

L.E.A.D Filipino
San José based non-profit organization
September 11, 2021

Good afternoon members of the Redistricting Commission. My name is _____ and I am from LEAD Filipino, a local nonprofit organization based in San José. We are focused on advancing civic participation and civil rights within the Filipino/a/x American and broader communities. In the 6 years that we have been active, we spearheaded a coalition of 250 organizations and have helped thousands of FilAms in leadership, education, advocacy, and dialogue. In 2018, LEAD Filipino has led Census education and outreach efforts with the FilAm community in the City of San Jose's Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) and we are continuing to advocate for our community's representation and visibility in this year's Redistricting.

Our community members have been living in areas of San Jose such as Downtown San Jose, Berryessa, North San Jose (Milpitas), and East Side San Jose (South White Rd., Tully Rd., Quimby Rd., Evergreen).

We ask that you keep our community together when lines are redrawn. The Iglesia ni Cristo Church is an important church for the Christian members of our community. We also have a demographic of FilAm students attending schools within the East Side Union High School District such as Independence, Silver Creek, and Evergreen Valley. There are also a large number of our community members living along with the housing near Independence High School especially on Checkers Drive.

In addition, we have a huge area of business corridors located in Berryessa & Milpitas (connected by Landess) or at the Great Mall that members of our community from different districts would often travel to eat, shop, and socialize. In addition, Sam's BBQ Diner on San Felipe Rd. and Pinoy Lechon BBQ Grill on Tully Rd. are restaurants in which our community frequent.

The communities in which Filipino Americans live have shared needs and interests around transportation, public health & safety, housing, jobs, and education. Our community has shared policy concerns with other AAPI communities around these needs and interests and it would be best served if the areas in which they live are kept together within the districts.

Thank you.