

From: [Charles H. Bell](#)
To: ["aordin@strumwooch.com"](mailto:aordin@strumwooch.com)
Cc: ["glenn@santamaria.com"](mailto:glenn@santamaria.com); [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: Comment on Commissioner Hudley Resignation and Replacement by The California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 4:26:35 PM
Attachments: [042021 Letter to A Ordin re SB Redistricting.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Ms. Ordin,

Please find enclosed a letter on behalf of my client, The California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, regarding the Agenda Item matter for tonight's Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission meeting. This letter is copied to Chairman Glenn Morris and the Public Comment Email.

Thank you.

Charles H. Bell, Jr.
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455 Capitol Mall, Suite 600
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April 21, 2021

Andrea Ordin, Esq.
Sent Electronically -- aordin@strumwooch.com
Strumwasser & Woocher
10940 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Re: Santa Barbara County Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission Matter

Dear Ms. Ordin,

This is submitted on behalf of my client, The California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce. As I am sure your predecessor Mr. Churchwell has briefed you, my client and the Santa Barbara County Republican Party in December 2020 addressed a demand concerning the failure of the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission to resolve patent legal problems with composition of the Commission. Together with the Republican Party,¹ my client engaged in several public communications and several privileged confidential settlement communications with the Commission about these concerns. As a result of three vacancies that arose after our initial public communication on December 18, 2020, the concerns expressed initially in 2020, and renewed in late January 2021, were partially but not fully alleviated by replacement of three commissioners who resigned after December 18, 2020.

This communication is occasioned by the newly-publicized resignation of Commissioner Hudley, who was a designated District 3 commissioner. Commissioner Hudley is a Black Democrat male. Prior to his resignation, the Commission still had fewer Hispanic members than the Redistricting Ordinance requires. As discussed in our December 18, 2020 letter, the electorate mandated that the Commission membership should reflect the ethnic composition of the County's population. At present, Hispanic commissioners constitute 29.7% of the Commission membership but constitute 39.4% of the County's population. My client believes, therefore, that the Commission should select a replacement for Commissioner Hudley from among the remaining Hispanic members of the initial pool of qualified persons selected by the Clerk-Assessor-Recorder-Election Officer. Those persons include Jennifer Hardin (District 4), Lupe Alvarez (District 3) and Thomas Martinez (District 5).

My client had previously suggested several possible ways the Commission could alleviate both its ethnic and partisan composition problems. The most significant of these problems has been the persistent Hispanic underrepresentation issue. It was not fully resolved by the Commission after my client first brought the matter to the Commission's attention in December 2020. However, my client

¹ The December 18, 2020 communication was a joint letter with the Santa Barbara County Republican Party. The Party has not joined in this letter although it shares the Hispanic Chambers of Commerce's concerns.

Letter to Andrea Ordin, Esq.
Re: Independent Redistricting Commission Matter
April 21, 2021
Page 2

anticipated there might be an opportunity to correct that legal problem well before the Commission's active work commenced. That opportunity has now presented itself.

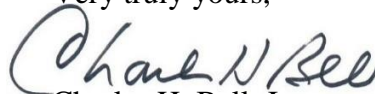
Therefore, the Hispanic Chambers of Commerce believe the Commission should select a Hispanic person to replace Mr. Hudley. Selection of one such member would resolve the current underrepresentation of Hispanics, the County's largest ethnic group.

This can be accomplished in one of several ways: (1) Fill the vacancy with the one current Hispanic remaining in the initial qualification pool who resides in District 3, Mr. Lupe Alvarez. Mr. Alvarez would be an excellent choice for commissioner. He is a long time resident of the County and served formerly in non-partisan public offices, including as Mayor of Guadalupe; or (2) Re-designate Commissioner Olmedo, a Hispanic Democrat male who currently serves in the At Large Commissioner position, as a District 3 commissioner, and then fill the open At Large position with one of the three above-mentioned qualified Hispanic persons: Mr. Alvarez, Ms. Hardin or Mr. Martinez.

While the current underrepresentation of Hispanics on the Commission is the most significant composition problem, my client recognizes and acknowledges that members of the Democratic Party have objected to the reduction of Democrat members to 4, which is currently below their proportion of County residents affiliated with the Democratic Party, and that a solution that resolves the Hispanic underrepresentation that has persisted will not improve the partisan underrepresentation issue. With Commissioner Hudley's departure, the Commission's partisan composition would stand at 3 remaining Democrats, 3 Republicans and 4 No Partisan Preference members. However, my client believes that the Hispanic underrepresentation is more urgent to address under both state and federal laws. My client has no problem with the Commission acknowledging the need to resolve partisan and ethnic imbalances by affirmatively identifying qualified Democrats from the remaining pool to fill future vacancies.

My client requests the Commission to address the remaining ethnic representation composition issues now, before the active work on drawing maps commences place. Resolving these issues now will promote the Commission's ability to do the non-partisan redistricting work that Santa Barbara County voters mandated it to perform.

Very truly yours,



Charles H. Bell, Jr.

CC BY EMAIL: Glenn Morris, Chairman, Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission
Public Comment, Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission

From: [Sadie Stern](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: Indigenous First Nation Urgent Land title issue
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 12:16:42 PM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

This is urgent;

We have a autonomous zone that must be recognized as its own district. This land is titled to the First Nation of coastal central southern California

The title holders are a sovereign principality who holds title to the coastal and inland areas of the insular lands for their self determination (independent First Nation within Santa Barbara county).

This area is designated for the indigenous people to survive in their ancestral lands for the foreseeable future.

We need your immediate attention.

Thank you.

Sadie Bustillos de Ortega

805-570-5075

From: [Robert Mercado](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: Redistricting letter
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 12:54:25 PM
Attachments: [Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission.docx](#)

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello

I would like to submit this letter for the redistricting.

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Chair Glenn Morris and Honorable Members
Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission
Santa Barbara County

Re: Previous and forthcoming meetings — April 21, 2021 & May 5, 2021
Replacement of former Commissioner James Hudley

Chair Morris,

Racial equity and diversity are a focus of modern politics. Yet, too often, the second that prioritizing racial representation undermines a political agenda, it becomes irrelevant. The Santa Barbara County Redistricting Commission is guilty of such behavior. As the Commission deliberates the best way to fill the recent vacancy created by the resignation of James Hudley, Commissioners such as Jannet Rios, who originally prioritized racial representation in Commissioner selection, have suddenly flipped to prioritizing political affiliation over representation of the diverse racial makeup of Santa Barbara County. The Independent Commission is considering forgoing willing and qualified applicants in District 3 like Lupe Alvarez, who would bring another Latino voice to the Redistricting Process, in pursuit of a member affiliated with the Democratic Party. Currently, only two Latino members sit on the Commission, and are expected to adequately represent a County which is 46% Latino. When presented the opportunity to advance the voices of Latino community members, specifically those in a city like Guadalupe, this Committee is actively choosing not to do so on partisan grounds. This is a blatant example of how race does not matter when it fails to serve partisan ends.

In the hopes of gaining another Democrat member, the Commission is tossing around the idea of using current at-large Commissioner Benjamin Olmedo of District 3 as Hudley's replacement, and then choosing an at-large replacement from the entire remaining pool of applicants. However, the ordinance does not ever state that such an action is acceptable when willing and qualified applicants are available in the District from which Mr. Hudley resigned.

When the original five Commissioners were deliberating who would fill the six remaining seats, members of the public implored the representation of Guadalupe, a continually overlooked community. The city has been misplaced in District 3 now for ten years, and with no representation on the Commission, the community holds little influence over where the city will be placed for the next ten years.

The hypocrisy of the Commissioners and their willingness to place partisanship over racial diversity demonstrates that race does not matter when it does not promote partisan ideals. The actions of the Commission are just another example of the highly educated South County residents exerting their influence to diminish the voices of the brown and blue-collar residents in the North County, where the majority of the Latino community members reside.

Sincerely,

Robert Mercado
Resident, Lompoc

From: [Charles H. Bell](#)
To: ["glenn@santamaria.com"](mailto:glenn@santamaria.com)
Cc: [CEO Redistricting RES](#); ["aordin@strumwooch.com"](mailto:aordin@strumwooch.com)
Subject: RE: Comment on Commissioner Hudley Resignation and His Replacement by The California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce - Agenda of May 5, 2021
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:38:17 PM
Attachments: [042021 Letter to A Ordin re SB Redistricting.pdf](#)
Importance: High

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Chairman Morris and Ms. Ordin,

My letter of April 20, 2021 that was referred to by Chairman Morris with the comment that it would be included in the May 5, 2021 agenda packet is not in that packet. I would ask that you make it a point at the outset of tomorrow's meeting that the letter be circulated to each Commissioner and special note be made of the failure to include it in the current agenda packet.

Inasmuch as this concerns Item No. 8 on your agenda, there should be sufficient time for that to be accomplished.

I will participate in the meeting and will be prepared to make public comment at the general public comment segment of the meeting on this matter.

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To: 'aordin@strumwooch.com' <aordin@strumwooch.com>
Cc: 'glenn@santamaria.com' <glenn@santamaria.com>; 'Redistricting@countyofsb.org' <Redistricting@countyofsb.org>
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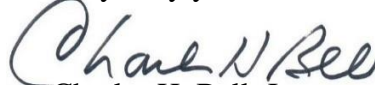
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Very truly yours,



Charles H. Bell, Jr.

CC BY EMAIL: Glenn Morris, Chairman, Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission
Public Comment, Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission

From: [Robin Serritslev](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:59:03 PM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Redistricting Committee,

May I please submit the following public comment to record?

The Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission is supposed to be just that... Independent. Recently, the Commission has hired a law firm with a political past and the commission appears to be seeking Democrat candidates to fill vacated positions. The 3rd District is made up of an economically and demographically diverse population. I hope that through redistricting, District boundaries can be changed so that everyone has a voice and a vote. In the 3rd District, we have neither.

Sincerely,

Robin Serritslev
Solvang, CA