comment, and it's highlighted, "The difference is, we're asking everyone's opinion, while the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council only asked a few of its pals."

And the field director's report recommended that the entire area be excluded from the GPNC boundaries based on documented analysis.

The sentiment expressed in the flyer and the activities of those that circulated it throughout the disputed area had a direct effect on the resulting analysis. Should the recommendation be approved as is, it sets precedent detrimental to the integrity of everyone involved.

It's my belief that in the formation stage, neighborhood councils conduct outreach to their stakeholders. What the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council did was campaign as early as September 2001 in an area that was never -- that was known as technically in Glassell Park as an opportunity to obtain territory by using divisive tactics, pitting one area against another.

What I find disturbing about this is that by approving the recommendation, you would

be by definition condoning the tactics used to obtain the results. I would hope the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners take a good hard look at that.

The question becomes what set of ethics do I wish to establish or support for councils that are forming. I would ask that the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council group, if they are utilizing these same tactics in other areas that they wish to represent and if their methods are uniform.

Finally, I feel strongly that the process in that area has been permanently damaged by the strategy carried out by the ASNC and the Five Points Coalition. Glassell Park Neighborhood Council decided shortly after we submitted our application we would not be canvassing the disputed areas again. It was no secret that the battle had become about perceived property values, prestige and fear. In now way were we going to invest free time and effort in a campaign that had already been lost.

We wasted no time in moving forward, certified with the boundaries that were approved January the 8th. We are looking forward to working with other communities throughout the city of -- on neighborhood council business. However, I really feel that if this issue is not properly addressed, this type of behavior will become the norm, thereby lending itself to a rancorous factious culture of councils.

I urge all of you to look into this more thoroughly not to reverse the Department's recommendation, but to reconcile the way it was achieved. Whatever the final outcome, we will respectfully abide by the results. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Okay. No, please. We don't -- Anna Carpenter. Carpenter.

MS. CARPENTER: Good evening. I'm the chair of the ASNC, the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Could you speak into the microphone?

MS. CARPENTER: I'm trying.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thanks.

MS. CARPENTER: Is this better? Yes.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MS. CARPENTER: I'm the chair of the ASNC, the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council.

And gosh, I feel I have to respond to what they've just told you. And I must say that we really have tried to foster a sense of respect. It's not always possible because there's so many personality involved in a group, and not always is it, you know, is it possible to bring total harmony.

However, what we did to achieve a sense of respect between the two neighborhood councils was that from the very beginning in September, we -- after a meeting in August where it was a big general meeting where Glassell Park had decided to go on its own, we tried to outreach more because we were getting ready for our certification, and we found that in the area of the Nob Hill area, there was a lot of support for being with us. In fact, we only outreached in the smaller part of it, and 75 people had signed to be with us. So we had a sense that the people there wanted to be with us.

We did meet with the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council and they had asked us at the time in September to stop our outreach while we were talking with them, while we were negotiating with them. And we did that out of respect for them. So we stopped all outreach for a few months in the fall. And we could not come to an agreement then.

I must also clarify that while we had been discussing to divide the area, we did not come to a consensus on that because we kept getting input from the residents of the area itself that they really wanted not to be divided and that they wanted to be a part of the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council.

So we I think exerted an amount of goodwill and restraint in not outreaching until January. And then there was a groundswell, to to speak, from the residents themselves in the area, and 98 percent of the people who live in that area signed to be part of the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council. And I think that is very important to look at.

And the Mount Washington Association and the Mount Washington Alliance have a lot of members that live in that area and that identify with Mount Washington. So although I do regret that there have been -- that Glassell Park feels that there has not been respect, I feel also that we have tried in many other ways to show our respect to them and show our goodwill to them. And we will try do so in the future also.

Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: I'd like to remind -- it has nothing to do with -- we have two minutes for each speaker, so try to limit your statements. And if you don't have to

tape up two minutes, please don't, because we have quite a few people we need to listen to.

Scott Folsom?

No. We're going to go straight through with Glassell Park.

Elizabeth, who is this for?

MR. FOLSOM: My name is Scott Folsom. I'm a former resident of the Nob Hill Five Points area. I'm also a member of the Board of Mount Washington Association. I've been a member of the Mount Washington Association for about 11 years living in the neighborhood.

I'm very disappointed that this has come up again because I thought the issue was solved. Obviously it's not. I advise you to please go along with the advice of your staff.

The Glassell Park people claim sufficient empirical data to support their position. The people who live in the community want to be a member of the Arroyo Seco. They have voted with their petitions what, 95 percent, 90 plus percent at least. It's a no-brainer.

Part of their supporting propaganda claims that are in dispute has been divided by the school district and that the area is a traditional part of Glassell Park. The area is split by the school district. It's a parent's choice whether they want to go to Eldama Elementary or Mount Washington Elementary. I don't know of any parents in the area who send their kids to Eldama. They all go to Mount Washington. It's nothing against Eldama. Eldama's a beautiful wonderful school. Mount Washington is just a little better.

I really -- all I can say is please, please go along with the recommendation of your staff. Thank you very much.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Bradley?

MR. BRADLEY: Good evening, Commissioners. I support the staff report that was issued by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for the Historic Highland Neighborhood Council and for the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council, specifically at North Avenue 46, along Toland Way to the west for Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council, and to the east from North Avenue 46 to Toland Way at Baltimore and Charters for the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council.

Now, I need to make one clarification that's very, very important here with regard to dialog. Number one --

(Inaudible discussion in audience.)

MR. BRADLEY: Now, I'm looking for the Glassell Park --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Bradley, stand over in this direction. You're standing right in front of the map.

MR. BRADLEY: Ah, right here. Thank you. Okay. Primarily our border, northern border, was Lincoln all the way to Avenue 50. That was primarily what we submitted in our application. We also based our elections on the boundaries that were established, as well as the boundaries that were established were done by a community plan, by the census track, by all of the reference documentation as requested in the city charter as well as the plan for the citywide system of neighborhood councils. So Glassell Park followed every criteria necessary.

When we had Lincoln Boulevard as -- or Lincoln Avenue as our northern border, we -- during dialog with Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council, what we did is was we put an option on the table to go back to the Toland Way area at Baltimore and Charters. And that's what we presented to the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council. Unfortunately, they rejected it and chose not to dialog any further unless we were to acquiesce more of our community.

Well, let's understand here. Glassell Park did follow the plan. That's why we are certified. And we did make all the outreach that was necessary. We had 75 percent of our community.

Now, I understand that individuals in the Nob Hill area feel that they belong to or that they identify with Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council. And let's be clear about this. None of their referendums talked about the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council. What it said was, who do you feel familiar with, Glassell Park or Mount Washington, which is a part of Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council.

That offends us because that's not part of the plan. Has nothing to do with the spirit or intent. It is not along the principles. It is not along the principles of the city charter or the plan. However --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Please, no interruptions.

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions.

MR. BRADLEY: Okay. However, we have no problem acquiescing the area at Nob Hill here, maybe even further down to Jessica. But the people that are on Alegra and Palmero and Nordica and these individuals here have been, have -- will always be Glassell Park residents and are part of the Glassell Park Improvement Association. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Okay. No demonstrations, please. We need to get along. Is it Carol Joinson [phonetic]? Remember, now, we're all -- we're not talking about Eagle Rock. We're talking about Glassell Park. So unless that person wants to talk about Glassell Park?

MS. HOTKISS: I'm Carol Hotkiss [phonetic].

MS. CHAIRMAN: Joinson. Carol Joinson. Sorry.

(Inaudible audience conversation.)

MS. JOINSON: I live on Mount Eagle Place. I'm in the area that Glassell Park has claimed for their own. I bought my house in Eagle Rock five years ago. In the mornings, I get up, I walk into Eagle Rock. I shop in Eagle Rock. I have my hair done in Eagle Rock. I go down, I go to the Oxy for my coffee. I go up to the Blockbuster for my movies. I have always lived in Eagle Rock. And I'm shocked that I can wake up one morning and suddenly I'm Glassell park. It's a fine community. Highland Park is an excellent community. But I live in Eagle Rock. It's Mount Eagle Place. My zip code says I live in Eagle Rock. And we're not political people, my partner and I. We sort of, oh, yeah, neighborhood council, that's a great idea. We have to get to work, go to class, and we let things slide, I'll admit, until January when one of our neighbors turned to us and said, "Did you know that we're going to be Highland Park or maybe York Valley or maybe Glassell Park?" And we looked at each other and we went, "How can they do that? We're Eagle Rock. We have always been Eagle Rock."

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. JOINSON: Thank you very much.

MS. CHAIRMAN: One moment, please.

(Pause on the record.)

CITY ATTORNEY: Just for clarification, on item three, I believe the Commission had just wanted to get some information from staff and public comment about what outreach Glassell Park has done. So your public comments really should be narrowly focused on that so that you can move on to do the Eagle Rock certification application.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Yes. I see many of them here who really are speaking from other --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Mount Washington Association.

MS. CHAIRMAN: No. Other ones. And we do need to limit the amount of input we do in terms of Glassell Park because we need to get to the application. So I'm going to call on those who have specifically Glassell Park. I'm going to ask you to limit your input because we already have heard, we already have heard this application, and we do need to get to the application that's on the agenda. What was your name?

MS. HOTKISS: Carol Hotkiss.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Go ahead and I'll call you as long as you're up here, Carol.

MS. HOTKISS: Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: As long as you're up here for Glassell Park.

MS. HOTKISS: Well, I'm here on that issue.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS. HOTKISS: Do you want to clarify?

MS. CHAIRMAN: No.

MS. HOTKISS: It's my understanding we're here on the Glassell Park boundaries.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS. HOTKISS: I'm here to speak on behalf of the Mount Washington Association, the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council regarding the Five Points Coalition issue.

My name is Carol Hotkiss. I'm the President of the Mount Washington Association. I've lived in Mount Washington for 20 years, and the area known as the Five Points Coalition Nob Hill area has always been known -- has always been part of Mount Washington. I've schlepped kids back and forth, you know, between one hill and the other while they attended the local grammar school.

No, all of you Commissioners are here on a rather historic mission in that none of us here know whether this ultimately is going to be a success or a failure. I mean this could be one great pooh, and it could be also one of the most wonderful things that's ever happened.

Well, I'm here to tell you that there's been a great success here because the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council, we didn't want to go in. We didn't want to try and, you

know, push people one way or the other. We felt that the impetus had to come from the people. And, in fact, out of a community of 650 homes, 525 people have said, I am Mount Washington. I want to be with the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council. Now, those are facts.

So I ask that you look at the evidence and I ask that you look at it with wisdom, and I ask that you approve this particular area not because there are any dirty tricks or tactics, because in fact there weren't. The reality is that people, you know, feel that they belong to a certain hood. And these people belong to our hood and deserve to be with us. And therefore, I ask that you vote in favor of this particular area as part of the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: May I ask her a question before she leaves? May I ask you a question?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Excuse me, Carol. Hello. Carol? There's a question.

MS. HOTKISS: Certainly.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Yes. How did you make contact with the households when you did the outreach to get the 500 and whatever signatures?

MS. HOTKISS: Well, interestingly enough, what happened is that they contacted us. And we told them that it was better for all of us if the impetus came from the area.

Therefore, the citizens -- and I would like you to speak to one or two of them because they will -- actually, that's part of the evidence that I want you to look at. Because I think you've had allegations, but the actual evidence is that you have those signatures before you. And that how many of you are here with the Five Points Coalition or how many here -- okay. This is your evidence here, the signatures, the people that are here.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: But did someone go to their homes and they signed or they came to a special meeting and (inaudible) signed?

MS. HOTKISS: No, no, no. The citizens held meetings in their own home. The citizens of Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council held meetings in their own homes and they walked their area and they met their neighbors and they organized. That's the beauty of this, that we organized --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS. HOTKISS: -- an area that was not organized previously.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Okay. What is the desire of the Commission? Do you wish to continue hearing on the Glassell Park, or shall we hear that as part of the application (inaudible)?

COMMISSIONER STONE: I have a suggestion and I'd like to hear what you think. I'd like to hear public comment on item number three that relates to the overlap with Eagle Rock.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Right.

COMMISSIONER STONE: And after hearing that public comment, I would, assuming this is okay with the City Attorney, suggest that maybe then we go into the Eagle Rock application. And then go back to everyone else that wanted to comment on the Mount Washington/Nob Hill overlap. We're not going to be able to make everyone in the room happy, but it's going to be a long night. I just think that we should be focusing on the area that overlaps Eagle Rock.

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Excuse me. Please, please.

CITY ATTORNEY: Let me make --

COMMISSIONER STONE: I want to hear what the City Attorney says.

CITY ATTORNEY: Gwen Poindexter, City Attorney. Let me make an alternative suggestion and just a point of clarification for the audience. The only certified application that's before the Commission is the Eagle Rock application. There's not going to be a decision about Glassell Park or Arroyo Seco or any of those other issues except that there are overlap issues that relate to the boundaries for Eagle Rock.

So the public comment that relates to Glassell Park and Arroyo Seco is relevant to the decision for Eagle Rock as to whether or not the Board will approve the certification application with the boundaries adjusted or not.

My recommended suggested, and just listening from the public comment that we've heard, is that it's all related and that we should have the Eagle Rock hearing now, have the Department -- listen to the Department staff report for Eagle Rock, and then hear all the public comment as it relates to Eagle Rock and also the overlap areas.

Keeping in mind that your report on item three is really for receiving and filing

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because no decision can be made with respect to the overlap boundary as it relates to Glassell Park in any event. So I think in terms of efficiency, my recommendation would be to begin the Eagle Rock hearing.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you. And with that note, advice from the City Attorney, then we will go ahead and hear the Eagle Rock application. Just a moment, please.

(End of tape one, side A; continuing
on tape two, side B.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: ... in favor of the application, and we will have public comments -- or opposed who have any other -- anything else to say about it. And then we will have the applicant rebuttal. And then the Commission will make its determination, its deliberations and its determinations. So, Romero, go ahead.

MS. MALVO: Okay. The Department received an application for certified neighborhood council from Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council. The application was reviewed for its compliance with the plan. It was reviewed on the issue of boundaries and outreach and the financial accountability.

And the Department recommends that you adopt the findings of the Department's report and certify the applicant as a Los Angeles City Neighborhood Council.

Our findings are as follows: In looking at the boundaries, the plan requires that the applicant submit boundaries that follow historical or census tracts or community plan areas. In looking at the boundaries, we found that they did meet the requirement. They started off with historic boundaries and expanded that in consideration of agreements with neighboring neighborhood councils.

The plan requires that there be a minimum of 20,000 population, resident population.

The applicant has 31,391, so they satisfied the population requirement.

The plan also requires that there be no boundary overlaps except in specified situations. In reviewing the application, the staff came across four boundary overlaps. And I'm going to defer to Elizabeth to go into detail to each one of them. The staff has made recommendations on how to proceed with each.

The plan also requires that there be a description of the outreach. The applicant did submit detailed information on their outreach. In identifying stakeholders, they used the databases of their Formation Committee. They have a Formation Committee of 12.

They contacted various organizations. They had used nonprofit organizations, neighborhood watches, representatives from renters and homeowners, so there was a broad array of stakeholders that they did identify and contact.

In terms of informing the community, they used mailings, monthly public meetings. There was canvassing. There was flying in both English and Spanish. There was attendance at church events, and there was the use of newsletters from the Chamber and from Occidental College. There were bulletins and there were their web pages.

Since they have been involved in extensive outreach, particularly since December, and there has been mailings to organizations on their membership lists.

In addition, the plan requires that there be a minimum of 200 signatures collected.

The applicant submitted over 400 signatures. In reviewing where the signatures came from, the staff found that it was evenly distributed throughout the boundary. There was extensive outreach.

In looking at the profile that was provided by the applicant to describe the community, we found that there was good knowledge of the population as a whole. The ethnic breakdown: 38 percent Latino, 32 percent white, 25 percent Asian/Filipino, 2 percent African-American, and 3 percent other.

In terms of the age structure, some of the key things that popped out, it's 12 percent over 65, 65 and over, 27 percent 19, age 19 and under. The largest age group was between 35 and 54, and that was 29 percent of the population.

In looking at household information, it was approximately 54 percent homeowners and 42 percent renters.

In looking at the businesses, there were approximately 370 businesses with 2,887 employees. Most of the businesses, 237, were in the one-to-four employee range. A lot of small businesses.

So in terms of being able to profile the neighborhood and then to target their outreach to the stakeholders identified, we found that the applicant met the requirements.

In their proposed structure in recognition of the youth, they have put a youth seat on their Board of Directors.

In reviewing their financial accountability, we reviewed the information and it meets the criteria set forth in the plan.

There is a requirement that there be a public notice log. We were given the five

contact persons and the locations were well dispersed, so we find that they have met that requirement.

In looking at the information on the treasurer, they did have a treasurer in their organizational structure, so do they meet that aspect of the plan.

So, in short, we do find that the applicant has met the requirements and we would recommend certification.

I would at this point ask Elizabeth to return to the podium to talk about the overlaps that we did find with the Department's recommendation.

MS. MACIAS: Okay. Elizabeth Macias with Dunn once again. Just a point of clarification. There's some shared areas that the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council and Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council are having incorporate into the application. But since Historic Highland Park will not be heard until May 28th, which is the date of the tentative date, it's my understanding that you cannot make the determination on the shared boundaries at this time. Am I correct?

CITY ATTORNEY: That's correct as -- Gwen Poindexter, City Attorney. That's correct as it relates to the other neighborhood councils. But that information may be relevant to your decision on how you would want to draw the Eagle Rock boundaries. So, in other words, you can't decide today that groups that aren't before you can share certain boundaries. But you can make a decision on what the boundaries are for Eagle Rock.

MS. MACIAS: Okay. That being clarified, in terms of the boundary disputes, you have a boundary dispute east of Occidental College. There's four streets in contention between Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council and Historic Highland Park. And is that map in front of me somewhere?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Inaudible.)

MS. MACIAS: Okay. Occidental College, for your information, is being proposed to be shared -- okay. Thank you. Be shared institution. These streets here east of the college, which include Avenue 50, Eaton Street, Corringa Drive, Almaden Drive, and Raintree Avenue are in dispute.

The other area to be shared is the York Corridor between Eagle Rock up to Avenue 49.

And in the third area, which deals also with the Glassell Park follow-up report, is the Sparklets Hill/York Valley area.

Eagle Rock is wanting to incorporate from Eagle Rock to El Paso up Avenue 45, down Mount Eagle Place, up Avenue 45, Toland Way up to Lincoln Avenue, back to Eagle Rock.

And this area here is Sparklets Corporation, which is front York -- the York Corridor. So, therefore, it's my understanding that this will also be a shared area as part of the York Corridor.

In terms of Occidental College, just for your information here, part of the challenge between the two groups was trying to find a way for the -- for Historic Highland Park to physically connect to the college. And it's the recommendation of the Department that Avenue 49 be the connector for the two neighborhood councils.

All the blue here is relatively Historic Highland Park for your point of reference. Let's see. In terms of attempts to resolve the disputes, the two neighborhood councils met I believe in November, first dialog attempt. They presented their respective boundaries and ultimately no resolution was reached.

They again had another boundary dialog at the end of November, November 28th, I believe. December. I'm sorry. December 3rd. And what was on the table -- oh, I'm sorry. And just to also make reference that the ridgeline was at one point also a boundary overlap. But that, you know, was resolved a couple weeks ago.

These streets, the proposal from -- on behalf of Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council was to try to canvass the area, and that was presented at the December 3rd meeting.

Historic Highland Park indicated that they would need to check with their stakeholders in response to that boundary overlap area. However, a week passed and there was no response, so Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council went ahead and submitted their application on December 10th.

In follow-up with Historic Highland Park, they indicated that due to the holidays and basically just that they felt that the stakeholders would not be receptive to the proposal because they felt that they had made too many concessions at that time, so therefore that proposal was not accepted. But they did indicate that maybe in the new year they would be open to the canvassing of the four streets.

Just to back up, the original area of contention was all the way down to York and up to this area. When Eagle Rock submitted their application, they made concessions, giving up these four streets south of Rangeview. And therefore it -- you know, this was originally the entire area that the Department proposed to be canvassed.

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Since the December 3rd meeting, Historic Highland Park was busy with application in January and dialogs with other groups. So not until March did they revisit this canvassing idea. Actually, a couple weeks ago. And the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council again put it on the table to canvass. Historic Highland Park again indicated that they would need to check back with their stakeholders. The other option that was presented during the third boundary dialog was to potentially share these streets. However, since that's not permitted by the plan, the Department informed the two groups that that most likely would not be an option that the Commissioners would accept. In terms of the York -- I'm sorry. In terms of the -- well, I'll stop there because I think the other area might go into -- well, should I address it now in terms of this area, the orphan area?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Yes, please.

MS. MACIAS: Okay. This area here, as I indicated in the previous report, people that heard about the neighborhood council process after the January 8th Glassell Park hearing approached Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council indicating that there was -- that their preference was to be within Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council boundaries. They identified themselves as part of the Eagle Rock community. Specifically, they feel that the 90041 split is what they are considering to be part of Eagle Rock. So from here it becomes 90042. From here 90041. And just for your information, south of El Paso is 90065.

This, as I indicated, because the stakeholders petitioned and submitted the signatures to the Department, you know, a couple weeks ago, there was no real time for the two neighborhood councils, Glassell Park and Eagle Rock, to dialog fully about potential resolutions with regards to that area.

Just final note regarding outreach. This area, when we -- when the Department plotted the signatures, and there was really not enough outreach or almost no outreach done in this area. Therefore, I think that's why the idea of the canvass was put on the table. Because there was -- there weren't stakeholders coming out saying that they wanted to be part of one versus another. Although there were some stakeholders had indicated that they did not want to be a shared -- under shared representation.

And basically that's the boundary overlaps. Questions?

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: There was no outreach by Eagle Rock in that area. Is that what you're saying?

MS. MACIAS: There were basically I think one person here that had indicated at the boundary dialog in December support for Eagle Rock. And there was like three signatures in support of Historic Highland Park.

However, since then, I'm not sure what else -- what other information will be introduced. Yes. And just I think from Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council's perspective, they indicated that they had not gone out to outreach or canvass because they were basically wanting to get agreement from the other neighborhood council that they would proceed in that fashion to resolve the boundary dispute.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: And the red area is the area that you recommended go with Glassell Park?

MS. MACIAS: Yes.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Would you hold up -- keep the map until they finish the -- Commission finish their questions? Thank you.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: So the red area is the area that you recommended goes with Glassell Park?

MS. MACIAS: Yes. The red area west of Avenue 46 stay within the boundaries of Glassell Park, and west -- I mean east of it go to -- and that's another discussion about Historic Highland Park. This area --

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Is that the whole area that's outlined in red?

MS. MACIAS: Yes. This is the dispute between -- with Eagle Rock, this here. This is what they're claiming --

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Yeah. But that's the part that you recommended go to Glassell Park?

MS. MACIAS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: That's all. I'm just trying to get clear on that.

MS. MACIAS: Yes, that is. And here, short of having no reference in terms of outreach conducted in terms of the streets to the college, since both neighborhood councils had not really outreached and the canvassing did not happen, based on the data that the streets were dead-end streets, that they opened up toward Highland Park, that they were part of the Buchanan Elementary School boundaries, that there

was historical data supporting, you know, that that was part of Highland Park, and that that was part of the 90042 zip code, if you want to incorporate that, the Department recommends this area, the streets east of the college, be incorporated as part of Historic Highland Park.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: And the York Boulevard part that you said would be shared?

MS. MACIAS: The York Boulevard, yes, the Department recommends that this be allowed to be shared. There's about --

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Shared with?

MS. MACIAS: Shared with Historic Highland Park. Eagle Rock and Historic Highland Park. There's -- just for your information, there is about 10 homes, including maybe two multi-family complexes within that corridor. And since it hasn't been fully determined about that, part of what could happen is that the streets -- if it's not allowed to be shared with those homes, that the streets north -- the northern end of the streets be part of Eagle Rock, the southern end be part of Historic Highland Park, and I guess this part that's corporation be shared.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: And where's this part that's corporation again?

MS. MACIAS: This yellow strip right here.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Was there any mention of Glassell Park sharing that?

MS. MACIAS: No, because they did not --

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I mean they never requested that?

MS. MACIAS: No. The red is the disputed area, and this is -- basically it's north of it.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Well, I mean since their boundary were to come, if that were to be approved, would come right to the company, the corporation, Glassell Park, so would it be a shared boundary? Could they make a request to share that?

MS. MACIAS: Could Glassell Park --

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I mean have they made that request?

MS. MACIAS: They have not made that --

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: They could.

MS. MACIAS: They have not made that request to share Sparklets, in part because, as I stated, I think Eagle Rock and Glassell Park early on had negotiated boundaries and Glassell Park had indicated that it would not go north of Lincoln.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Elizabeth?

MS. MACIAS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: All three areas are residential?

MS. MACIAS: This are, yes, it's residential. This area is residential. In terms of the orphan area, this is residential. Here it's only Sparklets. Here it's about 10, 12 businesses, plus homes in between. And many of them are converted into business, but there's some that are actual homes along the York Corridor. And as I stated, this is -- the connector would be Avenue 49.

Any questions, clarifications?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Do you have questions?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: In terms of the -- is it Ridgeview, Avenue 51, all of that it dead ends on Avenue 51. Is that what you said?

MS. MACIAS: That's right.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: And that's why -- all of the streets dead end to Avenue 51 or --

MS. MACIAS: Yes. Yes. Basically, Eaton dead ends. Corringa Drive dead ends, and it's basically behind Occidental College. Almaden also dead ends. Rangeview dead ends, but there's pedestrian access into Occidental College from right here. And basically, you know, the rest of the streets are connecting.

Just to clarify, I think that Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council at the December 3rd meeting was trying to negotiate how Historic Highland Park could connect to the college. And so they had originally proposed that since this was the ridgeline, that Avenue 51 and Rangeview be shared corridors, if you will, into the college. However, as indicated in previously that under the plan interest of sharing residential streets was not permitted. And so the Department feels that if there's a connector needed towards the college, that it be Avenue 49 as a corridor.

And, yes, these streets are all dead ends except for Rangeview. That's pedestrian. And then Stratford actually connects straight around the college.

And just also for clarification in terms of Occidental, it's -- Historic Highland Park drew a circle around the campus just to indicate that they're sharing the facility. But all the residential streets around Campus Road are part of Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council. So there's no dispute with regards to that. It's basically just encompassing the college.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?

MS. MACIAS: She'll -- okay. Turn it over to the applicant or --

MS. CHAIRMAN: No. Just are you finished?

MS. MACIAS: I'm done, unless you have questions.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you very much.

MS. MACIAS: Okay.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. We will now hear those who are in favor of the applicant.

Please remember to state your point (inaudible).

MS. MACIAS: Clarification. The presentation hasn't happened.

MS. CHAIRMAN: You're right.

MS. MACIAS: I think that the Dunn staff report is done, so the applicant now needs to do their report.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I'm sorry. I'm taking a look at all of these notices (inaudible).

MS. SOTELO: That's okay. Hi. My name is Delilah Sotelo. I'm the interim President for the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council Formation Committee. We call ourselves the Formation Committee.

I want to first thank everybody for their patience. I know there's a lot of issues on the table and, you know, we kind of got started on the a rocky foot. But what I wanted to do is show you a Power Point presentation of all the work that we've done because Eagle Rock really believes that neighborhood councils are not about boundaries.

They're really about people. And that's what we care about and that's what we've actually, you know, had as our founding principle in trying to figure out how to get certified, trying to figure out how to actually form a neighborhood council here in Eagle Rock. So I think boundaries are a very important issue, but what we'd like to show you is a little bit more of the funner stuff in terms of what we actually did to talk to our neighbors to get them involved, to get them inspired, to get them to participate.

And I have a couple of committee members here that will help me in this. I don't know if the Commissioners --

MS. CHAIRMAN: We can't see that.

MS. SOTELO: -- need to move, but -- I'm sorry?

MS. CHAIRMAN: We can't see that presentation. Can you turn it or what can you do?

MS. SOTELO: We can push it back and turn it towards you, because I think that's the important part. If someone from the Department -- yes.

(Discussion held off the record.)

MS. SOTELO: That's okay. It's kind of organic that way. Is this working? Okay.

So I'm sorry for all of you who cannot see this, but what we'd like to do is go ahead and show this to you. Yes, it's crooked. It's like Eagle Rock. It's a little crooked. It's okay.

So I just -- just to get started, I would like the audience to just show a raise of hand for those of you who are here to support the Eagle Rock certification. Yay!

Okay. I was going to give you a wonderful history about Eagle Rock and let you know when we actually were incorporated as a city and what we looked like in the 1900's and, you know, how we got incorporated and brought into the City of Los Angeles.

But I'm going to take advantage of the fact that I have the microphone and just skip all that and trust me, we have a very interesting history.

One of the things that I wanted to give everybody a background on is that the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council really got started in 2001. It was really the movement of other neighborhood councils here in the northeast that inspired Eagle Rock to even get involved and motivated to organize its own council.

So in spring of 2001, that's when the movement here in the northeast began. And we attended -- there was -- Occidental College is a major stakeholder in Eagle Rock.

Actually sponsors a quarterly luncheon for a lot of community leaders to talk about various issues. And in one such meeting the neighborhood councils came up. And it really motivated us to continue participating in the dialog with the remaining part of the northeast to figure out where Eagle Rock fit in into the entire northeast.

So in summer of 2001, we attended a large meeting in Ramona Hall that was sponsored by several folks. And it was about 175 people that attended that meeting. And that's when a lot of people here in Eagle Rock actually attended the meeting and got involved.

So from that meeting, the Formation Committee was born. Our Formation Committee consists of civic organizations, social organizations, cultural organizations,

businesses, both large and small businesses. We have residential representatives and educational representatives from Occidental College as well as from the Eagle Rock High School and the other grammar -- I mean the grammar schools in the area. And then we also have a large religious contingency from our diverse population here in Eagle Rock.

So the goals of the Neighborhood Council Formation Committee -- and again, what we try to strive is that the Formation Committee was to provide the foundations for a neighborhood council that was about participation, that was about people, and that was about community, and not so much about boundaries and technicalities. But really, the Formation Committee was designed to try to get the ball rolling in terms of neighborhood councils.

So our first principle was really to engage community stakeholders and stakeholder groups, the leaders of those groups, in consensus building activities. We had to agree as a Formation Committee what we saw Eagle Rock -- how we saw Eagle Rock in a year from now, in two years from now as a neighborhood council.

So we really had to talk about all the divergent views of the stakeholder groups and try to get together on, you know, some commonalities. And we all agreed that we are very proud of Eagle Rock. That Eagle Rock had an interesting history, and also had a diverse population.

So what we wanted to do as the first principle is to promote a fair and equal participation by all sectors of the Eagle Rock community, not just those who had already been in leadership. All the organizations that didn't have a voice, that didn't have representation needed to be part of our neighborhood council.

The other was to provide a strong platform for the diverse population to actively participate. Not just to be represented as one leader coming to represent their views on, you know, issues of diversity or issues of poverty or issues of economic development, but really just inspire people who came from those diverse populations to participate. And that meant translating flyers, translating information, and going to nontraditional means to try to do that. And during our outreach portion, we'll talk a little bit about that.

And then the final principle was just to get certified which, as we all know, is a difficult process. So we actually had to work very diligently with the Department to make sure that we complied with all the regulations and the guidelines and submit our application.

As part of all that outreach that we did, we actually welcomed some new people into our community forum that were active in the community in the neighborhoods themselves, but had never interacted with the larger, you know, leadership or the larger group.

So one such person is Johnny Blanco, who actually volunteered and is a very qualified person to be our treasurer. He represents the PACER organization and the Filipino community. And he really came about as, you know, during our outreach process. So what I'm going to do is introduce him and a couple of other people to just speak with you about this process. So Johnny?

MR. BLANCO: Good evening. Honorable Commissioners, ladies and gentlemen, I rise in support of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council. I represent the Filipino-American community of Eagle Rock, PACER, being the past President and an ex officio advisor of the association.

I believe in the mission of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council, and I quote,
(Reading)

"The mission of ERNC is to assure effective stakeholder participation and interaction in all aspects of the decision-making and problem-solving process of government in issues that are important to building our community."

I have only been involved with the formation of the ERNC since February of this year. And I have been excited, for I see the promise of a better living in this cohesive community. I have a dream of bringing together not only the Filipino families, but all families with the different ethnic backgrounds that you see in this community.

This is a challenging statement, but I hope that your honorable body will see its way into approving our council certification and this dream can be realized. It will be hard work not only on my part, but on the part of everyone who will be in the board of this Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council.

I envision bringing the many stakeholders in the community, like senior citizens, the youth, the students, business people, professionals, teachers, charitable organizations, cultural and scientific groups, women's group, homeowners association and many others united in a common goal and that is the unity among the people

living in this my beloved Eagle Rock.

I cannot therefore overemphasize the need for approving our certification application so that the work towards unity can begin. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

MS. SOTELO: Thank you, Johnny. See why he's on our committee? I love that we were able to bring in new people who felt as passionate about forming a neighborhood council in Eagle Rock as the initial group was. And, you know, in June of 2001, we had 5 people interested in forming a council. Today we have an interim board of 14 people with over, you know, 5,000 people represented in terms of all the various organizations and stakeholder groups.

I wanted to introduce Carol Baker-Tharp who is also a new person the Formation Committee. She actually began with us in November-December of last year, and has really worked to develop not only an outreach plan during the certification process, but an outreach plan so that we can have effective elections. And then once we actually get up and running and have an elective board, we can also continue to do our outreach and to expand our outreach with the city resources and the motivation. So here's Carol.

MS. BAKER-THARP: Madam Chairman, members of the Commission, I'm Carol Baker-Tharp. I live at 5012 Antiora Way. I'm a 15-year resident of Eagle Rock. My colleagues have asked me to share with you some of our outreach work. We had essentially three goals that went from very expensive to very particular for our outreach.

One was to inform Eagle Rock residents about the city's neighborhood council plan, and so a lot of what we did was education kind of work. The second was to encourage actual formation of our own Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council and get people to participate in that. And then the final thing was to try to get people to meetings, get their ideas and get their signatures for support.

You have a report which I believe was copied and distributed to you, and we also gave you a copy of a book. I think I see it up there. And so I'm not going to reiterate all of this. There are samples of the materials we used and a grid that shows the various things that we did.

But there are two areas I'd like to highlight for you out of that. The first is to give you a little hint of the process that we used in our outreach activities. The notebook that you have there represents about 600 volunteer hours of time from those specific activities. But that doesn't capture all that happened. Those 600 hours are like the pebble that's dropped in the stream and the ripples went out, because those might be people who went to talk to a neighborhood watch group, and the neighborhood block captains would then go back to the people on their block.

We talked to people at the farmers market. We've talked to students at Occidental College. We had people go to visit the Sondheim Lutheran Home to visit the elderly resident. As Johnny said, we've gotten the Filipino community involved through some of the churches and the other organizations there. We had people out at block parties celebrating Eagle Rock's 90th anniversary this past year. Anywhere we could get people to listen to us, we had people out talking. And then those people went and talked to others.

We also moved our Formation Committee meetings around. We had them in the Women's 20th Century Club and in the library in the cultural center, at Colombo's Restaurant which is a familiar hangout there, and at Schwartz Coffee Shop, which is one of the newer hangouts in Eagle Rock.

We not only had the people that were participating in those meetings, but it was a way of outreaching to those business people and community organizations that then welcomed us into their facilities.

We made in the process -- the matters that are in your notebook represent about 36,000 impressions or person contacts that we were able to at least document by pieces of paper that were handed out, newsletters that were submitted to and canvassing and various other things that we did.

We'd also like to thank you for the help that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment gave us in this. Most of the work we did was paid for by the volunteers, by in kind contributions from Eagle Rock businesses, and from in kind contributions by organizations like Occidental College. But without the translation services and printing services of the Department, we would not have been able to do nearly as much as we did, and we're really grateful to you for making that possible to us.

The second point that I'd like to lift up is that we had good geographic and sector results with our outreach. We had what I might characterize as midland ethnic results, and what might be called maybe poor renter and student results in our

outreach.

For geographic outreach -- you can see our map over there with the dots. There are dots in just about every corner of Eagle Rock that we were able to reach people and get their signatures and have them come to meetings. We did a good job there. In terms of interest, you've already seen. Business, education, residents, faith based and all of that. We did a great job representing bringing together a lot of kinds of interests.

As far as ethnic results, we did a good job, but we've got a ways to go yet. Of the 12 to 15 members of the Formation Committee, I think maybe 6 would characterize themselves as people who are non-Anglo Caucasian. That's about 40 to 50 percent, depending on when you take the snapshot.

Our meetings were better. We saw a lot of diverse faces at our meetings. To try to capture that with some numbers for you, we counted up the signatures on those petitions that we gave you and where we could noticeably recognize a Latino or an Asian surname, we counted those. That's a real unscientific way of doing it. But that was 25 percent of the signatures that we submitted were either recognizably Latino or Asian Pacific Islander surnames. And obviously we couldn't recognize necessarily African-American or other ethnic groups just by their surname. But at least 25 percent of those signatures we know were going in that direction, and we know there's more work to do there.

In terms of renters and students, we did do outreach with the college and the high school. Renters were a tougher thing because we didn't know of any tenants associations. We did canvass the mobile home park, and we also knew that canvassing in apartment buildings with security is kind of tough. So we came up with three strategies for our outreach to try to reach that population.

One was materials were sent home to parents via the elementary schools in particular because that would reach a younger family. Also generally the majority non-white and also somewhat below the median income level.

The area's 40 diverse religious institutions were contacted, sent materials, asked to help participate. There's a good socioeconomic mix there in our religious institutions.

We also targeted businesses that have a socioeconomically diverse clientele, specifically food markets and the Westfield Mall that have patrons of a variety of different backgrounds who shop there. And the mall has been kind of enough to actually put something on their marquee for us along Colorado Boulevard for several of our meetings. So we know we've got a ways to go.

In addition to those things, we translated materials into Spanish, to Galog. We visited two of our community center senior citizen programs, as well as the Sondheim home to try to reach some of our older residents. And we did do outreach with the high school students on the Occidental College campus.

We realize that equity and equality of participation is a challenge that we have not only here in Eagle Rock, but all over town and all over the country. We're committed in the way we've set up our elections and the seats on our board to try to make them accessible to a variety of people who've not necessarily been involved already. And we know we've got lots more work to do.

We would ask that we have additional resources that would help us in that. We've about maxed out our volunteer efforts, I think. And we know that we've got more to do and we will need some resources to be able to try to do an even better job of that.

At this time I'd like to introduce to you Rob Shoop [phonetic] who was one of the wonderful results of our outreach. And he's going to talk with you a little bit about our bylaws and election processes.

MR. SHOOP: Thank you. I'm Robert Shoop. I've been a lifetime resident of Eagle Rock. And interestingly enough, I am a product of Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council's outreach program. Sometime in June or July of last year I went to their first public meeting, and I was somewhat vocal, and I was invited to become more vocal. And from that, I've become a member of the interim board, and look forward to serving on the neighborhood council when you all certify it.

I've been asked to talk briefly about how we sought to achieve the diversity of representation through our bylaws. We did that in two ways. We split up our board according to -- you have your president and treasurer, and then we set it up in terms of geographical and stakeholder groups. And the idea was to break up our geography in ways that we've kind of broken up Eagle Rock in our own mind. And having been a lifetime resident of Eagle Rock, I think I was particularly qualified in seeing how Eagle Rock was divided up.

One of the things we addressed is there was a perception in Eagle Rock that above Hill Drive tended to have the greater influence in Eagle Rock. If you see our map here, one of the things we did, there are only two of our geographical areas that are above the Colorado dividing line, and the rest of the geographical areas are really in the rest of Eagle Rock. And that was one of our attempts to try and get in as much diversity as we can in terms of representation.

And one of the things I forgot to mention is, I've never been involved in any civic organization in Eagle Rock. And that I thought was interesting at least for me. When I came to this group, they welcomed me. And I don't represent any other interest other than I've lived in Eagle Rock all my life. And anybody that has an interest can be part of this. And the Board has been that way. The interim Board has welcomed me.

At any rate, in addition to the geographical areas, we set up five stakeholder -- actually, the bylaws say seven. We have some flexibility. The stakeholder groups, basically that brings together all of the organizations that were involved in Eagle Rock that actually were part of the Formation Committee. And our hope was, in bringing together all of the groups in the geographical areas, we would reach that diverse representation that we were trying to reach in terms of our mission statement.

But one other group that we have a representative for, and though it's a nonvoting representative, we felt it important that we have a youth representative on our board. There is a lot of youth in Eagle Rock and I think their interests need to be heard, and that was agreed by the Board. And we've provided a seat for that, even though it's nonvoting.

Anyway, that was our attempt to try and reach this diversity, and I think we've achieved that. Thank you.

MS. SOTELO: Anyway, one of the guiding principles that we used to determine these boundaries as you see them is that they are eight different boundary areas within the larger neighborhood council. We tried to, like Rob was saying, dilute the concentration of power that currently exists in Eagle Rock by doing the natural geographic street grid that you see throughout Los Angeles.

It was very important for us as neighborhood council to not be perceived as and not actually be the traditional people that are always participating and always getting involved to work as neighborhood council. The guiding principle for us was to get involved, to get new people involved, get them active and get them to participate. We did not want the status quo. We did not want the same people over and over.

And while the Formation Committee has dedicated lots of hours and lots of time to actually do this, and we do represent other organizations, our hope is that through the election process and through the fair election process we'll be able to bring in more representatives from various communities.

And as you see here, area three is an extensively large area that's mostly residential, but it is somewhat commercial. Area two is residential bounded by a commercial corridor of Colorado Boulevard. And those folks need to participate in our process.

Anita Haltman [phonetic], who is a new person that was involved in the Neighborhood Formation Committee, Neighborhood Council Formation Committee, comes from council -- I mean from district three. Listen to me, council district. Comes from council three, neighborhood sub-district three. Because she really tried to do a grassroots effort and try to get her community involved, and get people dialoging about where they were part of Eagle Rock or part of Highland Park.

And that's where our first success story is in terms of boundaries. If you look at the southern ridge of that area three, the eastern portion of it was in dispute with Highland Park. There was some dispute as to whether or not the streets that curve around were part of Highland Park or Eagle Rock, and what would we use as a determining point. Would we use the fact that it was geographically difficult to get from the ridgeline down to Highland Park and down those streets? Would we use the census tracks? Would we use the zip code? What would we use?

And Anita Haltman really helped to clarify and crystallize a lot of those issues for use. The fact that this area had been 90041 for many years, and the postal office randomly changed it to 90042. She actually went out and got her neighbors talking and got them, brought them to the meetings and got signatures, and got them dialoging.

Because the other guiding principle that we've tried to use in the Formation Committee is that it's not about signatures. It's about educated signatures and a raised awareness of what neighborhood councils are about, and about what community

involvement is. Not about just signing to get someone off of your doorstep. So that's our first success story when it comes to neighborhood boundaries between us and Highland Park. We conceded some areas. We talked with Highland Park extensively about it.

The second area that I want to talk about in terms of boundaries is the area just east of Occidental College. It's represented in the four streets just east of the college. Two are kind of curvy and odd shaped. One dead ends prior to getting to the college. And Rangeview actually physically connects with the college. Those four streets were the area that Elizabeth described extensively.

And we have a representative from that particular area who actually went out in the last three days to get signatures because she really -- you know, she saw the staff report. She saw what the recommendation was and basically was livid about the results.

Eagle Rock had negotiated in good faith with Highland Park through -- you know, through November, December. We attempted to do it in January and February, and then finally met again in March. And our perception of those negotiations was that we were always willing to canvass that area because we felt that what was important was stakeholder participation and a stakeholder voice.

Unfortunately, Highland Park, whatever they felt about it, did not agree to do the canvassing, the shared canvassing. So we had no recourse other than, you know, to really kind of do the canvassing on our own. The reason we didn't do it beforehand was really because we felt that it would not be credible. Again, Highland Park would argue that it was not a credible participation by both neighborhood councils to go out to canvass that area.

We have many college professors that live on Rangeview and feel that they're part of the Occidental College campus, the Eagle Rock campus. There are several people from Eaton and Avenue 50, which is the top street, Corringa the second street, that really use Avenue 51 to travel north, and it converts over to Townsend over the ridgeline. And Trader Joe's is over there and some of the dry cleaners are over there. And the commercial corridor is very vital in that particular area, Townsend and Colorado. So the folks in that area really believe that they pertain to Eagle Rock.

What I wanted to do was submit for public -- or formally submit to you just a memorandum from the Neighborhood Council Formation Committee stating the reasons that we believe that we would better serve those four streets within our boundaries versus having Highland Park represent those streets.

The main reason is that area three is primarily a residential area and consists of about -- I would say about 5,000 people at most. So those residents and those stakeholders within those four streets would have direct access to a representative which would have direct access to the Board of Directors, which means they would not get lost in the 60,000 stakeholder group of Highland Park. They would actually be listened to. They would be represented. They could even participate as a representative in that area. And they would be better served by remaining as part of that.

In the memorandum, you know, I use other justifications, but the Formation Committee is willing to compromise and continue, you know, to suggest either that the Department issue a determination that it should canvass those four streets and, you know, a third party canvassing which gives them the choice of where they would like to determine. We have signatures from Eaton and Avenue 50 that account for about 60 or 65 people that actually believe that they're part of Eagle Rock, so we'll present that to you also as public testimony.

So that's, you know, where we stand in terms of that boundary dispute. The other option that we would be willing to consider is if the Department felt strongly about it, since Almaden does dead end and doesn't go straight to the campus, we would concede that as part of the Highland Park option, or to go to Highland Park. And that the Rangeview Street, if Highland Park felt that, you know, that they couldn't canvass the area to determine a third party neutral canvassing, that we would go ahead and accept the fact that Rangeview would be part of Highland Park.

So we are flexible. We are willing to work with you. What we've cared about throughout this entire process, and I'll say it again, is that neighborhood councils are about people and not about boundaries. To the extent that people participate, show up at meetings, care about where they live, have an opinion about where they live, we accept them into our neighborhood council and embrace them dearly.

We do not want this to be a territory fight. And that's why we're willing to concede many of the streets, you know, Stratford, Meridian, just south of Rangeview,

in our December 10th application.

The other area that -- so that's a shared area. There you go. Okay. The other area that's under contention is what we are calling the Sparklets Hill area. Again, we had agreed with Glassell Park that the boundary for Eagle Rock would end at Lincoln Avenue. We had agreed to that very early on in our discussions with Glassell Park based on the fact that they had collected signatures in that area and that their -- the other -- well, just some of the other empirical data that they had. So very early on we had agreed to that, even though that Sparklets Hill area in that shaded area is purely 90041, which is the predominant zip code of Eagle Rock. Eagle Rock is 90041. That is a predominant zip code.

In January, as many will testify today, because of our effective outreach effort after we submitted our application, we continued to inform people about this process. In February and March there was a resident-driven initiative. It was not driven by the Formation Committee. It was a resident-driven initiative which we were, you know, frankly, very enthused by and very proud of ourselves, but, you know, we were kind of surprised that so many people in that Sparklets Hill area on Mount Eagle, on Avenue 45, on Avenue 46 believed that they were part of Eagle Rock and that the importance of their voice was something that we couldn't ignore. We absolutely had to acknowledge them. We had to support them in any way that they could. And when they submitted their signatures to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment on March 3rd, they sent us a copy, they sent Glassell Park a copy. And basically, the petition reads that they acknowledge that there's a neighborhood council in Highland Park, they acknowledge that there's a Glassell Park Neighborhood Council, and they acknowledge that there's an Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council, but they feel strongly that they are part of Eagle Rock. And I'll let them speak for themselves because that's how the motion has actually always happened, that it's, again, resident driven.

That I think the Department needs to set policy on in terms of what it will accept and won't accept as far as the determining factors for boundary disputes. And it was difficult to, as a neighborhood council in the process of certification, to know what we should do or not do because there was so much ambiguity about what the actual data was.

But one thing is clear, that the Sparklets Hill people are here. They care about this issue. As Elizabeth said, we did not have time to dialog with Glassell park, but we actually really strongly believe that we are part of -- that they are part of Eagle Rock.

And what I'd like to do is just close by saying that -- what I'd like to do is just close by saying that what we've tried to do in the Neighborhood Council Formation Committee is really embrace the diversity of Eagle Rock, maintain a respectful process with our neighbors. Because ultimately, we are not Eagle Rock. We are not Glassell Park. We are not Arroyo Seco. We are not Highland Park. We are the northeast. And that's what's important and that's what we should care about.

And, you know, lastly, what the Formation Committee has attempted to do is to try to reach the broadest array of stakeholders in Eagle Rock. It's very difficult to do that. We've had challenges. We accept our shortfalls, but our commitment is there.

And what we've tried to incorporate by a sub-district system in our Board of Neighborhood -- in our Board of Directors is to create that type of diversity. And the last --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Are you getting to your close?

MS. SOTELO: I'm going to close right now. And I would just really like to thank some of the Formation Committee members. They worked very hard throughout this entire process. I'm very new to the process here in Eagle Rock, and we've really formed a strong collaborative effort among all of these organizations, and it's really kind of unprecedented for Eagle Rock to work so closely together. We really appreciate their help and their volunteer hours, and just give yourselves a hand on that.

(End of tape one, side B; continuing
on tape two, side A.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Do the Commissioners have any questions? I'm sure that some of them do. Mr. Stone?

COMMISSIONER STONE: I'll try to make mine quick. And I appreciate the presentation. I agree with you that neighborhood councils are not about boundaries, they're about people. However, we have to consider the boundaries, just so you know that.

A couple follow-ups on the boundary questions. The Occidental College area, is your

neighborhood council comfortable sharing that with Historic Highland Park? Understanding that their application is not before us and that we cannot certify shared boundaries. But if and when that application comes to us?

MS. SOTELO: Right. We had considered sharing that area, those residential streets. And for the sake of, you know, moving the application forward, we were willing to accept that. I think you'll receive public testimony that counters that, that basically says that residents don't want to have to decide where they live and attend both meetings if, you know, there's the meetings on the same night and, you know, that there's some logistical issues with the sharing.

In an effort to, you know, to move this forward, in an effort to, you know, to work with the broadest array of people, we would consider doing that. And we would, you know, we would support it. Of course, we'd have to make sure that the residents felt strongly about that.

COMMISSIONER STONE: And my next question is on the Sparklets Hill overlap. I notice that they're not -- that area is not given a number, a geographical number. How will -- assuming that area becomes certified as part of your neighborhood council, how will that be reflected? Will you amend your geographic areas?

MS. SOTELO: Yes. We'll amend our bylaws to reflect that they are part of area four, which we actually have three residents from that area that have already volunteered. It's actually on this tail end. You can kind of see it. It would be part of area four. We've had three residents from that area volunteer to be on the Board of -- I mean on the Board of Directors for us.

And one of the things I did want to present is, again, the same memorandum talking about why we believe the Sparklets Hill area belongs to -- or should be respected as part of the 90041 zip code and in our area. So that's the same memorandum.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I have a couple of questions. One, have you had any participation from the Sparklets Corporation and Occidental College at your -- in your planning meetings?

MS. SOTELO: Yes. Actually, as far as Occidental College is concerned, we have a Formation Committee member who's sitting right there, and she's been on our Formation Committee from day one. So President Ted Mitchell was actually very active in trying to inspire us to do something in neighborhood councils. And as far as Sparklets Hill, Sparklets Hill is one of the larger businesses in our area and they employ over 200 employees. And we have talked with Sparklets Hill folks, but they are not represented on our committee, per se. But the corporation is very supportive of us. And they're involved in the Chamber of Commerce, who is involved in our Formation Committee.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Okay. And was there any reason why -- I feel that young people have a lot to say and a lot -- they have very valid concerns and opinions about things. Was there any reason why the youth member had no vote, has no vote?

MS. SOTELO: Actually, the advice of the City Attorney on our bylaws was that -- because of fiduciary reasons. Anyone under the age of 18 is not eligible to vote on fiduciary issues or on points of, you know, matters, financial matters. So we actually really encourage them to vote and to participate.

Our age is 16 and older. And if there is no one who's 16 and older that wants to participate, we have that council seat or that board seat actually goes to someone, you know, that represents a youth organization. So even if we don't have a youth, we can get someone who represents youth groups and youth interest. So that's very important to us. And we actually debated that a long, long time, and finally, you know, said that the City Attorney prevailed on that.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: What is the age of your stakeholders in the 16-year-olds and (inaudible)?

MS. SOTELO: I'm sorry?

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: The stakeholders.

MS. SOTELO: We have 27 percent of our population is under the age of 19.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: But are they considered stakeholders to vote for the election -- on elections toward the board members and officers?

MS. SOTELO: Again, any -- like if you're 12 and you want to be a stakeholder and you want to be a registered voter, you can register. But the way the bylaws currently read, you would not be able to vote. So what we have tried to come up with and what we will probably do under the elections is create a caucus of sorts for the youth council to have them express their opinion, have them express their vote, and participate in the elections that way. But we have not worked that out. We are very supportive of youth and, you know, their participation in, you know, in

determining what happens in Eagle Rock.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Thank you. Well, it's quite an eye opener to start the meeting the way that we did, so we're going to hopefully move the meeting along and try to get as many of our questions answered, and make sure that we go through the process and we understand why some areas are included and why some areas are not included. And also, why bylaws read the way that they are, and the outreach is done or was done the way that it was done.

A couple of questions that I have, one is on the community directors. You spoke about the eight community directors being part of your governing body. What I would like to know is what is going to be the role of the directors in each of the areas. If you can kind of explain what the breadth of their work will be.

MS. SOTELO: Okay. The president will be voted on throughout the entire community. Everyone can vote on the community [sic]. The treasurer, the same thing. The eight sub-districts, the representatives from each of those eight sub-districts will either be a resident stakeholder or a business owner stakeholder within that area. So that they represent the needs of that area as it's bounded in the sub-district map. That's their function.

The remaining seats, there's five seats for what we're calling stakeholder groups, which are faith based, cultural, civic, social, educational. And those individuals, again -- and we have a business one in there, so maybe the social and the cultural are mixed in. Those individuals will have an opportunity to represent their constituency.

They'll run as a chamber president, or they'll run as the person who owns the dry cleaner on the corner of Colorado and Townsend. They'll run as, you know, the member from the Kiwanis Club or the Historical Society. That's how they'll run. So they'll represent and they'll have an opportunity represent those particular stakeholder groups. And they'll compete. They'll be self-competing.

The purpose of the eight sub-districts was really, really to try to break up that power base in Eagle Rock, to try to diversify it, to try to get people who aren't traditionally involved. And by setting aside particular areas, and there's four areas south of Colorado and two areas east of Eagle Rock Boulevard, we really attempt to try to do that, so their voice is equal just as much as everybody else's.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Have you defined what the areas are? For example, what area four is composed of? Will that be a business seat? Will that be a resident seat?

MS. SOTELO: Actually, in area four it would be one seat, and either a resident or a business owner can run.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

MS. SOTELO: So it depends on what area four wants. If area four thinks that they need more, you know, business and more commercial and a revitalized corridor, then they should vote in a businessperson. But if they feel that, you know, they care about our stop signs and street lights and curbs, they should vote a resident.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: So at this point you haven't defined what the criteria for that representative for those specific areas? So, basically, people are going to come forward and say, you know, this is our area seven and we want a resident or a renter or whomever?

MS. SOTELO: Right.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Whatever that representative --

MS. SOTELO: Right. They would have to vote. People in that area would have to vote for that representative. And again, in the -- it's very true that we're looking for guidance in terms of the election process. And the Department has recently come out with guidelines in terms of that, and so has the Commission. And, you know, we really appreciate that because we need to explore that a little bit more.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: So potentially an area could have two representatives, one being a director of an area, and one could be the treasurer or the president?

MS. SOTELO: Correct, potentially that could happen. Potentially, since the president is elected from the entire community, anybody in the community could run. Anybody in the community could vote for that person. And if they happen to work in Eagle Rock, they have to have a business or they have to live there, then yeah, it would be.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: And potentially that could be also the same for the organizations on the five stakeholders, meaning the organizations and clubs and all of those groups?

MS. SOTELO: That would be less so. I mean that would have to -- you know, not everyone who, let's see, is a member of the chamber who would run under the, you

know, stakeholder group would necessarily live in Eagle Rock or work in Eagle Rock. So there's, you know, someone -- it wouldn't necessarily be the case.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: So would you say that the president and the treasurer would have to live in Eagle Rock in order for them to hold that seat?

MS. SOTELO: Well, they would have to have a stakeholder interest in Eagle Rock, and the stakeholder interest would, again, be defined in the bylaws as someone who lives, works or participates in Eagle Rock. And, again, it would up to the constituents in this -- you know, the voters to vote that person in to find out whether they're vested or not.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. The other question that I had was on the outreach. You spoke about having to do a little more outreach in different parts and for different groups. Can you talk about what are some of the plans that you guys have in mind to get to these groups and to actually have them participate and be part of the governing body if any -- you know, if at all, or just as part of the steering committee at this point?

MS. SOTELO: Sure. We purposely went through, you know, the process of appointing a Chair for the Outreach Committee on our Formation Committee very early on because we wanted to have a three-fold plan. You know, a plan for outreach during certification, a plan for outreach during elections, and a plan for outreach post-neighborhood councils. And that's more organic and that's, you know, a more flexible plan.

I'm going to let Carol speak to that in terms of the technicalities of how we plan to outreach to the larger groups.

But the two things that always guide us when we do outreach and what we've always discussed in our Formation Committee is that people have to be educated about this process in terms of actual response -- you know, what is a neighborhood council.

What can or can't you do. And it's been an education process for us. So when we go out there, we want people who are informed about the process, informed about their power, informed about, you know, the influence they can or can't have.

And the second thing is that, you know, we can't assume that everybody can participate all the time. So that, you know, it's like little morsels of gold to make sure that people can participate when they care about an issue. And if that's when they participate, if the folks here only come to meetings because their boundaries are being discussed, that's great. That's okay. They're out here. And maybe they'll get together and maybe they'll participate some more. So it's really incremental in terms of how we expect people to participate.

So Carol?

MS. BAKER-THARP: I think the plan that we have there is one that we will keep replicating and replicating and replicating. The biggest issue is just not being able to say it often enough. As you well know, it takes people two or three times for it to start sinking in, you know, if it's not something they're used to do doing.

And so we've now got a system where we can outreach through established organizations. We have canvassing activities and ways of doing that. We have businesses that help us outreach through their clientele. And we eventually will need to do, probably as our election comes up, some actual mailings to residents throughout the area. That's the one area, because we didn't have budget, we didn't do a lot of mailing. But I think that's probably an area, with some additional income or financial resources, we'd be able to do.

But then just going back to the schools, going back to the churches, going back and back and back and telling the message over and over again that people are welcome and that we want them to come.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: And can I ask you one more question on outreach? In terms of the population that it is based on -- from the reports that we have on the household income, you have a significant amount of people under the 50,000 annual income. How do you think that you might want to outreach to those groups? And I would guess that's going to strategize a different way of doing business with those folks. You actually have probably about 26 percent under 35,000. Might be the working poor who might be working six days a week or seven days a week to --

MS. BAKER-THARP: One of -- as I mentioned in the report, the three strategies that we've used, and I think we need to just expand on them, are reaching out to the young families through our elementary schools. Giving materials that can go home with children to those young families, often the working poor.

We also have gone through the businesses that cater to a variety of socioeconomic levels and try to go to places where people shop for their groceries, and to the

mall where people -- there are a variety of kinds of businesses there, and to try to make information available in more than one language there.

And an important ingredient in our community is the churches because the churches are socioeconomically diverse. We've got a variety of religious traditions there. We've got a number of ethnic religious institutions within our community. And many of those provide social services to clients. There's a food bank and there are a variety of church-related services to our moderate and lower income population. So I think they're going to be an important part of helping us do that extra outreach.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Thank you.

MS. SOTELO: And also, I think we have to change the way we outreach and, you know, just traditionally. Not necessarily Eagle Rock, but everyone. I think we have to change the language, the dynamic. I think we need to go to the community rooms and apartment buildings and just have our meetings there and bring people in that way, or provide child care services at our meetings. Maybe some of the money that we get under certification will help us do that.

It's really about going to the people as opposed to having everybody expect to participate in our system. Because that hasn't worked so far. So it's about changing the dialog. It's about changing the language. It's about changing the paradigm about that. And, you know, reaching people where it counts.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I missed the number. How many people are in your neighborhood council?

MS. SOTELO: In our Formation Committee we have --

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: No, not in the Formation. The whole -- the population for the whole neighborhood council.

MS. SOTELO: Oh, I'm sorry. 31,000. 31,396.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Okay.

MS. SOTELO: And actually, we -- it was kind of interesting, Commissioner, because we thought we had 24,600 people. But when they did the street-by-street census, we actually came out with more.

MS. CHAIRMAN: You have another question?

MS. SOTELO: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: (Inaudible) boundaries? You know, it's one of those issues that we can't avoid. But I was just wondering why your boundaries did not include or did not go all the way, I guess it would be south from Rangeview to York Boulevard. There's about four blocks there that are in the blue.

MS. SOTELO: South of Rangeview to York Boulevard? We had originally included those as part of our boundaries. We had included Rangeview, Stratford, Meridian, and then came around Meridian down Avenue 50 to Lincoln. So kind of, you know, did a little L.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: And those were separated from discussions with Historic Highland Park?

MS. SOTELO: On December 3rd, we met with Historic Highland Park and that entire area was in dispute between Avenue 49 and Avenue 50. And neither of us had signatures at that point. We had talked about it. We were talking about it in terms of doing the canvassing.

And the Highland Park made some very strong points Stratford and Meridian that, you know, really kind of said to us that they cared about those areas. They would care about those neighbors. They would incorporate them into their larger stakeholder group and actively work with them.

So it gave us the comfort and the assurances to say, okay, well, if we can't agree on it, then, you know, if we can gain access through Avenue 49 as opposed to Avenue 50, we go up to the college that way and come over Rangeview, then that would be fine.

Rangeview is an important street for us because Occidental College uses Rangeview to get out and over Avenue 51 to Townsend to Eagle Rock. That's how they access it a lot of the times. And I went to Occidental College so I kind of know that.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: And on the area that is called the Sparklets Hill --

MS. SOTELO: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: -- that seems to me that it went from the cutoff of York Boulevard into that piece. Can you talk about how that would impact the rest of -- or the more contiguous portion of your boundaries?

MS. SOTELO: Because it is in the 90041 area code, we feel that, you know, we can adequately support the fact that it exists in our counsel. That it's part of our council. That they're part of our -- that the neighbors who participate in

Sparklets Hill and are part of Sparklets Hill are part of Eagle Rock. You know, they access Eagle Rock through Eagle Rock Boulevard. They shoot up and, you know, shop and play up on Colorado and Eagle Rock Boulevard.

Sparklets Hill is an important part not necessarily because we didn't -- we wanted to concede it early on or because we had agreed with Glassell Park. It's significant to us today because so many people came out and there's so much support for it. And there's people that have lived there a very, very long time who've always believed that they're part of Eagle Rock.

My fear is if the Commission doesn't agree to have them incorporated as part of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council and recognize that they're the 90041, that they'll feel disenfranchised. That they'll feel like they weren't listened to. That they'll feel that they're not represented.

There's a map in your handout in the staff report that plots the map -- the signatures that Glassell Park got versus the signatures that Eagle Rock got. And recognizing that Glassell Park wasn't doing an active outreach effort on that hill because, you know, they had already been certified and they felt that, you know, it was going to speak for itself, we did get the signatures that the Sparklets Hill people gave us and we looked through them.

And, you know, it's just overwhelming that it's all Mount Eagle. It's all Avenue 45. It's all Avenue 46. And people who live on Mount Eagle drive up Avenue 46. They drive over -- you know, they keep going over to York. They go to Eagle Rock Boulevard. They go up to Colorado. That's how they get there. Sometimes they take, you know, El Paso. Sometimes they take Toland Way to El Paso and out that way to Eagle Rock Boulevard.

But they care about how they're driving through their neighborhood and they care about what their neighborhood looks like. And there's some really dilapidated housing there and there's some poor housing there and there's some poor individuals that live there. And we've got to incorporate all that. You know, the neighbors that live there are more likely to care, more likely to canvass, more likely to represent their neighborhood if they are part of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council versus the Glassell Park Council because they're driving north. They're not necessarily driving south.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Any other questions? All right. We will now start the public hearing for those who are for this application. Remember, we have quite a few to listen to. Please speak directly to the point of this application. And I'm going to call first those who are for the application, and then we will have after that those who are opposed. Heather Williams.

(Inaudible discussion.)

MS. SOTELO: Excuse me, Commissioners. Some individuals had to leave, so if they don't come up, it's because they had to leave.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Don Ward. Is there a Don Ward? For those of you who know you're going to be speaking, would you start -- Joyce Kabers [phonetic] is it? And Anita Morico Holtman [phonetic]. Would you make your way towards the podium? Thank you.

(Inaudible discussion.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Yes, go ahead.

MR. WARD: Good evening, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. My name is Don Ward. And I checked off that I'm for this proposal. And I don't know if I'm for it or against it. I received a flyer about two and a half weeks ago for the formation of the Eagle Rock boundaries. There had been no canvassing in our -- we're in a little cul-de-sac canyon area that we consider Eagle Rock adjacent. That's how we refer to ourselves.

We access over to Colorado via Upperton and Mount Vista or Mount Verde. And within a couple days of receiving the information, I canvassed our whole neighborhood, or canyon area, asking people if they would like to participate in the formation of the Eagle Rock Council. I have not been contacted by anybody. I've been trying to reach the Eagle Rock Council.

So I would say that in my neighborhood in that little canyon area in just two canvassings I had a 95 percent sign-up of wanting to participate with the formation of the Eagle Rock Council.

So I'm new to here. I cut a vacation short. I just learned this evening through Helen that the area that I had been shown on the map that we were originally going to be part of the Eagle Rock Council was changed on March 20th. So I just learned that tonight. I was under the impression that through our signatures that we would automatically be accepted within the formation of the Eagle Rock Council.

As I mentioned, our work that we do there, we access and attend the businesses, the merchants, the churches in Eagle Rock as opposed to the Highland Park or the other areas. So if you have any questions. I'm just learning about this process. My first meeting and I would like to be more involved.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Would you define the specific area you're talking about again?

MR. WARD: Yes, I would. Thank you for that question.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Maybe show on the map.

MR. WARD: On the map it would be closer to the area three. There's an Upperton Road that's right there. And that takes you -- it doesn't show it accurately on the map, but it actually goes up, swings over and goes down into -- you're close to Trader Joe's and Yosemite Boulevard from that point.

So it's one of those areas that if you don't know about it, it is a little hidden valley, a little hidden canyon. And as I said, it's always been referred to as Eagle Rock adjacent. It's right in that area there. It's a little canyon. It's just surrounded by the hills. So it's very much a part of what we consider Eagle Rock.

And we would -- the overwhelming support, like I mentioned, I and one other person did the canvassing, and it was just such an overwhelming enthusiasm to want to be a part of it. This was new information to us, and we would like to be more involved. And that's why we're here tonight.

And as you can see, the signatures that I turned in at this point represents probably 95 percent. If I had another chance to go out, we could probably at least have 98, 99 percent of the people in this little valley wanting to participate with the Eagle Rock Council. Okay?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. WARD: Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Any questions?

(No audible response.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Joyce Kabers and Anita Morico Holtman -- or Holtman. And Albert Wynne [phonetic].

MS. KABERS: Honorable Commissioners, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Joyce Wilcox Kabers. I live at 5639 Raber Street, Los Angeles, 90042. I am the other person that went out canvassing with Don Ward, or separately, of course. However, we discovered when we came to the meeting tonight that we're not sure that our street is going to be included in the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council, but we sure hope so. I have been a resident homeowner there for 38 years. I feel that our neighborhood should be known as the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council for several reasons, some of which are, I shop at the Eagle Rock Mall, now known as Westerfield Mall. I shop at Vonn's. My bank is Wells Fargo located in the Vonn's grocery store. In 1979 I opened an account at the then Valley National Bank in Eagle Rock.

Most of my neighbors do their shopping in Eagle Rock also. Some attend the churches in Eagle Rock. My daughter's softball team played at the Eagle Rock High School field. This very one right here. My grandsons play touch football in the park at the Eagle Rock Recreation Center. Some of my most favorite restaurants are also in Eagle Rock. Classic Tie. Incidentally, the owners of that restaurant live on Upperton. They are my neighbors. Pete's Burger, Cindy's, Colombo's, Armand's, to name only a few.

I have participated in activities at the Eagle Rock Presbyterian Church, although I am a member of Grace Presbyterian Church on North Avenue 53. I have also been a patron of the Festival of the Trees usually held at Occidental College. Our neighborhood residents like to attend that college for all sorts of cultural activities, and they have a nice theater there.

I'll end this dissertation by stating that for 38 years I've watched my neighbors turn right or left on Upperton and head north to Eagle Rock. Thanks for your consideration, and I request to be known as Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Anita Morico Holtman.

MS. HOLTMAN: Hi. My name is Anita Holtman. Anita Morico Holtman. I live at 6001 Eucalyptus Lane in a small community we like to call Eagle Rock Ridge. I'm sorry. I'm kind of sick.

When I first heard about the new neighborhood councils, I was not sure where our area would fall along the -- would go along the ridgeline, would fall on Highland park or Eagle Rock. I was not sure we had a choice. My neighbors were sure we lived in Eagle Rock, but I loved the idea of Highland Park with its museum and art galleries and historical district.

My neighbor, Patty Sugarman, and I went to both meetings for Highland Park and Eagle Rock. But after showing up for what was to be the fourth meeting at Highland Park, the door was closed. Five or six of us stood waiting at the halfway house wondering what had happened. No note on the door, no e-mail, no correspondence back when I e-mailed their committee head.

I started thinking about Eagle Rock and all the things that I do at Eagle Rock. I volunteer at the Sondheim Home. I'm a member to the Terra, the Eagle Rock Cultural Center. We go to St. Dominic's and Eagle Rock Library. I realized my life was in Eagle Rock.

With the help of Betty Tindle [phonetic] and Helen Gustafson [phonetic] from Neighborhood Watch, we organized a petition and got a 90 percent signature response.

And also my neighbors, many of which are here.

I e-mailed a petition to both the Highland Park and Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council committees and to Dunn. Eagle Rock responded, which they did a great deal. And Dunn did. But there was no response or has there ever been a response from Highland Park.

Last December 3rd, both Highland Park and Eagle Rock held a meeting at Colombo's to discuss the disputed area of which was our streets. Highland Park wanted to claim us after -- without even asking us. I found this to be quite dysfunctional. They claimed that the ridgeline, because of testimony of a mapmaker, they felt that it was -- the ridgeline belonged to them because of testimony of a mapmaker. I thought it was because -- it was supposed to be because of how the relative residents felt. And fortunately, I was right.

And I just want to tell disputed areas to consider your choice carefully, you know, where you spend your time and your energy, and not based on where streets bleed out into, what areas they bleed out into, or what mapmakers say. Okay. Thank you very much.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you. Jean Gasnick [phonetic] and Patricia Sugarman.

MS. GASNICK: Good evening. I'm Jean Gasnick. I'm a resident at 843 Tipton Terrace in the area number three and our street's one of the one's in dispute with the boundaries.

We've heard several times people talk about zip codes here. I've been a resident there since 1978. When I purchased there, I was in 90041. It was changed to 90042, and I think many areas have been, because we got a new post office. But I am an Eagle Rock resident. Raised four children there. And they've all gone to private schools in Eagle Rock and then on to other schools out of the area.

But we would like to, you know, plead to you not to take into consideration the zip does when you're consider us, you know, as far as the Eagle Rock Council. We would like to be included in the Eagle Rock, not Highland Park, you know, with all due respect, because we feel, you know, for many years that we are Eagle Rock residents.

Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Halla Valentine De Leon [phonetic].

MS. SUGARMAN: Hi. My name is Patty Sugarman, and I live at 833 Tipton Terrace. It's down here on the map. And the written boundary description reads north to Tipton Terrace, east along Tipton Way to the Pasadena border. North to something means to me that you stop there. I would like to have the boundary description amended to include greater detail to say -- to include all of Tipton Terrace so that there's no doubt in anybody's mind what my two neighbors have said that Tipton Terrace unanimously decided that they're stakeholders in the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council.

The other boundary description that I would just like to bring up is that east along Tipton Way to the Pasadena border, there had been some discussion about making the border on Tipton Way go down the middle of the street. And as a matter of principle, most of us that live in the area think that it's wrong to split a neighborhood. So I would like to have it amended to say east along the southern rear property line along Tipton Way to the Pasadena border so that all of Tipton Way is included in the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Elizabeth, we have a question.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Inaudible.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Just a moment. You have a question. Thanks. Commissioner Membreno?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Can you show us on the map where Tipton Terrace is? Because I see Tipton Way. I can't -- I don't see Tipton Terrace.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's right here.

(Inaudible discussion.)

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: The little thing?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah. On the map it doesn't say Tipton Terrace.

MS. MACIAS: And we didn't mean --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

MS. MACIAS: We didn't mean to exclude it. It was always included.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: So it's within the boundary. All right. Thank you.

MS. MACIAS: It's within the area. Okay.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: It's actually (inaudible), so it's there, right? Just not named.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Halla Valentine De Leon. And Dramelle De Leon [phonetic].

MS. DE LEON: Yes. We're here for the Arroyo Seco support issue. We're homeowners on Terrace Way nine, so I don't think you are ready to hear us speak.

MS. CHAIRMAN: No. Thank you. Carol Joinson. I think that Carol already spoke.

(Inaudible response.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: No, that's fine. Linda Tandy [phonetic]. Linda, you have for proposal and general comment, so I'm not sure where you want to be.

(Inaudible response.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. And Pat Griffith?

MS. TANDY: Hi. My name is Linda Tandy. I live to 4570 Mount Eagle Place. And my husband and I bought a house there about four years ago. The area has recently been dubbed Sparklets Hill. I want to say where we're talking about so that you have absolutely no problem understanding, I actually live right here, and my house is not on this map in the yellow, as it should be.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Please don't mark the map. Don't mark up their maps.

MS. TANDY: Oh, sorry. Prior to living on Mount Eagle Place, I actually lived on the exclusive Hill Drive part of Eagle Rock, where most of you are from, or a lot of you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Can you please speak to the Commission? Thank you.

MS. TANDY: When we went looking for a house, we specifically looked for a house in Eagle Rock. And we found one. Granted, it's in the southern part of Eagle Rock, but it is in Eagle Rock.

Mount Eagle Place, Avenue 45, Avenue 46, they were not canvassed by Glassell Park or Highland Park. Let me repeat that. Mount Eagle Place, Avenue 45 and Avenue 46 were not canvassed by Highland Park or Glassell Park. Actually, myself and four of my neighbors, we went out and we canvassed much of the neighborhood. We talked to over 100 people. Out of the 100 people, that we spoke with, 2 of them believed that they live in Highland Park. Ninety-eight believed they live in Eagle Rock.

Now, this is not just passing opinion. People are passionate about being in Eagle Rock. Like everybody says, we do all our business there. We may be way down at the southern edge, but there among the Diadore Cedars and the quiet backyards down along the curling strip of Toland Way past the elementary school to the Moorish dooms of the Sparklet Waters Plant, we are most definitely Eagle Rock. In addition, the entirety of Sparklets Hills lies within the Eagle Rock zip code.

Now I will -- I really like the way Delilah presented it, so I go along with the proposal that she said that we be included in the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council. However, we could think outside the box. The results of our canvassing -- or the results of all of this indicate that the Sparklets Hill is in a very strategic location, and that perhaps instead of fighting about all of it, maybe we should just make Sparklets Hill the hub of all three of those neighborhood councils.

We could be like Switzerland to the three neighborhoods, sharing that other hilly region. If that works out, then Sparklets Hill could become the United Nations of the neighborhood council. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Paula Cristumo [phonetic]. I'm not quite sure how to pronounce it. Is she here? And Don Sybritson [phonetic]. Can I help you? That's okay. You don't have to look over my shoulder. Come on.

MS. CRYSTALSTIMO: Good evening, Commissioners. I'm Paula Crystalstimo [phonetic]. I'm the Director of Government and Community Relations for Occidental College. And as you heard earlier, the college was instrumental in encouraging this community, Eagle Rock, to form its own neighborhood council.

I've been active with the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council Formation Committee since its beginning as a representative of the college. Occidental College enthusiastically supports the application for certification of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council. And as a large institution in northeast L.A., we're also happy to be a shared resource for both the Eagle Rock and Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Councils. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Don Sybritson and Arnie Stewart Lionen [phonetic]. I did Don Sybritson.

MR. SEIBERTSON: Hello. My name is Don Seibertson [phonetic].

MS. CHAIRMAN: Oh, Seibertson? Thank you.

MR. SEIBERTSON: I live at 4480 Mount Eagle Place in the 90041 zip code. I was born and raised up on that hill. I've moved up there for 30 years. I did leave for about 10 years, went to Burbank, but I am now back.

I went to this high school and junior school for six years. And I walked from our hill up there through Occidental College, through Yosemite to here until I could drive, so quite a long time. I'm basically here to -- in support of this (inaudible) area to be included in the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council. This is where I live. This is where I grew up. And this is where I have my sense of community.

I'm certainly not a politician nor activist, but my sense of community is with Eagle Rock, in support of what's been dubbed the Sparklets Hill area to Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Arnie Stewart -- please, we need to get through these. Arnie Stewart Leonin, is it?

(Inaudible response.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Margaret Woodson and Eduardo Rivera and Helen Goodwill Gustafson [phonetic].

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Is there anyone else?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Are you Margaret Woodson?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No. I'm (inaudible).

MS. CHAIRMAN: Oh, okay. Helen, yes. I guess Mr. Rivera is going to be speaking. Thank you -- and then after -- no, after -- come on, Mr. Rivera. And then after you. Thank you, Margaret. Are you Mr. Rivera?

MR. RIVERA: Yes, I am.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Can you please come to the -- okay.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Inaudible.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS. GUSTAFSON: Actually, I've been out of order many times.

MS. CHAIRMAN: We'll get in order for you.

MS. GUSTAFSON: And I swear -- first of all, let me address you, honorable Commissioners. I'm glad we're at this point because I don't think my husband can take anymore. But I think there is a sitcom in this somewhere, and I hope someone does write it because it has been quite a process. And the way I've kept myself going through is to bring humor into the process. And that's how I started out. I believe I missed the very first meeting in June, and I attended a meeting in July. And I thought I was going to a meeting for Neighborhood Watch in celebration of the national night out, which is the first Tuesday in August, and I was attending the wrong meeting, and that's how I got snared into this.

So I want to reemphasize what Delilah said and the other speakers have said. Our leadership with the focus that Delilah has kept for us was to keep our process respectful towards people in our area, towards other neighboring neighborhood council formation committees, and to keep our process entirely transparent and open, which we have done. And I've learned a lot from my younger interim president here on that process.

I believe that we do represent the people who ask us to represent them, and that is our obligation. We do not represent arbitrary boundaries. We don't represent ancient history. We don't always represent zip codes, but I'll come to that later. Let me explain the map briefly. I'm going to respectfully ask that I have a continuation of time.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Is Mr. Rivera going to speak?

MR. RIVERA: Yes.

MS. GUSTAFSON: Pardon?

MS. CHAIRMAN: No. Then you'll have two minutes. If Mr. Rivera is going to take his time, then you have two minutes.

MS. GUSTAFSON: May I have an additional two minutes, please?

MS. CHAIRMAN: No. No, ma'am. I'm sorry.

MS. GUSTAFSON: Then I have -- and did I finish two minutes already? Okay.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS. GUSTAFSON: I'm submitting this to the Commission. It's our e-mails that showed our negotiations with Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council and how we had continually asked for canvassing. I implore the Commission, if you have any doubt

on any of the disputed areas, that you please order a canvassing of the area so we can have objective information. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Okay. Mr. Rivera?

MR. RIVERA: Good evening, Commissioners, those of you who are still sitting here. My name's Edward Rivera and I am the interim President of the Highland Park Historic -- Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council. I'll make my remarks brief, which is easy because I talk fast.

First of all, we are speaking in opposition to the Eagle Rock certification, however, that's misleading. Because we look forward to working closely with the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council and their leadership, as we have done since I took office in January. Since that time, we've engaged in dialog with them, and we look forward to more of that.

I will speak tonight specifically to the four-block area east of Occidental College consisting of Eaton, Corringa, Almaden, and Rangeview. Some people have mentioned the ridgeline discussion. However, we have since given that up and it's not a discussion point.

We feel very strongly that -- and this is based on the recommendation of our general membership, our executive board, and our executive committee that we are sticking to our original application boundaries which include all four blocks of that area.

Yes, we have been asked on a number of occasions to canvass the area. I agreed to canvass the area. However, I was outvoted almost 10 to 1 to canvass that area. And as the leader of my council, I need to honor their wishes.

Therefore, we ask that the Commission follow the recommendations of the Dunn staff, include the four-block area as part of Highland Park's original application. Others will speak to the Sparklets Hill issue later on in the evening. However, I would ask that we -- that you honor the Dunn recommendation. And with that, I look forward to working with the finally certified Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council.

Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Is there an Everett Sarabia [phonetic]? And Mark Ross. And Art Maddox [phonetic].

MR. SARABIA: Hello, Commissioners. And I just thank you for your patience for this. We'll get through this real soon, from what I understand. My name is Everett Sarabia. I live at 1223 North Avenue 45. Our family moved here back in 1958, 44 years and about 14 days ago. I was about 3 months old. We moved and our family, my mom, my dad, my brothers Tony and David, we moved up here, and this is what I was told by my parents, we moved here because the area we lived in wasn't too safe and they wanted a safer place for us to live. So we were moving to Eagle Rock and we moved to Eagle Rock.

I look back over the last -- excuse my nervousness and my shaky voice and stuff.

MS. CHAIRMAN: That's okay.

MR. SARABIA: I'm just really not used to public speaking at all, so -- and hopefully that shows the desire for me to let you all know that I believe and my family believes that we live in Eagle Rock. And that's where we want our area designated, Sparklets Hill, as Eagle Rock.

On the 13th of this last month, I went to the last Eagle Rock meeting and found out that we had forms for petitions to canvass our neighborhood to be able to show exactly what our neighbors wanted and where we believed we lived in. So I want to submit these petitions tonight.

Overall, including the initial 65 that were gathered from my area, we have a total of 178 signatures, which were mostly gathered in the last seven days. And it's been -- I was out there this morning and this afternoon gathering signatures. And there was about 55 signatures that were somehow misplaced, so the number is around 233 that we had, but we just don't know what happened to them. So we apologize for that. And I'm sure we're going to get to those neighbors and get them back if we need more, if we have the -- if you give us the, how can I say, the information to submit more signatures. Because we're willing to do it.

I believe in our introductory note there that it states that if we had another five to seven days, we would probably get over 95 percent of our residents to tell you that we do and to affirm that they do live in Eagle Rock.

I've gone to Eagle Rock Council meetings and I've also gone to Glassell Park Council meetings. Thank you. And what I noticed at the Glassell Park is originally borders really didn't mean that much to me. I felt the councils were created to improve the life of the community. It doesn't matter if I was in Highland Park, Glassell Park or Eagle Rock.

But when I went to the Glassell Park meetings, and I had certain questions,

especially concerning the budgets and especially concerning if there were going to be any affected property taxes, and my neighbors, that was one of the things that they were concerned with, too. I asked a couple of questions, and then after those first initial questions I was shut down. I kept raising my hand and -- thank you. I don't know why, but --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Would you please --

MR. SARABIA: And I was shut down. There impetus was to get it done, to get the committee formed, to get it established. Okay. My concluding comments are thank you again for listening to me. And I hope you forgive my shakiness. And please, please include us in the -- include the boundary that includes our streets and our neighbors. For the last seven days we've -- it's taken hard and just the gut feeling that we are Eagle Rock. And we want to make sure that you know that.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. SARABIA: That you know our heartfelt feelings. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Mark Ross, Mark Maddox, and Linda Allen.

MR. ROSS: Hello. My name is Mark Ross and I live at 1340 North Avenue 46 on Sparklets Hill. My wife and I live in the -- we bought our house about a year and a half ago. When we first saw the house, the listing labeled the area as Eagle Rock, as do the other listings on the same street at the time.

Before we moved in, our agent at Allstate for homeowners insurance saw our address and said, "Excellent, you're in Eagle Rock. Get you a great rate." Being part of Eagle Rock was one of the main reasons we bought the house. We really like the community. We do business here, we shop here, and we socialize here. It's been really exciting for us to watch the positive growth over the last year or so in the community with many new businesses moving in. There's even a new restaurant opening on the corner of York Boulevard and North Avenue 46 called Eagle Rocks. Anyway, it's clear to us that people here really care about the community, and that draws us closer to it.

There have been a lot of e-mails flying around regarding the boundary dispute over Sparklets Hill, but there's one in particular that I'd like to address and it's from a member of the GPNC addressed to the ERNC. In this e-mail it's related that one of the co-chairs of the GPNC is furious with a particular resident of Sparklets Hill for supporting the petition to align our neighborhood with ERNC because this resident knows that he lives in Glassell Park.

I beg to differ. This person from the GPNC doesn't speak for me or my neighborhood. If this person is so sure that I live in Glassell Park, then he or she should look at a map of zip codes. Better yet, he or she should come down my street and talk to my neighbors who have lived here for 25, 30 years and more and ask them where they've been living all this time. Because they know that they live in Eagle Rock. If you take a look at the map of the proposed area for the ERNC -- I don't know if you have this with the colored dots where we have signatures. The Historic Highland Park signatures were mostly east of Avenue 47 in the red. The GPNC signatures were mostly along El Paso and Toland Way, more on the fringe of Sparklets Hill. The heart of Sparklets Hill, the area including North Avenue 45, North Avenue 46 and all of Mount Eagle Place, this area is overwhelming in support of the ERNC. Just last night we gained more signatures, as was told to you already.

Anyway, the simplest way to resolve this issue, I think, is to adhere to the 90041 zip code. The residents of Sparklets Hill are passionate and they've worked really hard in our grassroots effort to align ourselves with ERNC. I respectfully ask the Commission to respect the will of the people of Sparklets Hill and to support our petition to affiliate with the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Art Maddox and Linda Allen.

MR. MADDOX: Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Art Maddox. I'm an 18-year resident of Eagle Rock. And I think for everybody that's still here, as we go into our fourth hour of testimony, we need to acknowledge the fact that these Commissioners are in front of us and they serve the City usually without any compensation, work full-time jobs, and this is a very long evening, and we really appreciate you being here for us. And I think we need to acknowledge that. I served as a police commissioner in Los Angeles in the early mid-90's and then as an ethics commissioner, and I got to tell you, some of the contentious police commission meetings don't seem as difficult having looked at what you've had to go through the past three hours. And again, I commend you for it. Eagle Rock has a tremendous spirit. There's a great esprit de core. So many people do want to be part of the community. And I think the border issues that we need to resolve don't diminish the fact that the application has been submitted. There's

been an excellent presentation given by Delilah Sotelo. A Formation Committee that's worked very hard to get us to this point. And we have a tremendous amount of momentum tonight.

Most of us worked all week going to every residence in Eagle Rock to leave a flyer in English and Spanish to make sure that people came out. We had I think over 175 people here tonight, our largest meeting by far. Everybody is here because they want Eagle Rock certified as a neighborhood council.

I strongly encourage you to continue the dialog regarding the very important border issues, continue to listen with the energy you have left. It's difficult, I know. But please, please take advantage of the momentum that we've built up over the past several months and certify Eagle Rock as a neighborhood council tonight. Thank you.

(End of tape two, side A; continuing on tape two, side B.)

MS. ALLEN: Linda Allen. I am a resident of Eagle Rock for 30 years. My husband has lived here all his life. I'm an activist. I was past Chamber President, past Cultural Center Chairman, and now currently President of the ERCPR, which is Eagle Rock Community Preservation and Revitalization Corporation. So I'm very involved with the community and its growth and the revitalization issues.

I have been a part of the Formation Committee, particularly at the beginning. I had to pull back at the end here due to family commitments. I'm in very much support of what my colleagues have done with the formation of the Eagle Rock Council. I would strongly urge you to certify it. And I think they've done a really wonderful professional and fair outreach for this council.

And I felt that the way these border disputes were -- the definitive way it could be solved was if people came and talked about their area. They came to the council and asked to be part of it, and the council felt -- the Formation Committee felt that was a way to be supportive was because they had asked their support. And I'm really glad to see people show up and come. I think that's a really important part of this process. They're here and they care.

So I would urge you, again, to support the certification. If you do have any doubts, as they said, do your own canvassing to see if there's anything that can be done there. Thank you very much.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Michael -- and I cannot read the last name. Not here? (Inaudible.) Okay. I'm sure Dr. Michael knows his -- oh, I'm sorry. There you are. Would you tell me how to pronounce your last name?

DR. NOGERA: First name is Michael. Last name Nogera.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Nogera. Thank you very much.

DR. NOGERA: Good evening. My name is Michael Nogera. I'm also the past President of the Eagle Rock Chamber of Commerce and also I serve on the Commission for the Housing Authority for the City of Los Angeles. And I also chair the concerts in the park and also our farmers market in Eagle Rock. I'm also on the Formation Committee.

And I just want to urge your support for the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council. And on the guidelines of the different disputes on the boundary lines, I think we can probably maybe discuss that on further note with our colleagues and the other Highland Park and so on to ratify this. But I just urge you for your support on this.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

DR. NOGERA: Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: And did we listen to -- did Margaret Woodson make a presentation? (Inaudible response.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. I do have a note here from a Hillary Norosco [phonetic], who says that she is in support of the proposal but she does not necessarily want to speak. She is in support.

Is there anyone whom I've missed that is in support of the Eagle Rock proposal? Yes, would you -- whoever they are, I don't know. If your names are -- if I have missed them or there's confusing issues.

(Inaudible response.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: What is your name?

MR. BRAD: (Inaudible.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Go ahead. In support of?

MR. BRAD: (Inaudible.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Did you fill -- okay. Okay. Go ahead. We'll (inaudible).

MR. BRAD: My name is Cesar Brad. I live at 4549 Mount Eagle Place, which is the Sparklets Hill. I don't know if I'm for or against, but the proposal is I want to

stay in Eagle Rock. I've lived in my house for 33 years, 9 months. 33 years, 6 months I lived in Eagle Rock. The last 3 months I live between Highland Park and Cypress. I'm lost right now. It's really confusing.

Nobody in my block or the two blocks alongside me have ever been approached by anybody from Highland Park or Cypress to see if we want to change. I personally know most of the people there, talk to them. Everybody wants to stay in Eagle Rock.

And that's why you have a big attendance here is because you have the Sparklets Hill people here coming to speak up. Okay?

The personal problems that it's caused me, I've had since March 7th three official complaints at the post office in regard to problems. One, they -- and then they changed my post office, so it's on Figueroa Street. I've lived in this area for 50 years. I've been on Figueroa between 50 and 59 four times. To go to that post office, you have to pay to park, if you could find a park, or you park two blocks away and walk to the thing.

The second thing is the polling place. From where I live, I walk a block and a half to poll every -- and I've voted every election since I was eligible. Now I have to drive to Buchanan where, again, the same problem, can't find a place to park. I don't like to park there. You're going to take away my right to vote even.

And if you read the Los Angeles Times eight weeks ago, the property in Eagle Rock has increased the greatest amount. It has the greatest amount of value. Since January 1st I lost 20, 25,000 because I don't live in Eagle Rock anymore.

The next thing is that my neighbors got discounts of 10 percent from my home insurance. I didn't get one. I'm sure it's because, again, I don't live in Eagle Rock.

My next problem is my car insurance and other insurance. So I'm a senior citizen on a budget, and you're affecting me financially. You're affecting me in many different ways. And I would appreciate that since I've lived here all these years, I've contributed many charitable time to Eagle Rock Park in time and coaching. I've won a championship for Eagle Rock, beating 53,000 people in the state of California at bull down cancer. And I've done a lot of things for the city, including eating at one restaurant for 40 years, the Casa Bianca. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Is there anybody here who is for the proposal for Eagle Rock, for the proposal.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm for the proposal and I did fill out one of the speaker cards. I'm for the approval for a certified Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council. As the Chairman of the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council, I had an opportunity to discuss with Delilah Sotelo the issues on the boundaries and the plan itself. During our conversation, it was discussed that the areas adjacent to the two freeway, which are in Glassell Park being acquiesced over to Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council because of the outline implemented in the plan, as well as the area that is near Occidental College at Eagle Rock along Alumni be acquiesced over to Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council.

It was also discussed that Lincoln along the north of Glassell Park and the south of Eagle Rock be the dividing line. When we went and did our canvassing for that area, which is now called Sparklets Hill, we did actually canvass those areas. And during our hearing, you did see those specific areas for which we did canvass.

With regard to York Valley, York Valley's inception was June of 2001. We never heard from York Valley, much like whenever heard from Sparklets Hill. So the issue of Sparklets Hill being a part of the bounded area of Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council, the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council is in dispute of.

Other than that, we support the approval for certification of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: I have here -- okay. Your name?

MS. NORRIS: My name is Carline Norris [phonetic].

MS. CHAIRMAN: Oh, yes.

MS. NORRIS: I'm sorry you didn't get my form. I did fill one out coming in like a good girl. I reside at the corner of North Avenue 50 and Eaton, and have been quite interested in what neighborhood I would fall into in light of the fact that we know that we've always for years been questionable up there. But most people consider themselves, like myself, members of the Eagle Rock community, which is where I really basically reside, where I conduct my daily business, where I shop, et cetera.

You've heard all that tonight.

We were under the impression, due to the meetings that happened in November between the Highland Park Council and the Eagle Rock Council, that it had been decided between the two that we would be part of Eagle Rock. So nobody in the neighborhood,

my immediate neighborhood, that is, made any effort after that to do anything more about it. We were fine with it. Nobody contested with it. Everybody was happy with it until two days ago when we found out that Highland Park was contesting it. Meanwhile, in 48 hours we've managed to really go out there and quickly put together a petition which you will see we have covered just about every household there. We have a 90 percent approval with what we could come up with in 48 hours in a petition for the streets of Eaton and North Avenue 50. Overwhelmingly people said they would want to be part of the neighborhood Eagle Rock Council. It is the neighborhood for which they identify in and is the council in which they'd want to participate. So we would really hope that you would go with the will of the people. Thank you. Who do I give this petition to?

MS. CHAIRMAN: I didn't hear your question.

MS. NORRIS: Who do I give the petition to?

MS. CHAIRMAN: You can put it here. I'll give it to Tanita. Would you point out the specific area you're talking about?

MS. NORRIS: Over in here. I'm right up the hill from where you sit. That's specifically the point.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS. NORRIS: It's one of the gray areas that's now being contended.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS. NORRIS: (Inaudible) perfectly clear that (inaudible) right here (inaudible).

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you. And your name?

MS. RON: Hi. My name is Barbara Ron, and I've put in two speaker forms.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. You may have not -- you may be in here. But if you didn't put you were specifically for --

MS. RON: I did.

MS. CHAIRMAN: -- the proposal for --

MS. RON: I put in two and they're different.

MS. CHAIRMAN: -- Eagle Rock, you got put in another pile.

MS. RON: Okay.

MS. CHAIRMAN: So --

MS. RON: I live in the disputed area known as Sparklets Hill. I live at 4550 Mount Eagle. The zip code changes from 41 to 65 at my back fence. We bought 13 years ago in Eagle Rock. Notice that the street I live on is Mount Eagle. It's not Mount Glassell. It's not Mount Highland. It's not anything else. It's Mount Eagle. It's one of the few streets in Eagle Rock named with the word eagle in it.

Okay. TARA, the Eagle Rock Association, originally determined the boundaries of who would be part of Eagle Rock by canvassing something like 10,000 homes within the zip code of 90041 because that was their understanding that that was Eagle Rock. I joined in TARA in 1990, and I was a board member based upon the assumption that I lived in Eagle Rock.

Okay. My neighbors, who I have canvassed quite a bit within the last two to three weeks, also believe that they are living in Eagle Rock. And I did not speak, and I spoke to dozens of people, did not speak to one single person who had been canvassed or talked to by Glassell Park or Highland Park or new anything about York Valley.

Okay. I also attended the meeting on March 13th and it was my understanding and the understanding of several other people who were there that we were also to be part of Eagle Rock because we wanted to be part of Eagle Rock. And as you know, we have submitted dozens of signature on our petition.

I also would like to point out that until we decided to call ourselves the Sparklets Hill, that we were known as the orphan hill and worse as called by a person from a councilman's office. And we were not happy about this at all. That's when we decided to call ourselves Sparklets Hill.

I think that we, then, because we have been shoved off to the side like that, we have the right to decide where we want to be. We were not contacted, and we should be able to choose rather than having other people choose for us or to be a bargaining chip. Thank you very much.

MS. CHAIRMAN: I need to just make a statement here. If you put down here that you were for the proposal but it was for Glassell Park or something else, you would not be heard right now for Eagle Rock. But did you put down that you're for Eagle Rock, for the proposal?

MR. TANDY: Yes, I did.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. And you'll be the last one, then we'll start hearing another group. Okay. Thank you.

MR. TANDY: Okay. My name is Devon Tandy [phonetic], and I didn't know I was going

to be here tonight. I stopped by my mom's house to spend the night on my way back up to Big Bear. That's where I live. I have lived here for five years. My mom told me to come and hold this sign.

Now that I'm here, I feel like I should say something because I did live here for five years. I lived on Hill Drive with my mom. And I climbed the Eagle Rock, part of Eagle Rock Park. Walked my dog up and down Hill Drive and it's a very nice area, very good neighborhood. And if I were to live anywhere permanently, I'd want to live here probably. I like the community.

And my mom finally decided to stop renting and buy a house. Well, she decided to buy in Eagle Rock since she liked it so much. And when she was looking, she made a point to only look in Eagle Rock. And she found a house on Mount Eagle Place, which I guess is now Sparklets Hill of Eagle Rock.

And so I'm just here to represent. And when I write home, I write 4570 Mount Eagle Place in Eagle Rock. And it feels kind of good to write that because it's like they're the king and queen of Eagle Rock, you know, Mount Eagle Place and all. So I would like to keep it that. And I'm just here to represent the people of Mount Eagle Place and (inaudible). So I just want to let you know that.

MS. CHAIRMAN: I found your card here. It's under general comments, but I'll keep it as part of Eagle Rock. Thank you.

MR. TANDY: Okay. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I filled out a form, too.

MS. CHAIRMAN: All right.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And I'm in (inaudible) also.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Yes, I know. We've been here. If you did not fill it and put on that you were here for the proposal for Eagle Rock, you're in another pile.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: They filled it out for me.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Let me just state --

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I only want to make (inaudible).

MS. CHAIRMAN: Please let me just state, if you did not put Eagle Rock for the proposal and you put general comments or against the proposal for Glassell Park or the Arroyo Seco, we're not here to hear those issues. We're here to hear only those for and against the Eagle Rock proposal. And so if you put down something else on your card, I have put it into another pile. Either under general comments, which many of them area. I have a lot of general comments here. So yours is probably under that. So remember that as you come up, please state -- remember that this is for -- here we are here for Eagle Rock, for the application for Eagle Rock for and against, not for any other.

MR. AMISON: I am for the proposal. My name is Robin Amison [phonetic]. I live at 4627 Mount Eagle Place. And something that's a little important to me is I just want to point out that on the map Mount Eagle Place comes down and the gray area sort of -- kind of cuts that off. And I just want to make sure that it's very clear that we're included in the Eagle Rock Community Council because we're very passionate, as well as the rest of the hill.

And we're also concerned that we aren't part of an orphan contingent, as other people have called us. We are in Eagle Rock. But let me just point out on the map where we are. We're this little point down here.

(Inaudible discussion.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you. All right. Those are all the requests I have for the proposal for Eagle Rock. Now, remember, I have here that I say are for the proposal, but you have here either Glassell Park or Arroyo Seco or Highland or Mount Washington. We're not here for those issues. So I'm going to put those towards the bottom so that we can hear those who are here that say they are here against the proposal for Eagle Rock.

I have another one that says against Glassell Park. We're not here for Glassell Park.

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: No. We're here to hear right now the for and against Eagle Rock.

(Inaudible audience members.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Yes, we will have some other for the ones with the Glassell Park, the issues with Glassell park, but --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Tonight?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Tonight. But remember, we are not making a decision on Glassell Park. Tonight is the Eagle Rock.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Inaudible) for making a decision on that so that we know when

we should actually be here?

MS. CHAIRMAN: I don't know. We'll see. We'll see. There's nothing here that I have here against -- they're all -- these are all against Glassell Park or -- no, we're going to vote tonight on --

CITY ATTORNEY: Item three is not -- for clarification, City Attorney, item three is not for a determination. It's just for a report by Dunn. We heard that earlier. And we're going to complete, if there's time, from any of the public comment on item three.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Right. So that we don't continue to waste your time like we are -- like I am right now, could you give us an idea when we should be here (inaudible)? Because otherwise (inaudible) coming every meeting and we're going to waste time on this.

CITY ATTORNEY: If you want to make public comments about item three, you should do that tonight.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Inaudible.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: I don't have any here that say they are specifically against the Eagle Rock proposal. Do I have somebody -- you already spoke for.

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: You just spoke for.

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: All right. Did you fill out -- are your names here? Did you fill out --

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes, they are.

MS. CHAIRMAN: What are --

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: I understand. All right. As you come up -- I'm going to call names. As you come up, remember, we are here for the Eagle Rock application. Okay. Jaime Casillas [phonetic], Erica Lambert, and there's loose Timothy Walsh, Socoro Serrano [phonetic] against the Eagle Rock application. Delilah Sotelo.

(Inaudible discussion.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: This is against.

MS. SOTELO: It says Glassell Park.

MS. CHAIRMAN: No. It says ER --

(Inaudible discussion.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. That's fine.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Inaudible.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You know, what happened is that there were a lot of people here to speak at this early. Now at this late stage you tell us that a decision will not be made. That's patently unfair.

MS. CHAIRMAN: No. No, I didn't -- we did not say that a decision would not be made. We're making the decision. It was said earlier that we were not making the decision on the Glassell Park even though we were talking about it. The Eagle Rock we will make a decision.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah. But the Glassell Park people -- if the people that are against that proposal want to speak tonight, many of them have gone home. So you're essentially cutting down the opportunity to -- for people to speak on this.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Ma'am, I understand. But, you know, there have been many times which we've gone for hours and people have gone home. We're doing the best that we can. And if we can move along, that will be fine.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I think another opportunity needs to be given to people on this subject.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Is it Johnny Simpson? And Heidi Ramos or Romos.

MS. SOMERS: Hello. My name is Johnnie Somers [phonetic]. My home is in Highland Park. I truly understand when someone buys a home and their zip code tells them that they're in a certain area, and I understand that zip codes have changed. I can't fight residents because your heart is where your heart. My concern is the landmark. The landmark is Sparklets Water.

Highland Park's big problem, one of the big problems, is that probably more than any other area we've had to fight boundaries from all sides. And all these sides have had landmarks. A few years ago a developer came in and wanted to develop around the Eagle Rock. And people petitioned against it because it became an identity for Eagle Rock.

And that's what's happening with Highland Park. Many of our landmarks we are sharing. And if we have to compromise that way, so be it. But we hope not to lose

it. I'm here on behalf of Sparklets Water. Thank you.

MS. RAMOS: Good evening. At this point I don't know who I'm against, Eagle Rock. All I have to say is my name's Heidi Ramos. I am President of the York Valley Association. I am also a member of the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council. I am here today representing the York Valley Association in regard to this so-called orphan area that lies within our service area. We believe that Dunn's recommendation stating that the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council is too large and will therefore ignore the concerns of the disputed area is incorrect. Much of the leadership of the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council lies within the York Valley Association. Fifty percent of the interim board members of the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council are from the York Valley Association. Our involvement is critical to the development of the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council.

Also, in regard to Toland Way Elementary School which lies within the area, many Highland Park residents are serviced by this school. We believe even more so than Eagle Rock. Toland Way Elementary School is a great resource to York Valley, and we believe it should be kept within the boundaries of the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council. By splitting up York Valley, you make it harder for us to fulfill the needs of our residents. So far the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council is the only organization that has shown support for York Valley, and this organization we believe will best meet our needs. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Julia Arroyo. Edward Rivera, you have yours in here again to speak against, but a little while ago you spoke for. So -- and you're Juliet Arroyo?

MS. ARROYO: Yeah. Also, I don't know if I'm here to speak against Glassell Park or Eagle Rock. I thought it was Glassell Park. But I'm going to ignore that for now. Again, it was January 8th I was up here speaking to you, and the point I made was how can you make a decision when you have not even heard our application. At that point we hadn't submitted our application. We submitted our application January 28th. But you have not heard from us. We have not been able to present our application to you, our outreach, our rationale for the boundaries, et cetera, et cetera.

What I'm asking on behalf of the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council is that you don't make a decision on this tonight because you haven't heard from us. You need to hear from the people in Highland Park.

The second point I would like to make is I don't really appreciate all the bad mouthing about Highland Park that's been going on tonight that I've been hearing. I live in Highland Park and I love it. I think it's an excellent community. I lived in a zip code that had extremely high property values. I moved to Highland Park, which has lower property values. But I don't think property value should be a consideration.

So I'm just asking you to please first hear our application which is scheduled for May 28th before you make a decision on this.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thomas is it May or Matt?

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Oh, okay. Jan Thompson. Michael Christy [phonetic]. Irene Alanis [phonetic]. And Rick Alanis [phonetic]. Alanis. Thank you. And Lance Chapman.

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: We're speaking, okay, for Eagle Rock tonight.

MS. ALANIS: I'm not for Eagle Rock or Glassell Park. I'm here for Historical Highland Park Neighborhood Council. Let me track back. Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Irene Alanis. My husband and I have been a resident at 4763 Mendota Avenue in Highland Park for the past 30 years. I am a board member for Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council and Treasurer for York Valley Association.

The primary responsibility in our community with the support of our neighbors, my husband and I are working very closely with Los Angeles Police Department Neighborhood Watch Program for a safer community against crime. Let me share with you one of many incidents in our community.

Every weekend there are shootings in our community. Two weeks ago some person or persons fired five shots into the home across the street from our home. Would any other communities be aware of the needs within our neighborhood?

So, Commissioners, I say to you, outsiders cannot and will not identify with our needs in our community. For this reason alone, our mission will be more productive by standing together in Highland Park. United we stand. Thank you very much.

MR. ALANIS: Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Rick Alanis and I'm for Highland Park. I'm a Board member of Historical Highland Park. And I am also a member of York Valley Association. I live in the target area and I'm a stakeholder.

Over 30 years this area has been gerrymandered with a lack of representation. Now for the first time through the Neighborhood Council, York Valley Association has organized a committee, one community united. Not to be gerrymandered by outside communities overlapping our borders. We are not an orphan area. We are York Valley Association, an umbrella to Historical Highland Park Neighborhood Council. The principle of the neighborhood council was to establish representation for the people without voices, not for the representation of real estate interests. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Lance Chapman and Pat Griffith. Now, these people have not put down whether they are for or against or whatever, not even for general comment. So I will call those first that have put down that they are here for general comments related -- if they're related to this issue. But there are many here -- we will keep those probably under item seven.

(Inaudible discussion.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Adelina Thompson.

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Then Gene Regano, Ragno [phonetic]? I beg your pardon? They're all --

(Inaudible discussion.)

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Maybe we could just ask if there are anymore speakers.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Just a moment, please.

(Inaudible discussion.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Elliott Secular, who is here for two. Mount Washington. Walter Genie [phonetic]? You are here for -- you are here for Eagle Rock?

MR. GENIE: No. I am Walter Genie from Highland Park. I belong to York Valley, Highland Park. I just came over because I didn't know what was going to go on. I bring all the vote, the 500 votes from the orphan area, which you have it over there. So I just let you know, you know, wait for our decision before you do it.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you. These people have asked to speak on item two also. Marlene Schmidt. Barbara Aron. Oh, Marlene, are you here?

MS. SCHMIDT: I've been on the outreach committee for the Eagle Rock Council, so I am for it. And I've been a resident on Corliss Street at Avenue 46 for 30 years. Started Neighborhood Watch 12 years ago, which encompasses Corliss from campus to Eagle Rock Boulevard and Avenue 46 from Westdale to (inaudible). And we're anxious to get things going so we can address our residential neighborhood needs. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Is that Barbara Aron? Barbara Aron?

MS. SOTELO: Excuse me. Commissioners, we're willing on the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Formation Committee to go ahead, since it's ten o'clock, if you would -- you know, I don't know whether you want to consider the item, but you can consider it without the areas east of the college and with the areas with Sparklets Hill we, you know, we have a large residential population that cares about Sparklets Hill and east of the college. But, you know, in terms of getting on with the business of the neighborhood council, we think it's in the best interest to move forward on that. And not concede those areas by any means, but actually perhaps wait 'til Highland Park has an opportunity to present its case, or until such time that you talk about the Glassell Park report in more detail. So we're willing to --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Are you saying you're willing to put off the decision (inaudible)?

MS. SOTELO: I'm sorry? Not on the entire neighborhood council. No, no, no, no.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Just on the (inaudible).

MS. SOTELO: Just on those disputed areas.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Right. Fine. Thank you.

MS. SOTELO: Just for the interest of --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS. SOTELO: -- everyone's time.

MS. CHAIRMAN: I need to give these people, though, who have put down that they are interested in item two, as long it's Eagle Rock, a chance to speak. Barbara Aris [phonetic].

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Katherine Connor [phonetic].

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Caroline Norris.

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. John Tauber [phonetic]. Robert Amusar. I can't quite --

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Okay. John Morris. And Sandra Carl.

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Okay. And Carol Jockis [phonetic]. I'm not watching for (inaudible). Now, is there anyone here who wants -- who (inaudible) information, and then we need to close the public hearing.

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. As long as you're talking --

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. Okay. What is your name?

MS. WYATT: I'm Nancy Wyatt [phonetic]. I am a member of the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council. I have worked with the boundary committee and also with the outreach committee.

I would like to indicate some points to you that are of importance to us. I'm holding here a map of the Buchanan School District, and I want you to see what would happen to it if part of it were taken away. We are working through the school district boundaries because those boundaries are already set and we won't argue about them. And so this is the Buchanan map. And I want you to see how well-organized the neighborhood is. And we are working also through, as I say, Buchanan School.

I also -- I have a number of things, and there have been some inaccurate statements tonight. I can't even cover some of the things that have come up. But there's several things I would like to say.

During December we were told that we could take a couple of weeks off at Christmastime because we were all so busy and we couldn't get out and canvass and we were neglecting our families and so forth. And so we took those two weeks off thinking that everyone was going to do it. We were advised that and we did it. And then we came back and found that no one else took those two weeks off, and so we got behind on our petitioning.

Then also into January, at the January 8th meeting we were told that this orphan area, of which I don't like to use, but anyway, that that was going to be referred back to Dunn and quite possibly they would canvass the area. And that quite possibly our canvassing for signatures might be, I don't think the word of waste of time was used, but in essence that was said.

And so when it was referred back to Dunn for 45 business days, the 45th business day was March the 14th, and we thought at that time then that we would get some information that would help us to know where we stood and what needed to be done before today. Well, guess what? We didn't get that information until March 28th, last Thursday, and March 29th, on Friday. We got the Eagle Rock report and we got the Glassell Park report.

Some of our people went out and canvassed very quickly and got a number of petitions. I want to circulate these two items to you because they're important.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Is there anyone else here to speak for or against the Eagle Rock application as (inaudible)?

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. DUFFY: I'm not used to speaking in public. I'm kind of shy.

MS. CHAIRMAN: And what is your name?

MS. DUFFY: We've been here all --

MS. CHAIRMAN: What is your name, please?

MS. DUFFY: Oh, my name? I'm a little old lady from Eagle Rock.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Is that your name?

MS. DUFFY: Eleanor Duffy [phonetic].

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. DUFFY: I've lived here 56 years. My husband was born here. I'm 81 years old. I've been all over this area. I'm not political. I lie. I really do. I don't belong to any organizations. I'm a Republican. Well, everybody's been bitching around here.

You might as well know Eagle Rock is here. It's been here. We're going to be here. Who wants to join us? That's their concern. But we're not leaving. And we're not splitting. You know what I mean? We're not splitting. Thank you. Put your hands up. Who wants (inaudible)?

MS. CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you.

MS. DUFFY: You're in the wrong department. Anyways, I just hope we kind of lift up a little bit. We appreciate you staying here so late. I know you were ready to go home at nine o'clock. How can you think under this pressure? You can't think. So I'm going home. I don't know about anybody else.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MS. DUFFY: Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: That will end the public hearing, then. I'm going to ask for a break for a few moments. About three minutes only. Three minutes. And then we will hear the Commissioner deliberation. Thank you.

(Recess taken.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: We've come to now the time in the meeting where the Commissioners will begin their deliberation on the Eagle Rock application and whatever decisions that the Commission will make regarding it. So I would like to start with whoever would like to start with some opening deliberation, or we can go in order, whichever the Commission chooses.

MR. NELSON: Madam President?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. NELSON: Do you want me to do that little clarification?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Oh, I do.

MR. NELSON: Okay.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. NELSON: Greg Nelson, General Manager. I know that there is some confusion. I've heard it in the public comments. And with the City Attorney watching over my shoulder, I'm going to take a shot at clarifying what we're about to do here. The issue before the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners is the application from the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council. By law, this Board is going to have to make a decision on that application tonight unless the applicant would agree to delay it for some reason. But the Board will have to make a decision.

As part of that decision, they do have the ability to make decisions where overlapping boundaries occur. So they can't amend the bylaws or amend the application. They'll vote yes or no on that, and then discuss how to deal with the overlapping boundaries.

MS. SOTELO: And we would prefer not to be held over for certification. And the only amendment I would make to my previous statement is that we include --

MS. CHAIRMAN: That's fine. Yes, we understand that.

MS. SOTELO: Yeah. That we include Eaton and Avenue 50, you know, as part of the boundaries that you received testimony today for and signatures.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MS. SOTELO: And Sparklets Hill.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Okay. Commissioner Membreno?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. There was -- obviously, this is probably -- we're still pretty early. Usually we end about one o'clock in the morning, so just to let you know. You know, I just got coffee and got cookies, so, you know, I'm looking forward to another couple of hours of this.

But I want people to understand that for us this is never a very easy decision when we need to make a decision about boundaries, when we need to make a decision about how we will certify or not certify a neighborhood council. It is tough because some of us, you know, myself included here, are from this -- the northeast. I am part of the northeast. So it's very tough for me to see that the northeast hasn't come together as the northeast to really represent the folks in the northeast. And I'm talking, you know, all of the groups. All of the groups that are represented here. All of the groups that still need to be represented.

Yes, you know, I have an issue of representation of large numbers of folks in the different neighborhood councils, and that's one of the things that we need as a Commission to put on the agenda for discussion and to set some policies. Because we know that traditionally folks have been represented by the same people all the time.

And this is the one great opportunity to have folks come out and really come out and speak on behalf of their community, on behalf of their area, on behalf of what their needs are.

And the toughest part is to know that we're neighbors. I mean we can cross from -- you know, we'll cross York Boulevard and be in somebody else's area. And that's the tough part because we need to look at each other as being part of one greater piece of community than just the exclusiveness that we're looking at neighborhood councils. The whole purpose is to make them small enough and compact enough so that

those needs are really represented.

With that in mind, we need to begin the discussion as to how do we go and approve or not approve the certification of Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council. And there have been some issues. Obviously, the boundary issue is one of the biggest issues.

I would like to see some combination of the recommendations coming from the field for us to take a look at. Tonight we need to make a recommendation. It needs all of us, all of the Board members, to vote unanimously on the recommendation. If we don't vote unanimously on this, Eagle Rock will not get certified. So we need to make sure that we talk about what is really the aspects of this application that are going to improve this community, what are some of the issues in terms of boundaries that would make it not move along. So we need to have that discussion.

I strongly feel that the staff made very good recommendations. Some of the recommendations that are made are on the pieces of -- on the boundaries. So I wanted to start kind of that discussion first and then move on on any of the other issues.

I know that we've asked already on the outreach, and Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council has committed to doing more outreach and doing outreach to those groups that we named and that we talked about in the previous discussion. So right now I think the boundary issue we need to discuss and we need to figure out where we go in terms of the boundaries presented by the applicant and the recommendations by the field staff.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I'd like to start off by commending the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council group for the work that you've done. You've done a lot of work and a lot of -- I've been impressed by the energy that you've created with new people getting involved, which is something that I really hope the neighborhood councils will do. That's what we want to see them do is to empower people who've never felt that they had any power before.

And you've demonstrated that people really have gotten involved with you through your efforts in the short period of time that you've been working, and I think that's commendable.

I like the size of 31,000 because I, again, think that it's a way to really empower people because you can make an effort to outreach.

And I am very impressed and I like the format of the election of representatives from areas. Because in my opinion also it helps to make sure that you have a diversified council that represents the people that live in your neighborhood. And I think that's -- I really like that part.

Outreach, just as Commissioner Membreno has said, really needs to be continued and strengthened in certain area. And it's admirable that you put a youth person -- a youth member on your board of directors. And I hope that you will continue to reach out to youth and empower them. We'll need to find a way to get a vote, because I don't think you're powerful if you don't have a vote. That's something we'll have to continue to work on is to see how we can give our youth a vote. And so those things I think are really good.

In listening to the debate over the bound areas, I understand neighborhoods are attached to certain landmarks and certain historical things in communities. And without Highland Park having access to the University, in my opinion, they have no connection to the bound areas, that particular shared bound area that they would be sharing. That entity that they would share. Without having access through those -- that little section that the Department has recommended.

And I understand Highland Park's interest in wanting to maintain a connection to historical institutions in the community. And I understand Eagle Rock's interest also. And your interest in wanting to share some of those areas, the York Boulevard area and I think is good. That's good. I would agree with that.

I am concerned about the rent spaces on our map that was going to go to Glassell Park. I have some concerns because so many people here tonight have said that they wanted to be a part of another area. So that does raise some flags for me, and would probably welcome some discussion from the Commissioners.

But I would certainly -- knowing how neighborhoods want to be tied to historical institutions, and knowing that our rules would not allow Highland Park to have any connection with the college unless they find a way to have a bound area there somewhere, I could support the Department's recommendation for the Rangeview, Avenue 51, whatever that little area is over there. And I'll save my comments and let somebody else talk.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Stone?

COMMISSIONER STONE: I too want to commend the applicants. You put together a very

solid application, great presentation. Doesn't sound like there's any opposition in about 95 percent, 99 percent of your application. So that should tell you something. And I you can hear -- we do have to be unanimous tonight, so we need to craft a solution that everyone is comfortable with. But I think you hear that everyone wants to move forward and certify at least a portion of what's in front of us tonight.

Back to what I said earlier, that we do -- even though it's about people not boundaries, we have to decide the boundary issues. I'm just going to go through my laundry list for everyone to hear kind of where I'm thinking on these various issues. Because we do have to be unanimous. We have to read each other's minds. Occidental College, which is an area that's marked off on our maps, I feel pretty comfortable, given the testimony that we've heard, that that should be included in the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council. That when the Highland Park application comes before us, that would be the appropriate time to consider sharing that part, assuming the Eagle Rock applicant agrees to that. And I thought we heard some testimony tonight that make it sound like they would. That's the easy one. The streets east of Occidental, the four or five blocks that we have in kind of gray bricks here, I think that based on the testimony that we heard that there's probably enough of a dispute, at least in my mind, enough of a dispute to warrant carving out that area pending our hearing Historic Highland Park's application. And it would be -- I don't think we have to rush to that area.

Commissioner Woods Gray brings up good points about making sure we have -- if there is going to be shared access to Occidental, that there does need to be a way to get into it. You can't just jump over that area. But I don't -- I think there's enough reason in my mind, at least, to consider putting that part off.

Skipping over on my list Sparklets Hill, there were some other areas of public testimony that were brought up in the ridgeline area, places that are outside of the boundaries that are before us. That there was testimony that the folks wanted to be included inside Eagle Rock.

And I don't feel comfortable with what's in front of us today as a Commission, even though we have a say on boundaries, going street by street, especially in the Hillside area which gets a little tricky. My view on that is that when we do hear Highland Park, which I'm hoping it's not too far down the road, that staff can provide us with a little bit more guidance on all of these streets.

And as I said, I'm prepared to make decisions on carving out areas that look pretty clear. But those areas, when you start getting block by block, I don't think we're in the best position to make a decision, unless we hear some more from the other applicants and from staff.

Then on Sparklets Hill, I think based on the testimony that we heard from the residents, there sounds to be strong affinity towards Eagle Rock, an interest in being in the Eagle Rock group.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Would you restate that? I'm sorry, I was distracted.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Oh, no. I said based on the testimony that I heard tonight, it sounded like there was quite a bit of interest of residents in that affected area that want to be part of Eagle Rock.

There was some concern by the Highland Park applicant, and I guess that's the place where I'm waivering right now. I think at least we need to walk through whether, given that Highland Park will be before us in the not too distant future, whether it makes sense to withhold judgment on that area, too, until we get a more thorough presentation.

I thought that someone from Highland Park made a good point that they believed there was a period that no one was going to be doing outreach. And I don't think we want to rush into anything other than rushing into making sure that we certify some part of this application tonight. The vast majority of this application tonight.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Does anyone have (inaudible)? I would like to make -- I'm sorry -- a clarification which I did ask the City Attorney about to make sure that we're doing -- we cannot make decisions tonight concerning Highland Park. We're here for Eagle Rock again. So whatever boundaries we decide tonight are for the Eagle Rock application. That doesn't mean when Highland Park comes back that there won't be consideration of shared boundaries and this sort of thing. But we cannot make shared boundaries with Highland Park at this time because Highland Park is not here and their application is not here. So we are talking simply tonight about Highland Park and -- Eagle Rock, and this is what Commissioner Stone is attempting to carve out, and indeed Commissioner Membreno and Commissioner Woods Gray.

CITY ATTORNEY: So just for clarification, then, Commissioner Stone, your

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recommendation pretty much then is the same as the staff report's recommendation?

COMMISSIONER STONE: I believe so, but you tell me if that's exactly --

CITY ATTORNEY: I think I confirmed that with staff. You were basically excluding the Sparklets Hill and the HHP overlap area, and all the other -- and the other boundaries would be as the applicant submitted?

COMMISSIONER STONE: That's right. That's how I described it. I'm not proposing anything yet.

CITY ATTORNEY: No, I understand.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Yes, that's correct.

CITY ATTORNEY: That's your tentative view.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: If you were looking at that map, it would be the red area, the green box.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Can we get staff to show us the map?

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Looking at this map, the staff recommended the green box would be with Highland Park, and the red space would go to Glassell Park. So at that point the recommendation wouldn't be --

CITY ATTORNEY: One point of clarification. The decisions don't indicate which disputed areas go to whom.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Okay.

CITY ATTORNEY: What any recommendation would just be eliminating those disputed areas with respect with Eagle Rock.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Okay.

CITY ATTORNEY: We just want to make sure we have the right terminology.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Okay. So the red area would be eliminated from Eagle Rock, and the green box square on the side there would also be eliminated?

CITY ATTORNEY: I think that was Commissioner Stone's suggestion. I was just trying to verify whether that was consistent with the staff's recommendation. Romero, could you just let us know that?

MS. MALVO: If you'll refer to this map, this map here, I think you can see that what the staff was recommending, the overlap with HHP, which is this gray area in here. This is what we were calling the east of the campus, and that was recommended not to be included in the boundaries. And then this area down here was the Sparklets Hill discussion, and we were also recommending that that not be included in the boundaries. So I believe, Commissioner Stone, that we are parallel in your recommendation.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Just one point of clarification, and it may go to what Commissioner Woods Gray was picking up on, too. Is what we had in a field report, and it was referenced in public comment, a staff recommendation that Sparklets Hill be part of Glassell Park. And that would not be -- as we've said, we're not making a decision on --

MS. MALVO: Correct.

COMMISSIONER STONE: -- (inaudible) Glassell Park tonight. But given -- just to further flesh out my intention, what I've heard tonight was strong community support for including that area within Eagle Rock. Notwithstanding that, there may be reason to delay that pending hearing some other applications. That could be a source of the confusion on being consistent with the staff recommendation.

MS. MALVO: Okay.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Well, two comments come to mind. The first, back in January the 8th, we made the recommendations to exclude some of the areas and part of those areas were, again, in this red part. So just having all the folks from this area come out and speak on behalf of their area being included in the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council says a lot to us because back then we took out those areas because there was self-identification strong enough for us to make that decision. The other concern that I have is that I heard from a couple of folks is that the morale issue can be greater if we don't begin to have a dialog with these folks in this area. Because, once again, they're going to be excluded from belonging somewhere. And we have heard, obviously, tonight that a lot of the folks want to belong to Eagle Rock.

Having said that, I think the recommendations coming from the field staff to keep those two areas out until, one, the Highland Park comes before us, and second, until we bring back the issue of Glassell Park, I think I can go along with that and move to make the recommendation to go with it and put council -- Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council boundaries excluding those two areas that staff has recommended to keep out of the discussion tonight.

I'm not sure whether we're talking about including the entire York Boulevard piece,

both sides of the street or just one side. So, Romero, if you can --

(End of tape two, side B; continuing
on tape three, side A.)

MS. MALVO: And this instance we have some commercial properties and we also have some residential properties.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Right.

MS. MALVO: And residential properties are not part of the things that are currently in the plan that can be shared. So there was an option left in the field report that basically said the northern part would go -- could be assigned to Eagle Rock, and the southern part could be assigned to Highland Park.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. Well, I think I would like to move to see the north part be part of Eagle Rock, but not say that the south part be part of Highland Park other than to say that it will be excluded from this application. Okay.

MS. CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible.)

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: That was a motion.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I'll second it.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: I think it was a motion.

MS. CHAIRMAN: And so you -- okay. Do we have a motion to do -- just consider each boundary separately, or are we going to do what Commissioner Stone was doing to consider take all of them as one? Are there issues about any of the other parts of the application? We haven't -- we've talked about boundaries. Everything else is agreed upon in terms -- so we're talking -- speaking now about boundaries. So I think we'll --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: I think we had those issues of outreach and bylaws. I think they spoke on those issues.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Yeah, that's fine.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: And have committed to make those changes or improve in those areas. So --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Now, is it your choice to make a motion on each issue of the boundaries separately, or do we include them as one motion each one? Which is your --

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: It would be one because it's just the Eagle Rock.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Right.

MS. CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, I didn't hear you.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I think it would be just one motion because it's only about Eagle Rock.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Then we need to hear a motion from somebody concerning all of the issues related to the boundaries, not just the (inaudible).

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: I thought that was --

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Well, maybe you need to restate it.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: May I need to restate it. Okay.

MS. CHAIRMAN: All right. Would you make it again so it's real clear?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. See, I drank the coffee, so --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. The motion is that we move to approve Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council with the recommendation to exclude the Rangeview/Avenue 51 area. I don't know what the other two are.

MS. CHAIRMAN: South to Eaton and Avenue 49 and 51.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Correct. Corringa, Almaden and Rangeview and Avenue 50, correct? Okay. And also to exclude the south part of York Boulevard out of the application. From this application. Does that work?

(Inaudible from the audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: And where is -- please don't interrupt. And Sparklets Hill?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: No. We're going to exclude that area from this application until we bring that forward.

CITY ATTORNEY: You're including -- excluding Sparklets Hill as well?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Correct.

CITY ATTORNEY: Okay. I just wanted to make that clear.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: The south part.

CITY ATTORNEY: And otherwise adopting the findings of the staff report?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Correct. Adopting the findings, right.

MS. CHAIRMAN: So does everyone understand, then, the motion in terms of the boundaries?

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Just a question. Did the staff report include the south

side of York Boulevard? York Avenue. Boulevard it is.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: That excludes Sparklets as a share, correct? Did you have Sparklets Water as a share business on your recommendation, Romero?

MS. MALVO: No, we did not because it's my understanding businesses aren't shared.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: I'm sorry, because why?

MS. MALVO: That businesses are not shared. It's not a public use, and so when we talk overlapping boundaries, the overlapping boundaries are limited to historical or public use. And it being a private concern, I do not believe that the plan allows for that to be shared or overlapped.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

MR. NELSON: Except --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Except?

MR. NELSON: Greg Nelson, General Manager. Except if you define a major thoroughfare as including properties that front on it.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Right. And I think that was a discussion that staff did not have a clear definition of what a thoroughfare was.

MR. NELSON: Because it's a policy decision. The Board still has to make it.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: It's a policy decision. Okay.

COMMISSIONER STONE: And it's also not something that we can -- we keep talking about shared boundaries, but we can only deal with Eagle Rock tonight. We can't talk about that --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Right.

COMMISSIONER STONE: That would come up if and when another application comes up that wants to share a boundary that we certify. So -- but I think what you were getting at, Tammy, was what the staff was recommending.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Right.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Where -- how far down does our boundary go on this --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Right.

COMMISSIONER STONE: -- that we're approving.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Right. And I think one of the recommendations was to go -- to take north of York and leave south excluded from the application. Is that correct? Did I get that right, Romero? Okay.

CITY ATTORNEY: Just for clarification. I'm sorry. The question was asked of staff whether the staff report included the south side of York as part of its original recommendation. And is that correct? It did or did not?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Did not.

CITY ATTORNEY: Did not. Okay. Is that correct? All right. So then you would adopt the staff report and its findings with the exception of that recommendation that they made.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Correct.

CITY ATTORNEY: That's the clarification you want is that you rephrase their motion, correct?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Again?

CITY ATTORNEY: No. You've clarified it all.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

CITY ATTORNEY: All right? Now you need a second.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Do we have that clear?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Just one point of information only very quickly.

MS. SOTELO: When would the matters be considered for Sparklets Hill and east of the college?

MS. CHAIRMAN: I'd have to -- go ahead.

MR. NELSON: That would then occur when the Arroyo Seco application is before us, which has a tentative date of May 28th.

MS. SOTELO: May 28th?

MR. NELSON: But not confirmed yet.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Not the Arroyo Seco. The Highland Park.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Highland Park.

MR. NELSON: Well, they're both -- Arroyo Seco --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Oh, okay.

MR. NELSON: -- and Historic Highland Park are tentatively scheduled for the same day, May 28th.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

MS. SOTELO: So the residents would -- of those two areas would have to wait, or their testimony today would speak for their, you know, desire to be part of Eagle Rock? Or would they have to -- I mean because we got a lot of testimony today, and

you have tons of signatures from residents.

CITY ATTORNEY: What the process would be is that those issues would come up at the Arroyo Seco and Historic Highland Park hearings. The Board would then make a determination whether those hearings would go to either Arroyo Seco or Highland Park. If a decision was made that those areas didn't go to any of those groups, then the Commission could decide to incorporate them in one or all -- one of the other neighborhood councils, or an applicant -- a certified neighborhood council could make a request to incorporate. There are procedures under the plan. I would suggest you just kind of take a look and see what happens.

MS. CHAIRMAN: So we still (inaudible).

MS. SOTELO: And just one other point of clarification. Is there anything that the Formation Committee needs to do between now and the May 28 hearing to make sure that our residents' voices are heard and their petitions are acknowledged?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Could you talk to the staff about that? I'm sure they'll be --

MS. SOTELO: Sure. We were just looking for guidance --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Right.

MS. SOTELO: -- in terms of --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Right.

MS. SOTELO: -- do we need to do more canvassing or anything else.

MS. CHAIRMAN: No, we understand. And the staff will help you with that.

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Just one point.

CITY ATTORNEY: Have we even had a second yet?

MS. CHAIRMAN: No, we haven't.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: We have a second. I second.

MS. CHAIRMAN: You second? Okay. Is this a point of information, a point of clarification or what? I don't want -- there's no discussion and we're not opening any discussion.

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. That's opening the discussion again.

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Maybe we can discuss with you after (inaudible), but that will be opening the discussion again and so I can't open that. I'm sorry. It's been closed for public discussion.

Okay. We have a motion and we have a second. And I think that the people from Eagle Rock understand what their role would be coming back with it in May, or whenever this is scheduled.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Just in discussion on that, Greg, a question for you. The Department is doing a lot of work or is looking at doing election assistance for neighborhood councils, canvassing. Is there something that the Department can do to work with the applicant here, the other applicants in the northeast area that will be before us hopefully on May 28th to try to have that May 28th hearing be an all-encompassing hearing? That we make sure that everyone has a chance to be heard, that things are handled fairly, that somebody has been able to go street by street in the areas that I have some concerns about in the Hillside area. I'm just asking how can the Department help make sure that we have final resolution when we consider this.

MR. NELSON: You know, on that one I will defer to my field staff, if they want to give any thoughts right now on how they want to handle that.

MS. MALVO: I'm not sure I'm understanding the question. Is the question that on the 28th we attempt to respond to the full range of the neighborhood council issues, the Glassell Park issue, the Highland Park issue, all of them all at once? Is that -- so that we schedule them so that we're able to deal with all of them, is that what we're being requested?

COMMISSIONER STONE: That's part of what's being requested. And the other part is in the days and weeks leading up to that making sure that there aren't any surprises or as few surprises as possible. That staff works with all of the applicants. And I acknowledge that you already are doing that. But just that that work continues with a goal towards having everything resolved on that day.

MS. MALVO: Staff can continue to do that. I think what we're not in a position to do is independent canvassing. We're not in a position to do that given some of the elections and the other things that you mentioned. We are in a position to take the information that is presented to us by the neighborhood councils and try to present them, map them so that there's clarity as to what the stakeholder positions are.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you. Does that answer (inaudible)?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: And I think it's a little difficult to expect, you know, staff, being that we're on a weekly basis doing this, to get out there and canvass. However, I think the Department can do a lot more to work with these groups and bring them back to the table to see how some of this dialog can continue and where we're going with that.

In the future, I think we will see more and more of this overlap in boundaries issues that will need to go back to the groups, and we will need the Department to be the guiding light and a beacon for some of these folks to make sure that they understand where we can go from making a decision as a Board.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. We have a motion, and it's been seconded. And we've had Commissioner comment. Is there any more Commissioner comment?

(No audible response.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Then can we have a vote? Commissioner Stone?

COMMISSIONER STONE: Yes.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Woods Gray?

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Yes.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Membreno?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Yes.

MS. CHAIRMAN: And I vote yes. Do we have a number? What number is this (inaudible)? What number?

CITY ATTORNEY: Twenty-one.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Twenty-one.

MR. NELSON: Twenty-one.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Congratulations.

MR. NELSON: Black jack.

MS. CHAIRMAN: And we'll be seeing you again. All right.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Madam Chair, I have a question. Now that we've -- okay. Neighborhood councils that have already been certified may be moving ahead with elections. Now, what happens if they have an election before an area is either attached to them or --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Can we --

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: -- taken away or something?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. Can we talk about that perhaps under Commissioner comment?

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Okay.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Maybe we can get some input from Mr. Nelson.

All right. We will take up item three again, which is the report on the areas excluded from Glassell Park Neighborhood Council. I'm not sure exactly what we are expected to do with this one.

CITY ATTORNEY: Just finish public comment.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. And that's it?

CITY ATTORNEY: We've already taken the report. Just say that you're going to finish up public comment on that item.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Item number three.

CITY ATTORNEY: (Inaudible.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: We're going to finish now the comment -- would those of you who are from Eagle Rock please have your discussion outside or whatever, because we do need to continue with the Agenda. And it's difficult to discuss this with all the talk.

So we will continue with the public input in relation to Glassell Park. I will call your names three at a time, and please come up so that we can come along. Juliet Arroyo. Is Juliet Arroyo here? Heidi Ramos. Heidi Ramos.

(Inaudible from audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you. Joyce Kabers has already spoken. Erica Lambert? Has she spoken? Okay. I have one here that just says Luce. It doesn't have a last name. Luce, did you want to speak? Please come up.

LUCE: I already spoke.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

LUCE: I can speak on Glassell Park also.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Did you speak on Glassell Park?

LUCE: I spoke on Eagle Rock.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Well, then you have one here also for Glassell Park.

LUCE: Okay. On the conclusion on the staff report --

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Use the mic, please.

LUCE: On the conclusion in the staff report on the Glassell Park report, it makes a couple of statements that I think are misleading. And also, one of the problems I

have is there's no attachments. They refer to a lot of attachments. It says that the Northeast Community Plan and the original Glassell Park Specific Plan identified Toland as a boundary, and that's a false statement. There's some other misleading statements in there.

And I would like to see the attachments before I can comment on this because I wasn't given the attachments, the documents.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Romero?

(Inaudible discussion.)

MS. MALVO: I believe they were faxed, but there may have been miscommunication since she didn't get the fax. But we have the book and the book has all of the attachments in it. And I believe it's on -- Tanita? We have a large book with all attachments in it, so you may see that tonight.

LUCE: Yeah. I was just told that they were faxed to me at 2:00 today, and I didn't check my fax at 2:00. So -- but I would like to see some of the supporting materials that back up the conclusions.

MS. CHAIRMAN: I think there are some in the back. And then where is the book? You can take a look at the book that's here.

LUCE: Yeah. I mean I can look at them later.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

LUCE: I don't need to look at them now.

MS. CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you. Timothy Walsh? Edward Rivera again wants to speak on Glassell Park?

MR. RIVERA: I want to just state briefly for the record that in Glassell Park's application there exists a letter to our Vice President Juliet Arroyo regarding the boundary dispute, but it was never received. She had now knowledge of that letter until today. So for the record, in the Glassell Park application, when you consider it, please consider in their outreach discussion that we were completely unaware of that communication. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thomas May [phonetic].

MR. MAY: Yes. My question to you is, if you're not making a decision tonight on the disputed boundary area, I suggest that you postpone this hearing as it's five minutes after 11:00 and probably 60, 70 percent of the people from disputed areas decided to go home, just got fed up. So I suggest you listen to our comments at a later date. Preferably not on the 28th when you're trying to decide on two certifications because you saw what happened here tonight. So I move that you dispense with this right now and we'll carry it on at a later date.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We will continue to hear who's here, and then we will talk about what will happen later.

Is there a John Thompson who also wants to speak on Glassell Park? Is it Jim or John? Jim.

MR. THOMPSON: Jim, yes.

MS. CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you.

MR. THOMPSON: First of all, if you're not going to make a decision tonight, could I ask you one question, please? I hope I'm not out of order. But when will you make a decision on the Nob Hill/Five Points area if not tonight?

MS. CHAIRMAN: I leave that -- Greg, when will this --

MR. NELSON: That will then be a decision that the Board will have to make when you want to put this on the Agenda for a determination.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Inaudible.)

MR. NELSON: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm thinking of two different things. I'm sorry. Well, the tentative date of May 28th. As soon as we confirm that, we'll let everybody know.

MR. THOMPSON: Will there be another hearing at that time or --

CITY ATTORNEY: Let me just clarify. Glassell Park -- Gwen Poindexter, City Attorney. Glassell Park has already been certified without the disputed area.

MR. THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

CITY ATTORNEY: It's relevant now with respect to Arroyo Seco and Historic Highland Park because they're both claiming that area as well. It's not going to be given to Glassell Park at this point because they're already certified. The only way Glassell Park can get this area is if they file a petition. And if it's not already -- and if it's not going to be given to either Arroyo Park or Historic Highland Park when their boundaries are determined at the May 28th hearing. So, in other words --

MR. THOMPSON: So, in other words, we will remain in limbo until those other areas are certified so that you have someplace to put us --

CITY ATTORNEY: That's correct.

MR. THOMPSON: -- is what you're saying?

CITY ATTORNEY: that's pretty much it.

MR. THOMPSON: Otherwise we -- you can't put us in an area that doesn't exist is what you're saying.

(Inaudible from the audience.)

CITY ATTORNEY: No, can't be on your own.

MR. THOMPSON: I think a lot of people up there would like to. Let me just make a couple of brief comments.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Sure.

MR. THOMPSON: And, once again, first I want to thank you very much for spending so much time. I don't know if you get a salary for this, but whatever it is, it's not enough because --

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: No.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Zero dollars.

MR. THOMPSON: -- if you're here this late tonight and you do this on a regular basis, you really deserve a round of applause and certainly you have -- well, from everybody, I think.

(Applause.)

MR. THOMPSON: You've heard a lot of innuendoes and half truths tonight, I think, about the Five Points area and how we feel. I don't understand a lot of that because it should be simple. The people who live in this area, we know where we live. We live in Mount Washington. We've always lived in Mount Washington. We're a very small area. And why there's so much rancor over this little tiny piece is -- it's puzzling to me. I just don't understand it.

The residents of the area have spoken. And I'm very, very proud of that. We did do an outreach. I know there was some comments about how we did that outreach. I can tell you from my point of view and I can tell you truthfully that this was conducted strictly aboveboard. We talked to the residents. We got feedback from the residents. There was never at any time did we ever malign from Glassell Park or anywhere else. They are our neighbors. We expect them to be our neighbors. We want to work with them.

But the results were clear. And I know you've heard the numbers, but here's the physical evidence. These are the people that voted to be a part of Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council. All of these. We did get some from Glassell Park. This is their stack. They got nine. We got almost six hundred people. And this was an outreach that was conducted aboveboard. We simply went house to house.

We don't have any community areas there. We had knock door to door. We took our time. We did this on weekends and at nights. But the people there responded. So I think that should be the evidence and the only evidence that is needed in this case. I also want to make two other quick comments, or one of them really. First I want to thank Elizabeth Macias and Dunn. They did a terrific job. We told them earlier that we would have a few more petitions. I don't think they were quite prepared for this many. But nonetheless -- and it meant a lot more work for them. But they spent the time. I want to thank them for doing that. And I want to thank them for recommending to you that we be certified as part of the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council.

Finally, once again, I want to thank you for the time you've given me and everyone else here. You've done a terrific job. And it shows that the voice of the people can be heard and that this can be a democratic process. And really, that's to your credit because you've allowed this voice. And that's really all we've ever asked for is for our voice to be heard. And I think we've done that tonight. Once again, thanks very much.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, I believe the following who I have names here have already spoken. Irene Alanis and Rick Alanis, Lance Chapman and Pat Griffith. Adelina Thompson, Lance Thompson.

(Inaudible from audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Oh, Lance? Alanis has spoken. Thank you.

(Inaudible from audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. All right.

(Inaudible from audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: No, that's fine. Thank you. Thanks.

MS. GRIFFITH: I'm Pat Griffith and I'm the Steering Committee for the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council, and I'm also a Director of the Mount Washington Association. And I also live in another area of Mount Washington, not the area that's contested. I just wanted to assure you that when you hear our application you'll hear that

Arroyo Seco is a -- we've joined six communities that are each fairly unique and have their own identities, and each of those communities is joining the Arroyo Seco process very enthusiastically.

Mount Washington has its own identity and it's a very tight community, and therefore you're hearing some of the anguish that people are actually feeling about this matter.

The Association has long been involved in this area. A project we're doing now is the Alancha Onionta [phonetic] stairway.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Please. May we have some quiet in the back, please? Thank you.

MS. GRIFFITH: And that's a neighborhood beautification and it's also to help abate graffiti which is in the area -- I'm not sure if you can see -- but it's further to the northwest of the area that's in contention. That project began about 10 years ago and we're doing a renewal. We've got neighborhood matching funds for it. It's been a long project. It was brought to us because our members asked us to do it, and the Association has long been involved.

And then the other point is that one of the reasons the community is so tight and knows each other so well and is so active is because of the school. We believe that the school is one of our gems and children from the contested area do that attend that school, so therefore the parents know each other very well. It's definitely a part of the Mount Washington community and please do not split it off. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Albert Wynne also wanted to speak on Glassell Park.

MR. WYNNE: Good evening. My name is Albert Wynne. I live in the Five Points area of Mount Washington. Actually, Pat Griffith said just about everything I wanted to say.

I live in the area and I have several dogs which I walk in the area, so I see -- come in contact with a lot of my neighbors. All of us believe that we live in the Mount Washington area. We were quite shocked to find out that we were even going to be considered to be part of Glassell Park. Very few people, if any, experience any kind of outreach from Glassell Park.

But the issue that I was going to bring up which Pat also already spoke about was the staircase that connects Onionta Drive to Alancha. It's actually a public thoroughfare. Residents in our area, we turn to Mount Washington Association for help in cleaning up that area. It's from whom we also get help. That is where we have our identity in terms of our neighborhood. And I want to encourage you to pay attention to the numbers and to the desires of our community. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Okay. Let's -- Nancy Wyatt wanted to be heard on Glassell park. Cesar Brata [phonetic]. Marshall Montgomery.

MR. MONTGOMERY: Right here. Hello. My name is Marshall Montgomery. I remember in April '95 when I bought my house on El Paso Drive, just right next to Onionta, it was listed as being in Mount Washington. And I can recall just last month when I went to the Department of Building and Safety and also to Public Works, I was advised and shown on paper that my home is in Mount Washington.

I've lived in the Mount Washington area for 11 years. I'm also a member of the Mount Washington Association. I just can't believe that, you know, we're going to be ousted of our area, an area whom I have told people for the past 11 years which I'm very proud to live in. That's going to be changed to Glassell Park. That wasn't part of the deal me coming into the community.

The appeal of living in Mount Washington and the people that live there and how beautiful the community is is what makes me proud to be there. And, you know, I just ask you to, you know, please hear what we are saying.

We're a small bunch. I know we showed you all those petitions that we signed. I know I was approached by Mr. Thompson in a very nice way just letting me know what was going on and that they were trying to take us -- that we were trying to be moved into another territory. And I wasn't for it, of course.

I'm all for Mount Washington and I love Mount Washington. And I hope everybody else here that's in the area with me feels the same. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Barbara, is it A-r-a-r, or A-c-a-c-?

(Inaudible audience member.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: I beg your pardon?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: She's already gone home.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Elliott Secular [phonetic]. Is it Secular? And if you let me know how to pronounce your name, I would appreciate it.

MR. SECULAR: It's Secular.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Secular. Okay.

MR. SECULAR: I live at 1109 Onionta Drive, which is in this hotly contested area.

But until two years ago I lived in Glassell Park, and I moved up the hill two years ago. When I moved, I was in Glassell Park. I was active in the Glassell Park Improvement Association.

And, in fact, in the documents that Dunn had submitted to you, when they say there's four members of the Glassell Park Association who are active who live in this contested area, I'm one of them.

And actually, when I last addressed this Commission on January 8th, I addressed it as one of the co-authors of the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council's bylaws. In fact, I remember I had to go back and rewrite some stuff that we had sort of botched at the time.

In fact, two of the bylaws committee members lived up the hill. Angela Purda [phonetic], one of the other members, couldn't be here tonight, but she solidly agrees with my opinion.

After that January 8th hearing, I heard from a good deal of my neighbors were horrified that I was taking part in the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council as a resident of Nob Hill. And I didn't -- I changed my position, obviously. Right now I'm very active in the Arroyo Seco group. But I didn't do that lightly. There were a number of reasons that led to my switching positions and taking the position very fervently that we are part of Mount Washington.

For one thing, the stairway that was referred to, it's been referred to over and over again during this hearing, I live right next door to it. And it is maintained by the Mount Washington Association and that's a very, very important service they provide.

A lot of the kids in the -- most of the kids in the neighborhood go to the Mount Washington school. And moreover, the sentiment in our neighborhood is very, very clearly and very, very strongly in favor of Mount Washington, that they are members of the Mount Washington community.

One of the arguments I've heard advanced by Glassell Park has been that this -- that we're reducing this to a popularity contest. And I just would ask you to believe -- to note that that's what democracy is about, is the popularity contest that they're referring to is the democratic process.

I can think of a poll that was taken by the neighborhood at large by independently very, very clearly demonstrates that virtually the entire neighborhood believes very strongly that we are part of Mount Washington, and I would just hope you validate those sentiments. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Is it Jaime Casillas? Jaime Casillas? Mr. Casillas, is he still here? Erica Lambert. And Gene Ragno, is it? R-a-g-n-o.

(Inaudible from audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: And what is your name?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Inaudible.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Oh, Lance, yes. Someone said you were here. Come up. I didn't see you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Hi. I live at 865 Onionta Drive which is in the contested area.

My fiancée and I are getting married there in June. About a year ago we had considered the idea of whether we were going to stay in that house. It's not a large house. But whether we were going to stay in that house for a long time, raise a family there, or whether we would consider the idea of finding a new place to live.

One of the reasons why we decided to stay there was that it was Mount Washington. That we wanted our kids to go to Mount Washington school, and that was an area that we could get into that school.

Since then we've spent the last year renovating the house. We've done literally probably \$20,000 in landscaping in the backyard. We plan to stay there. If it's not Mount Washington, there's no point in us being there.

I would hope that tonight -- I know there's only a few of us left, but between the signatures that you saw, between the show of support that was here earlier -- which I apologize for kind of turning the meeting upside down, but everybody thought that's what was going on tonight. Obviously there was some misinformation.

But I would hope that you would take notice of the wall behind you painted with the American flag. Remember, this is a democratic process and there's an overwhelming support for Mount Washington. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Are those -- someone said --

(Inaudible from audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: What is your name? Did you put in a card?

(Inaudible from audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Come in. All right. Would you come -- did you -- what is your name?

MS. THOMPSON: Adelina Thompson.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Oh, okay.

MS. THOMPSON: Okay. You have my card. Actually, what I wanted to say has already been said, so I guess I'm just going to add something. Neighborhood council I think is not about boundaries. It should be about people.

In our area, I walk that hills and I've spent hours talking to my neighbors. They really feel very strongly belonging to Mount Washington. They identify with that area. And historically we've aligned ourselves with Mount Washington. People there -- well, our area -- speaking of neighborhood council, this period of neighborhood council is already in operation in our field. Our neighbors already reach to neighbors working together to better our environment. It would really be a shame to divide that. We already have a neighborhood council that's working. People are working together. Please, do not divide us. We really would like to keep Mount Washington intact. That's all.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you. What is your name?

MS. WYATT: It's Nancy Wyatt. You called my name (inaudible).

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Come up, Nancy.

MS. WYATT: Thank you. I'd like to address the issue that is found on the staff report where it says population is an issue, and it says both Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council and Glassell Park have lower population numbers within their neighborhood council.

There are several ways of looking at this. Being from Highland Park, I would like to share with you what I think you already know, I guess, but that is that we have a very high percentage of immigrants, a lot of people who are not interested in getting involved with the government. We would like them to be and we've talked to them, but we have what is known as a low level of participation.

And then you add to the fact that the generation of leaders that I identify with are sitting back rather cynical of city business right now. And so we are experiencing a very discouraging effect of this low level of participation.

So at the same time that you want to give the smaller councils a boost in their group, we are at a point of losing areas where we could draw leadership. I don't know how else to put it except to say that some of our more affluent areas include educated people who desire to come out and be involved. And so I'd like that to be considered both ways.

I don't know if I've made it clear, but I want you to know that it is -- I've gone petitioning and had people run because they thought I was with the government. I had, you know a clipboard in my hand. And I understand that they're afraid. But I want you to know, we have 64,000 people, but we do not have the level of participation that we wish we could have. And it's a struggle for us because a lot of us are carrying a lot more than we really can afford to do with our family responsibilities and our full-time jobs. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Did you have the names that I missed? I'm talking to this gentleman right here.

MR. MURRAY: Bill Murray.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Bill Murray? Yes, I do remember your name. Did I call you?

MR. MURRAY: No, not yet. But I'm here now.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. I thought I called you.

MR. MURRAY: Finally. I'm Bill Murray. I'm not from Mount Washington. I'm not from Glassell Park. I'm not from Cypress Park. I'm not from Highland Park. I'm not from Eagle Rock. I'm from Montecito Heights.

And the reason that I'm here tonight is to tell you the good news. Tammy referred to the fact that the object of what this was was to ring smaller communities together and to have them form what in effect is a local government. And we have been able to do that.

The good news is not, however, the forming of the six neighborhoods together, one of which I belong to, so much as the healing that's gone on inside of each of those communities within the process that we've done. And I'm here to tell you the good news is that in Montecito Heights where I live, there's a low land and there's a hillside area. And they were not speaking with each other at all at one point several years ago. And our own neighborhood association found a way to make that inclusive and to bring our neighborhood together.

And the reason I tell you that is because during the process of bringing the six neighborhoods together, it became important that we canvass all of our neighborhood

about their opinion about where we belong. Certainly, there was a threat that our neighborhood was going to get split. And we were already on board with the fact that we felt like one neighborhood and we were going to stay one neighborhood. We did the canvassing and it turned out that way.

By the same token, there was a schism in the Mount Washington group hillside which was a long-term schism that got healed to large measure in the process that was required when everybody had to come together. And now we have people who used to not like each other very much, couldn't talk to each other, couldn't deal with other sitting on committees doing committee work working together.

Likewise, we had the same thing going on with the Nob Hill people where we were -- I was aghast to hear from the Glassell Park folks at our December meeting that it didn't matter what those residents felt. Because that's exactly diametrically opposed to how we have always approached what we do at Arroyo Seco. For us it exactly matters. That's all that matters is what the residents want.

And we don't want a neighborhood that doesn't want to be a part of us, but we certainly want to be inclusive. We want to bring in the six neighborhoods we have and include everybody that wants to. But it's up to them. And we have an overwhelming majority of people and the good news is that they want to belong. We want to be inclusive. We want to have these six neighborhoods together, and we don't want to fight about it.

We just go out and we talk to each other and we get 600 versus 9 votes in favor of joining the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council. So I appreciate your taking our comments tonight. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Have I missed --
(Inaudible from audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Oh, okay.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Hi, ladies and gentlemen. I first heard about the neighborhood empowerment organizations on January 6th because a poster went up on Nob Hill. I met all of you for the first time on January 8th and told you I was staunchly nonpolitical, but this issue really mattered to me.

I've lived on Mount Washington for 30 years and I was horrified to hear that I was now going to be classified as another community that I didn't identify with.

I just want to let you know who the Five Points Coalition is. Those were people that met at the back of the room at that January 8th meeting that signed a little piece of paper. None of us had ever been political. None of us were involved in any other organizations. We all knew that we lived on Mount Washington and love our neighbors and our neighborhood.

From that first meeting, 6 of us have managed in 30 days to collect 538 signatures out of 637 households, 98 percent of which identify with Mount Washington and the Arroyo Seco group. Overwhelming consensus.

In that outreach, we have found that we have great affection for one another and our neighbors and our neighborhood, and that we are political, and that we do have a powerful community that we want to be involved in. And in that realization, we have involved ourselves more and more with the Arroyo Seco group and are finding that our commonalities are even greater than we believed.

We just ask that you consider the effort and the time we all put into this in the last three months and allow us to continue functioning with our friends and neighbors, the Arroyo Seco group. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Did you submit (inaudible)?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah, I did. I was called earlier. Mike Christy was my name.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Michael? Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah. Okay. I just wanted to say, I live in Mount Washington, too, in the contested area, and my wife and I moved there about a year and a half ago now. And one of the reasons we liked it so much is because we can walk around our neighborhood in Mount Washington. We never -- because, you know, we don't go to Glassell Park to walk around our neighborhood. We see our neighbors there where we live.

And I was never canvassed by Glassell Park regarding whether I wanted to join the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council. And it's kind of a point which is confusing to me why Glassell Park wants so much to have us in their council when we clearly, by the overwhelming vote, do not want to be there.

And it seems to be a thing, as I've noticed over the course of the evening, we're not the only ones. It seems like hearing the people from Highland Park and Eagle Rock debating their boundary that Glassell Park is also interested in, I don't hear a single one of them saying they want to be in Glassell Park. I hear them saying

Eagle Rock or Highland Park. But Glassell Park for some reason wants it, too. None of us want to be in Glassell Park, but for some reason Glassell Park wants us to be there. And I don't understand that. And it doesn't seem right that a group would be trying to force, and sometimes it seems through subterfuges, to get a group into their council that doesn't want to be there.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Anyone else whose name I did not call or did call? Yes?

(Inaudible from audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Oh, Socorro. Yes, your name was there.

MS. SERRANO: Thank you so much for your indulgence. Yes, my name is Socorro Serrano. I live on Nob Hill. And one final thing I just wanted to stay long enough to say is that when the neighborhood council plan was put into place in this city, I think what was hoped for is what you have been seeing in all of these meetings, people who have never been involved before being passionate about and empowered by participating in a process that's going to affect the quality of life in their own neighborhoods and their communities.

And I commend the people who brought together the Arroyo Seco communities because it's something that I want to participate in and I want to belong to. And I want to sit at the table with Glassell Park belonging to Arroyo Seco and working out to the benefit of northeast Los Angeles. Thank you very much.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Unless somebody had submitted their name, I need to close this.

(Inaudible from audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. What was your name?

MR. HARRIS: John Harris.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. John.

MR. HARRIS: I made the unfortunate mistake of coming early so I'd get a chance to speak, and it's five and a half hours later.

My neighbors have plowed this ground pretty much down to dust, so I'm going to go a different way. In my neighborhood, not anywhere was there any outreach notice. Not in my neighborhood, not adjacent to my neighborhood, not going in and out. The outreach was only done by Five Points after the fact, and that was almost by accident.

From your report which you wanted some feedback on, on page five they talk about the Glassell Park supplying 52 signatures supporting inclusion of the Five Points area, and that's from an organization that's 35 years old. In 45 days, grassroots spontaneously, we got over 500 signatures. That's got to tell you something about what's going on out there.

In their supporting documentation, Glassell park talks about 1862 census. Were they counting goats up there? I mean there's nothing up there in 1862. In fact, Mr. Glassell probably wasn't even born then.

Also, they talk about the 1954 City Planning Commission report. Well, in 1954 most of those houses didn't even exist up there. So it's not an issue of these data points supporting Glassell Park. I don't know what they're trying to do with these data points, but they have nothing to do with Five Points and Glassell Park.

I think the only reason there's a dispute over the overlap here is because we the stakeholders have a democratic voice here and you're hearing us, and we don't want to be misrepresented by a neighborhood improvement association that's intent on protecting their own interest and not our interest. Thank you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. If that is all, then we will close the public hearing.

(Inaudible from audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Because I suggested that we (inaudible).

MS. CHAIRMAN: Oh, okay. Well, no. I think the Commission will decide.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'd like to make one statement.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Would you make it very, very quickly --

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes.

MS. CHAIRMAN: -- so we can get on with this?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: My statement is to you.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Uh-hmm.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: On January the 8th, you admonished us for not knowing what was going on in our neighborhood.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Right.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Our neighborhood is Mount Washington, not Glassell Park.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We know what's going on and you see it.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You may take notice of it.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you, sir. What is the desire of the Commission in terms of making a decision on this or holding it over or --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Well, I think --

CITY ATTORNEY: There's really no decision to be -- there's no decision to be made. You can discuss the report and receive and file it, if that's your choice. Again, the ultimate --

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Do we have to --

(Inaudible from the audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: No, it's finished. Just a moment, please. Let us discuss.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Do we have to discuss it?

CITY ATTORNEY: You don't have to discuss it. You can just receive and file it.

MS. CHAIRMAN: There's no discussion?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: I would just move to receive and file and --

(Inaudible from the audience.)

CITY ATTORNEY: The hearing's on 5-18. That's going to be a full public hearing, so

--

(Inaudible from the audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Okay. That's --

(Inaudible from the audience.)

CITY ATTORNEY: If you --

MS. CHAIRMAN: You can work with the staff. You can work with the staff to determine what it is that you would need to do. Okay.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Madam Chair --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, everybody. Yes?

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: -- I would advise everyone to check the agendas for the Department on a regular basis. Anything you see on the agenda, you may come to a meeting and make a statement about. It's open to the public. So anything that you want to have any impact on or want to communicate with us on, please check the agendas. They're online at the City Department at the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment websites. And come and make a statement.

(Inaudible from the audience.)

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Well, come. That's what I'm saying. Continue to come.

(Inaudible from the audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: I have -- it has been suggested that in terms of people who want to leave, we might take on order item number six. Anybody else has public comments about anything else that's not on the agenda? I do have a couple of people here who have not marked their cards what it is that they wanted to speak about. One had for general comments and that was George Abrahams.

(Inaudible from the audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Yes. And then we're taking six now for general comments.

MR. ABRAHAMS: Okay. I wanted to speak about the issues of Hollywood.

MS. CHAIRMAN: The issues of?

MR. ABRAHAMS: In Hollywood.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Oh.

MR. ABRAHAMS: Okay. Neighborhood councils were implemented in our new city charter partially as a response to the secession movements in the valley, the harbor, and in Hollywood. There was a special urgency to certify neighborhood councils in these areas. Time is running out.

Okay. The whole point of neighborhood councils is lost if they are not implemented in time to prove their worth. The Hollywood secession vote is going to take place in November. And in June, when LAFCO puts this matter before the voters in Hollywood, the whole agenda's going to change.

If neighborhood councils are not in place at that point, no one's going to give a damn about where Yucca Corridor is located or what outreach we've done.

So I think that what's going to happen is that everyone is going to suddenly start focusing on who's going to be running the City of Hollywood and what are the competing visions for a possible City of Hollywood, and all the money, all the hundreds of thousands of dollars that are going to be necessary to elect five at-large council members for 140,000 population city is going to take precedence.

And the whole idea of neighborhood council as good at that point is going to become worthless.

Now, if you certify Franklin Hollywood Hills on April 9th, then our elections could

take place 60 days later on June 9th, and that will give us five months to prove the success of neighborhood councils. If we are not given enough time in which to work, how will we be able to make the case that secession is unnecessary?

According to the L.A. Times poll, the secession vote supporters are close to a majority. What the BONC does with neighborhood councils in Hollywood may put secession over the top. The Hollywood Alliance application has been given much deference by the Dunn and the BONC in the pursuit of the illusive unified application.

The Dunn is now beginning to realize that the Hollywood Alliance applicants are dragging their feet on the Yucca self-determination issue. A unified application is unattainable when the only object is to gum up the works and to create endless delay.

If the BONC lets this drag on and on, the Hollywood Alliance application will very likely be instrumental in creating frustration and disillusionment among neighborhood council supporters and observers in Hollywood sufficient to turn the tide for Hollywood cityhood. A unified application with all its additional delay may wind up being empiric victory for the Dunn.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. ABRAHAMS: Okay. All right. Okay.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Very much. Your point is well-taken. Thank you.

Everett Sabaria. Okay. That ends, then, the public comment. Do we have a very quick general manager's report?

MR. NELSON: Well, Madam President, in light of the fact that we're being thrown out of this room and that my general manager comments are in writing, I will just see if the Commissioners have any questions for me.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: A couple questions real quick. What's the length of time of this contract with the -- on the -- because the only general manager report that we have is on this contract for the training.

MR. NELSON: There is one that begins where's the money. It was a newsletter. I'm sorry. I didn't mark it general manager's report. It was supposed to be attached. You wanted the length of the contract?

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Yeah Well, let's talk about --

MR. NELSON: Yeah. Not to exceed one year, which is a Board policy.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: What happens after one year You go back to --

MR. NELSON: Well, then if we have to go back to it, then -- if it has to be extended or something, then it requires a Board action.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. And I understand you're consulting with one person, but is only one person going to be doing the training or --

MR. NELSON: One person is going to --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: -- can you speak of --

MR. NELSON: -- design the training program.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Design the training?

MR. NELSON: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay. And after this design is made, who's going to implement the program and who's going to train staff to implement this program?

MR. NELSON: Well, that'll be part of what we hope comes out of this will be that plan of then how do we -- where do we go from here. I see this becoming a very large part of the congress of neighborhoods, which then we will have to decide exactly how that gets shaped.

But since the training was such a major part of the congress of neighborhoods, I thought we would tackle that first, taking the most immediate training that the neighborhood councils needed and getting that done. And part of this whole process will answer those questions.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: But if someone needs to sign in something, how is that person going to be training someone?

MR. NELSON: No, no. They'll be designing the program. They'll be --

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: They who?

MR. NELSON: Oh, Dr. Exandra Cayden [phonetic] will be the one who will design -- help design the program as to what classes are trained, who will do the training, how much will it cost us to do it, and what's the best way to provide the training.

For instance, will it be an entire Saturday and we'll just, you know, bring people in, run several tracks at the same time? You know, what's the best way to get the training done, making sure that the most immediate training gets done first.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Is this like -- will she be writing like a manual or

training -- or just designing a plan?

MR. NELSON: Designing a plan. And we can bring that plan back to you as often as you want as it's being developed.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Is that going to come before the Board for -- as a draft policy approval of some sort of some --

MR. NELSON: Well, I envision bringing it back through general manager's reports, just a constant update for you so you can see where it's going and you can ask questions of her or me.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Okay.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: That would be great. When is the upcoming congress of neighborhood events?

MR. NELSON: We don't have a date set yet. Again, because of the fact that the training is going to be such a key part of this, I wanted to see how fast we could move on putting together the training element. And I think we could have a real good guess on when the congress of neighborhoods would be. I'm thinking late summer.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Are we mandated by the charter or the ordinance or anything to have it at a certain time in a certain period?

MR. NELSON: No. The charter merely says at least twice a year.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Stone, any comment?

COMMISSIONER STONE: Not on the general manager's report, no.

MS. CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible.)

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: One of the things that I wanted to talk about is I know that we're moving very rapidly through all of these applications, and it's a little frustrating because it leaves no room for any policy making time.

So either we slow down the process in terms of getting these applications out every week, or we set some kind of criteria as to when we need to come back as a Board to make some policy decisions.

Issues at hand are the sizes of some of the neighborhood councils. Others are on the letters of intent. I don't think that we got an answer -- at the last meeting I had to leave, but there was no -- I don't think that there was a recommendation made on the letter of intent or the application and where we go when we get those things. I think staff needs some direction coming from the board in terms of policy. So if we can -- if you can talk to Bill about how we need to make sure that either slow down the process so that we have some time for these policy -- for some policy discussion, or we need to bring it to the Board to have some kind of second meeting or something.

I mean my preference would not be a second meeting. My preference would be to slow down the process. Because we're getting, you know, to the point where there's a lot of questions. We've had 21 neighborhood councils now that have been certified. We have learned a lot of mistakes and we have -- the trial by error period I think should be over.

MS. CHAIRMAN: I would like to state that, Greg, I think that the Commission needs to be involved more in what is happening. We need to be in the loop in terms of communication rather than hearing a lot of things after the fact. Our input should be asked ahead of time so that -- I agree with Commissioner Membreno that, you know, that can be done as policy ahead of time rather than us always just reacting. I think that would help. And I think you'd find us pretty good people to give input also.

MR. NELSON: I think you are.

MS. CHAIRMAN: You may enjoy some of things that we would (inaudible).

MR. NELSON: I wouldn't trade you for any Commissioners.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Oh, yeah, I bet.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: We also --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: We also had talked about a couple of ad hoc committees, Greg.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: One was a budget. The other one was the certification. Where are we with those? Are we (inaudible) together?

MR. NELSON: You mean ad hoc staff or ad hoc committees?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Committees.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: Commission and staff. Last time you talked about a committee meeting -- an ad hoc on the post certification issues, I believe it was one of the ones that you had talked about that staff had begun to create or

something. And you were asking for Commissioners input on that and help on that. And also, on the budget, we've talked about that before, not to -- not as a management process of the budget, but just as to where the money's going, or where it -- or, you know, in your quest of trying to figure out how we're going to work with the neighborhood councils and how moneys are going to get to them and all of that. So --

MR. NELSON: Yeah, exactly. As far as the staff ad hoc committee on the post certification, that's taken a little bit of a back seat as far as senior management is concerned to the other issues of preparing the election procedures and then the funding.

So one of the items that I had written and given you the newsletter on was sort of where we're at on giving the money to the neighborhood councils. We've been meeting every day the senior staff, today we had a two-hour meeting, going through more ideas, trying to find the best way to get the money to the neighborhood councils with the least amount of strings attached, giving them the most flexibility for the use of their money, and providing the proper accountability the City wants. And there isn't a process in existence right now that allows those things to happen.

What we're doing is so new and so different that there isn't a process. So what we're trying to do is to -- and we're getting closer and closer every day, is to find something that we can then bring back and show the Board something of substance that would meet all those requirements, move quickly, no red tape, and proper accountability. And we're mixing and matching several different ideas that the City uses. And like I said, it's an everyday thing. It is our top priority.

MS. CHAIRMAN: I think, Greg, one of the things that we're asking, though, we've been asking is that we could be part of the ad hoc committees, part of the -- you know, part of that process. And I think that that would fulfill a lot of the needs that we have in terms of being in the loop.

Because there's also the ENS, the early notification system. There's a lot of things that we could be, you know, working on if we were asked and assignments --

(End of tape three, side A; continuing
on tape three, side B.)

MR. NELSON: ... extremely quickly.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Which one is that?

MR. NELSON: Because she's lived -- the money. She's lived that nightmare. She's lived that experience.

MS. CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible) 30 years.

MR. NELSON: Yes.

MS. CHAIRMAN: But we do need to be involved and we are going to help in the various committees and the various (inaudible). And that will help the staff, too.

MR. NELSON: It will.

MS. CHAIRMAN: One of the things also in terms of the training contract, I would prefer, rather than hearing you give us a report, I would like Dr. Cayden to come and give those reports (inaudible) rather than hearing (inaudible).

MR. NELSON: Sure. Absolutely. That's what we expect.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Anything else? We have a couple of meetings coming up. I don't have them exactly in front of me. April 9th, I believe, and --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The 16th.

MS. CHAIRMAN: -- the 16th. And if there's nothing else to -- we need to really adjourn. Public hearing is over.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Have we done Commissioner comment yet?

MS. CHAIRMAN: Yeah, I thought we had just --

COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. Well --

MS. CHAIRMAN: But that's all right. Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER STONE: I just wanted to add two things.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Sure.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Just to say -- commend you for running a good meeting tonight. I know --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Are you sure?

COMMISSIONER STONE: I know that you were -- would have hoped it would have been the Harbor City meeting that was a little bit easier to deal with, but --

MS. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. Why couldn't I have had last week's?

COMMISSIONER STONE: So that's one.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STONE: And then the number two, to thank the Dunn staff and Elizabeth Macias in particular for their hard work in getting everything prepared for tonight.

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MS. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER STONE: And that's all I wanted to say.

MS. CHAIRMAN: And Romero. Romero always -- I love to listen to her.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: She raised her voice today.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Did she? I think we're done.

COMMISSIONER MEMBRENO: I think we're done.

(Inaudible from the audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: I beg your pardon?

(Inaudible from the audience.)

MS. CHAIRMAN: Well, very, very, very quickly. We're being thrown out of here.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'd like to know if you can put on the agenda that certification for Franklin Hollywood Hills and Hollywood Hills West could be possibly considered on that date.

MS. CHAIRMAN: Oh, I see. Okay. You need to talk to the staff because they're -- the staff would be able to assist with you with that. Thank you.

If there's nothing else, then we will be adjourned and move out before we get really, really thrown out.

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