

FILED

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
SPECIAL REDISTRICTING PANEL
A21-0243
A21-0546**

December 8, 2021

**OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS**

Peter S. Wattson, Joseph Mansky, Nancy B.
Greenwood, Mary E. Kupper, Douglas W.
Backstrom and James E. Hougas III,
individually and on behalf of all citizens and
voting residents of Minnesota similarly
situated, and League of Women Voters
Minnesota,

Plaintiffs,

and

Paul Anderson, Ida Lano, Chuck Brusven,
Karen Lane, Joel Hineman, Carol Wegner,
and Daniel Schonhardt,

Plaintiff-Intervenors

**Declaration of
Annastacia Belladonna-Carrera
in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs'
Proposed Redistricting Plan**

vs.

Steve Simon, Secretary of State of Minnesota;
and Kendra Olson, Carver County Elections
and Licensing Manager, individually and on
behalf of all Minnesota county chief election
officers,

Defendants,

and

Frank Sachs, Dagny Heimisdottir, Michael
Arulfo, Tanwi Prigge, Jennifer Guertin,
Garrison O'Keith McMurtrey, Mara Lee
Glubka, Jeffrey Strand, Danielle Main, and
Wayne Grimmer,

Plaintiffs,

and

Dr. Bruce Corrie, Shelly Diaz, Alberder
Gillespie, Xiongpaoo Lee, Abdirazak
Mahboub, Aida Simon, Beatriz Winters,
Common Cause, OneMinnesota.org, and
Voices for Racial Justice,

Plaintiff-Intervenors,

vs.

Steve Simon, Secretary of State of Minnesota,

Defendant.

I, Annastacia Belladonna-Carrera, declare as follows:

1. I am the Executive Director of Common Cause Minnesota (“Common Cause”). Common Cause believes that we’re better off when people from all walks of life participate in self-governance. I have worked in the area of human and civil rights since 1994. As a Latina professional, I have had the honor of working with many local leaders from our community of color and Indigenous Minnesotans throughout the years. Our communities in Minnesota are rich in cultural identity and local strength. When I arrived in 1988 to attend law school, the Latino population in MN was about 38,000 in the entire state. Now, Minnesota is home to close to 250,260 Latinos.
2. Common Cause is the convenor of the Minnesota Alliance for Democracy. The Alliance for Democracy is a nonpartisan conveying table established by Common Cause to create space for diverse grassroots groups, coalitions, and community activists in Minnesota to coordinate and collaborate with allies and other stakeholders. Common Cause, in partnership with the Alliance for Democracy, has been working with Indigenous and other communities of color in Greater Minnesota and outlining suburbs as part of the collective efforts of the Our Maps MN Campaign.
3. In my capacity as executive director of Common Cause Minnesota and a co-lead for the Our Maps MN Campaign, I have personal knowledge of the Corrie Plaintiffs’ Proposed Redistricting Plan and the various Indigenous stakeholders, as well as groups and organizations of color, who actively led the work of advocacy and community mapping within cities in Minnesota with the largest populations of color. It is the collective efforts of everyone involved in owning the process of drawing their communities of interests and ultimately shaping district maps that has resulted in the Corrie Plaintiff’s Proposed Redistricting Plan.

4. The Our Maps MN Campaign was created in 2018 by grassroots community stakeholders and is a nonpartisan, grassroots campaign, committed to a community-focused, accessible, and transparent redistricting process. It consists of various components of civic engagement supporting Minnesotans to be in relationship with their elected officials and work together to ensure an accessible and transparent redistricting process accountable to constituents. The most recent phase of the Our Maps MN Campaign focused on ensuring disenfranchised communities and communities of color were actively participating in the redistricting, community mapping, and legislative public processes.
5. As part of the Our Maps MN Campaign, Common Cause partnered with trusted local community leaders, organizations, or groups, from Indigenous and communities of color with longstanding local networks in in greater Minnesota. Many of those we interacted with from the Latino and East African communities were not affiliated with any formalized group, they were local church goers or community members gathered by a local trusted community member to provide direct mapping input or host mapping sessions. We met with groups in Faribault, Northfield, Rochester, Worthington, Madelia, St. James, Chaska, Shakopee, and Mankato, just to name a few. Some of the organizations we partnered with include: UNIDOS, an immigrant-led, multigenerational, Latinx based community non-profit; and Minnesota Immigrant Movement, which for 15 years has been a network of local resources and advocacy, connecting Latinos and other immigrant Minnesotans to resources.
6. Through the collaborative efforts and partnerships with local leaders we hosted workshops getting local community leaders ready to engage others in their community about the importance of redistricting to their voting power and how mapping works. They learned about how to engage the public process led by the legislature and the Special Redistricting Panel. They held nine formal mapping discussions and six mapping sessions consisting of approximately eighteen hours of mapping sessions. Eight community leaders testified during public hearings in Worthington, Rochester, St. Cloud and Shakopee. Of the eight who testified in greater Minnesota, all testified for the very first time and two did it in Spanish. These were Latino and African immigrant Minnesotans who live, work, and thrive in central and southern greater Minnesota and who were eager to participate in making sure they were heard, seen, and fairly represented. Community members described who they were as communities of interest, shared their concerns, made recommendations on prioritizing redistricting principles and some even submitted their community maps to the legislature and Special Redistricting Panel.
7. The Corrie Plaintiffs' Proposed Redistricting Plans fully capture the collective efforts and contributions from Minnesotans of Color, Indigenous Minnesotans, and community allies across the state, in cities with the largest populations color, who came together as part of the Our Maps MN grassroots nonpartisan campaign efforts.
8. The Our Maps MN Campaign collective effort and the process by which the Corrie Plaintiff's proposed Redistricting Plans were developed leaves no doubt

that Minnesotans of Color and historically underrepresented communities can be fairly captured and represented in Minnesota's district maps.

I fully support the collective work that is reflected in the Corrie Plaintiffs' proposed Redistricting Plans, which best captures and fairly represents all Minnesotans, including disenfranchised communities and Minnesotans of Color.

I declare under penalty of perjury that everything that I have stated in this declaration is true and correct.

Dated: December 6, 2021

ABelladonna-Carrera
Annastacia Belladonna-Carrera