

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

Good afternoon members of the Redistricting Commission. My name is Michelle Nelmda and I am representing L.E.A.D 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, L.E.A.D 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 lives within San Jose City Council Districts 3, 4, 5, and 8 connected together by small businesses, parks, community organizations, churches, and schools.

We ask that you keep our community together when lines are redrawn. 50 years ago, Japantown used to have a large Filipino-American population. It was large enough to establish a Pinoytown in the area with FilAm owned businesses such as grocery stores and community spaces like the Filipino Community Center that is still on North 6th Street. This community center is the only Filipino American community space left from that time, however, our community has started Pinoytown tours to revive and sustain the historical knowledge of the area. Over time, a lack of resources and increased housing prices pushed our community into different areas of San José. There are Filipino American youth, ranging from middle school to high school students, who gather as the Filipino Youth Coalition at Northside Community Center on North 6th Street. It is also a center for FilAm seniors and veterans. The Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph Church on South Market Street is an important church for the Catholic members of our community. We also have a demographic of FilAm students attending San José State University from various parts of San José such as Berryessa, Milpitas and East Side San José. There are also a large number of our community members living along 4th Street.

In addition, FilAm members of D3 utilize the FilAm 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 in 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 in are kept together within the districts.

Thank you.

Alan Gouig
Resident of San José

Written Testimony to the San José Redistricting Commission

Good morning. My name is Alan Gouig and I have been living in Downtown San José for over 5 years now. I moved to San José after my second year of undergraduate studies to be closer to San José State University. I have been a part of San José based organizations such as Akbayan SJSU, Malaya South Bay and L.E.A.D Filipino.

During my time living here in San José, I've enjoyed visiting Filipino American owned restaurants such as Tapsilog Bistro in Campell, the FIAM business corridors alongside Landess Avenue, the Great Mall, and Eastridge with other FilAm peers.

Overall, 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).

As a Downtown San José resident and Filipino-American community advocate, I ask that the commission keeps our community together when the lines are redrawn.

Thank you.

Karen Manalac
Resident of San José

Written Testimony to the San José Redistricting Commission

Good morning. My name is Karen Manalac and I have been living in Downtown San José for over 3 years. I moved to San José after my second year of undergraduate studies to be closer to San José State University. Many Filipinx/o/a American college students like myself lived in the Gateway Apartments on 4th Street near the exit towards the 280, on 10th Street, or formed on campus. I have also been a part of San José based organizations such as Akbayan SJSU and L.E.A.D Filipino for over 5 years now.

During my time living here in San José, I've enjoyed visiting Filipino American owned restaurants such as Tapsilog Bistro in Campell, the FilAm business corridors alongside Landess Avenue, the Great Mall, and Eastridge with other FilAm peers.

Overall, 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).

As a Downtown San José resident and Filipino-American community advocate, I ask that the commission keeps our community together when the lines are redrawn.

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