



CHIRLA

Coalition for Humane
Immigrant Rights

**Community of Interest Testimony
to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission**

Date: October 5, 2021

Zone: J (Orange County)

Area: Santa Ana

Name: Jose Castillo

Organizational Affiliation: Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (People's Redistricting Alliance)

Community of Interest: Santa Ana (East of Harbor Blvd)

Direction: Keep Santa Ana (East of Harbor Blvd) whole

Introduction:

Hi, my name is Jose Castillo and I'm a resident of Santa Ana. I've lived in the community for the past 29 years. I am writing as a member of CHIRLA. In addition we are a member of the People's Redistricting Alliance, a coalition of 16 community-based organizations established to promote a greater community voice in statewide and local redistricting processes here in Orange County.

My community is:

Today, I am going to speak for my community of Santa Ana as someone with an immigrant background. My community is made up of poor and working class immigrants. Almost everywhere you go in my community Spanish is spoken because of the large population of Latino residents.

The types of jobs available in my community are hand labor such as gardeners, construction workers, stock rooms at the grocery stores. These employees earn meager salaries, the folks that might make more money are the construction workers but those jobs are very labor intensive.



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The housing situation is difficult for people in my community because of the pandemic in Santa Ana. Many of us are renters, living in apartments and single family homes. In order to make payments more affordable some individuals live in crowded spaces. Although many of the local residents were fortunate not to face eviction in Santa Ana, many choose to leave the community to find more affordable housing in other counties.

For individuals who have access to insurance there is additional help through CalOptima for language services related to healthcare. Although there is a small percentage of the immigrant population that is afraid to get access to healthcare.

For higher education many students in Santa Ana attend the local community college called Santa Ana College. This college has transfer programs that support you to transfer to Cal State Fullerton. Immigrant students at Cal State Fullerton have many resources which are not available to students in community colleges. The resources are found at many student centers such as the dream center, latinx center, LGBTQ Center, Southwest Asian North African (SWANA) which are all found at the Diversity Initiative Resource Center or as most of us know it DIRC.

My community is located:

Between the 405 and 55 freeways, East of Harbor Blvd. The main streets in my community are Bristol and Main Street in Santa Ana.

To move around in my community I use my power chair which requires me to take unnecessary detours due to the state of the sidewalks and the streets. I have learned that the best way to go to my local grocery store or target is to take the streets near the public schools such as elementary schools and highschools because those are often the streets that are better taken care of. I often think of individuals who move around in my community who don't have a power chair and how much more difficult it is to move around in the streets of Santa Ana.



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In conclusion:

It is important that my immigrant community sticks together because we want a representative that cares about access to affordable housing, covid relief, access and resources to higher education for immigrant students, transportation and streets maintenance.

By keeping Santa Ana (East of Harbor Blvd) together in one district together in one district our community can have a representative that champions these issues.