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I am affiliated with the National Ecumenical Forum for Filipino Concerns - Inland Empire, one of the partners of the Brown and Black Redistricting Alliance.

Commissioners - thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify today. My name is Nicole Dumaguindin. I am with the National Ecumenical Forum for Filipino Concerns-Inland Empire, one of the partners of the Brown and Black Redistricting Alliance. My ethnic background is Filipina and I was born & raised in California. I am also a single mother of my 2-year old son who is also full Filipino.

I live in a community that is bounded on the west by the 215 freeway, on the north by the 60 freeway, on the east is the cities of Beaumont and Banning and on the south is Highway 74. This community consists of the cities of Moreno Valley, Perris, Nuevo and Hemet. There are a variety of multi-ethnic groups in my community - Filipinos, African-Americans, Hispanic/Latino and Samoans who are of middle-class backgrounds. We are a fast-growing community that has had to deal with traffic congestions on the 215/91/60 junction, businesses closing during the 2008 recession and the downsizing of the March Air Force base a couple of years ago. However, in spite of these challenges my community has been resilient and our community bonds strengthened. We have been able to support the development of two Metrolink stations and created a new shopping center where our community can spend their leisure time with their families. We go to the same churches, the same schools and respect each other’s cultural and heritage.

We continue to face new challenges in the years ahead such as growing cases of mental illness, lack of affordable housing, lack of higher paying jobs, and equitable political representation. However, I am confident, as a community, we can come together and address these problems.

I, therefore, would like to urge the Commission to keep my community together.