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Presentation by State Representative Miguel P. García before the
Citizens Redistricting Committee
October 7, 2021
Pueblo Cultural Center

I am a twenty-five year veteran of the House of Representatives elected in 1996, and participated in the 2001 and 2011 redistricting sessions. I am the longest tenured State Representative in the House. (share background)

CRC plans A, B, C, and D discriminate against the Traditional Hispanic Communities of Atrisco, Barelás, and the South Broadway. Communities that historically have been joined at the hip. All four plans continue the 20 year old redistricting history of cannibalizing House District 14 to the benefit of North Valley HD-11, Nob Hill mid-heights HD-18, and far South Valley HD-10 and HD-12.

HD-14 has had as its core the Traditional Hispanic Communities of Atrisco, Barelás, and the Hispanic/Afro American community of South Broadway. In the 2001 redistricting we had a demoralizing set back in the total loss of the S. Broadway community from Lead Ave SE to Anderson Street SE, and from the railroad tracks to I-25. The five years of hard work in that community in working with Chicano and Afro-American leaders in combating drug dealing violence, in providing capital improvements to Eugene Field Elementary and the South Broadway Community Center, in establishing reentry programs for Afro-American and Chicano convicts, in funding our early childhood program with a focus on homeless children, and in securing the construction of a sound barrier wall along south bound I-25 — all this came to an abrupt halt. The 2001 redistricting divided S. Broadway three ways feeding the dwindling population district of North Valley's HD-11, the Nob Hill's HD-18, and the far South Valley's HD-10. South Broadway went into a limbo mode after the 2001 redistricting with little attention given it by the three new legislators.

Demographers and the Courts could have expanded the North Valley district across the Río Grande instead of encroaching on HD-14, but there is this Neo Jim Crow theory of not having districts east of the river cross the Rio Grande north of Central Ave. The far South Valley HD-10 could have

expanded west and northwest into the growing Southwest Mesa, but again keeping that district confined to east of Old Coors Blvd SW prevailed.

A positive outcome of the 2001 redistricting for HD-14 was the unifying effort of the Atrisco community for the first time in its history, at least going back 75 years. The area from Central Ave SW to Blake Rd SW, along Atrisco Dr SW and Foothill Rd SW is the Atrisco Viejo settlement, with a companion settlement along present day La Vega Rd and Riverside Dr SW known as Los Ranchos de Atrisco. Atrisco is the oldest Hispanic settlement in Bernalillo County and the Metro Area. My Great Grandpa to the 8th power, Pedro Duran y Chavez first settled the area west of the Rio Grande from Isleta Pueblo to now Paseo del Norte in the 1640's. The early colonial maps referred to this area as El Valle de Atrisco. After the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, my Great Grandpa to the 7th power Fernando Duran y Chavez, along with other Spanish and Mestizo families, and Tlaxcalan Indians from old Mexico, was granted the Atrisco Land Grant in 1692. The settlement did not occur until 1703 when Fernando Duran y Chavez and company then broke ground with a church, casitas, an elaborate acequia system, and bountiful fields and orchards.

Barelas was established in the 1780's as a villa with mainly people from Atrisco. It was a bustling agricultural community specializing in green and red chile. After many generations what solidified the two communities was a ferry operated by Atrisqueños in the area of what is known as the Barelas Bridge in the early 1900's. This ferry operation led to the first motorized crossing over the Rio Grande decades later. After World War II many Bareleños, with growing families and little to no available lots for building a new house, settled in the large acreages of the Atrisco community. During the War on Poverty of the 1960's an entire section of homes in south Barelas known as Tortilla Flats was leveled to the ground under the auspices of the Urban Renewal Program. These families were resettled in Atrisco in new or resale homes. Tortilla Flats is now home to the Bueno Foods Chile Products and the National Hispanic Cultural Center. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Redistricting Committee, Barelas has been decapitated from the HD-14 body in the 2021 CRC plans, A, B, C, and D.

The 2011 Redistricting saw the further annihilation of the Traditional Hispanic Communities in HD-14. Old Atrisco was split in half and went back to its pre 2000 boundries feeding the dwindling population mid-South Valley

district of HD-12. In the 2011 Redistricting, Barelás was severed at the knee by the loss of one of its two precincts—precinct 133. It went to feed the dwindling population district of North Valley HD-11. The North Valley district also gobbled up the HD-14 Country Club precincts 121 and 122. These two precincts constitute the Country Club. They were a welcomed balance of white upper middle class families in a district predominately blue collar, low income, and lower middle class Chicanos.

One positive outcome of the 2011 Redistricting was the pick-up of precinct 225 in the South Broadway community. It gave us Eugene Field Elementary, the South Broadway Community Center, and the venerable St. Francis of Xavier Catholic Church. We hit the ground running in 2011 on the issues we addressed in the five years prior to the 2001 redistricting--working with Chicano and Afro-American leaders in combating drug dealing violence, in providing capital improvements to Eugene Field Elementary and the South Broadway Community Center, in establishing reentry programs for Afro-American and Chicano convicts, in funding our early childhood program with a focus on homeless children, and in securing the construction of a sound barrier wall along south bound I-25. We added an important equity issue dealing with the State Transportation lack of a sound barrier wall shielding the South Broadway community from I-25 south bound. Even though it was just that one precinct that I represented, I reached out to the entire South Broadway community. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Redistricting Committee, South Broadway has been severed at arm from the HD-14 body in the 2021 CRC plans, A, B, C, and D.

The 2021 redistricting plans erase all memories of the centuries old bond between Atrisco and Barelás by severing Barelás from HD-14. Plans A, B, C, and D exterminate the role of HD-14 leadership from participating in the Barelás Railyards Advisory Board. HD-14 leadership has played a pivotal role in the 13 year old Advisory Board by coordinating a capital outlay initiative in 2018 that involved dozens of Bernalillo County legislators which garnered an infusion of \$7.6 million for roof repairs, up-graded infrastructure, and restoration of historic buildings for public uses at the old Railyards.

The severing of South Broadway from HD-14 exterminates the leadership role of HD-14 with the State Highway Department which in recent years has been more attentive to the dilapidated intersection of Avenida Cesar Chavez and I-25. Just last month the Highway Department resurfaced the

intersection after 30 years of neglect. The on ramps and off ramps were also resurfaced after the same neglect. The severing of S Broadway removes HD-14 leadership from the table in committing the State Highway Department to construct a sound barrier wall along I-25 south bound from Lead Ave SE to Avenida Cesar Chavez shielding that portion of the S Broadway community from deafening traffic noise. This is a discrimination and equity issue that I and my S Broadway constituents take serious. The S Broadway community is the only neighborhood in the metro area without sound barrier walls which abuts the I-25/I-40 network.

I have proposed a map that brings harmony to the Traditional Hispanic Communities that have historically been part of HD-14. The map unifies old Atrisco by adding precincts 43,44, and 139. The map unifies Barelitas with its two historic precincts of 133 and 135. The map captures the northern two thirds of S. Broadway by adding precincts 224 and 226 to the existing precinct 225. The area is Lead Ave SE to Avenida Cesar Chavez, and I-25 to the railroad tracks.

I dread redistricting but I am always hopeful that my Traditional Hispanic Communities will prevail. The courts and the demographers think differently. They have historically seen my communities as ripe for the taking in order to feed the dwindling populations of districts in North Valley HD-11, Nob Hill HD-18, far South Valley HD-10, and mid South Valley HD-12. Essentially plans A, B, C, and D turn HD-14 into a West Side/West Central district. I will not serve in a house seat that does not value the integrity of keeping whole our Traditional Hispanic Communities.

Thank you for your time and I appreciate your commitment and dedication to a fair redistricting process.