

## **Collection of COI Testimonies by L.E.A.D Filipino**

**Camille Valerio**  
**L.E.A.D Filipino**  
**September 18, 2021**

### **Testimony:**

Good afternoon members of the Redistricting Commission. My name is Camille Valerio 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 by keep the boundary lines the same. Our community lives within several San Jose City Council Districts connected together by small businesses, parks, community organizations, churches, and schools. The St. Francis of Assisi is an important church for the Catholic 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 District 4 in which they live are kept together within the district.

**Clarence Madrilejos**  
**Resident of San José**  
**September 18, 2021**

Hello, my name is Clarence Madrilejos. Throughout my life, I have lived all over Santa Clara County, including San José. I've specifically lived in Berryessa, but also know the Alum Rock, Japantown, and Evergreen (which holds a large Filipinx/o/a American population) area very well.

My father first came to San José to work in the farm fields while my mother came from the Philippines for work opportunities. During the 70s to the early 90s, we moved to different areas in San José depending on our family's job situation and the increasing housing costs.

I ask that the Redistricting Commission keep the same lines in District 4 to ensure our community stays within its boundaries.

Growing up in a Catholic household, we would attend church every Sunday at St. Victor's in Berryessa (D4) or Most Holy Trinity Church near Eastridge (D8). Other Catholic churches that were important to our community were Five Wounds Portuguese Church (D3) on E. Santa Clara Street and Lady of Guadalupe (D5) on E. San Antonio Street. Our Lady of Guadalupe had a large number of FilAms attend and living in the area because of the affordable housing available which was attractive to overseas Filipinx moving into the area.

Like a lot of my FilAm peers, I attended Ben Painter Elementary School (D5) on Rough and Ready Road, William Sheppard Middle School (D5), and Independence High School (D4). I also had cousins who attended Silver Creek High School (D8) on Silver Creek Road or Mt. Pleasant High School (D5) on S. White Road. My family would also visit anywhere that was a driving distance for recreational activities such as Fremont, Lake Elizabeth, Lake Cunningham, Raging Waters, and even relative's houses for gatherings.

Because the FilAm community is spread out, we would also travel along the 680 or towards Tully Road, McLaughlin, the center of Alum Rock, or along Story Road. We would also visit newer local FilAm restaurants such as Tapsilog Bistro.

Our community is connected by a series of issues such as more workplace protection workers for our FilAm frontline workers (especially at Regional Medical Centers where there is a large demographic of FilAm employees) and education. FilAms have the highest dropout rates in the Asian community and would like to see more disaggregated data to advocate for more resources for our community's students.

Once again, it'd be in the best interest of our FilAm community all over San José to have the lines stay the same to ensure we are not separated. Thank you.

**Justher Gutierrez**  
**Resident of San José**  
**September 18, 2021**

Hello,

My name is Justher Gutierrez and I have been living in North San José. I am a part of a South Bay grassroots organization called Malaya South Bay which seeks to broaden support for the cause of freedom and democracy in the Philippines.

My family has lived in in Santa Clara County for My grandparents came to the United States then petitioned my family over. Their first jobs here began in the electronic manufacturing industry in the Sunnyvale & Mountain View area. Growing up, I attended Our Lady of Peace in Santa Clara and also went to school in the area. We would travel all the way to the Great Mall and Seafood City in Milpitas for our groceries and other recreational activities. This area had lots of the ingredients my family needed to cook Filipino dishes or materials needed for our cultural events.

I ask that the redistricting commission acknowledge our community when the lines are being redrawn. It would be in the best interest of the FilAm community here in District 4 to keep us together by keeping the same boundary lines.

Thank you.

**Gabriel Young**  
**Resident of San José**  
**September 18, 2021**

Good morning. My name is Gabriel Young and I've lived in the Berryessa area for over 20 years now. I am the State Policy Advocate for L.E.A.D Filipino and a member of FIERCE, a statewide assembly of 20 FilAm community-based organizations (CBOs), nonprofits, grassroots, and student groups from across California.

As a San José resident, I ask that the Redistricting Commission keep the same boundaries lines to ensure our FilAm community along the D4 boundaries is kept with the rest of our FilAm community in D4. The neighborhoods alongside Miguelita, North Jackson, Pacheco, and Baton Rouge have a high percentage of FilAms living in the area, ranging from 14-30%. Our FilAm community in this area shares similar interests and socioeconomic status in comparison to the demographic of District 5 and Alum Rock.

Our community in D3, D4, D5, and D8 use the same churches, shared community spaces or businesses such as the old Seafood City in Berryessa, Tindahan Pinoy in Capital & Hostetter (Berryessa), Filipino Community Center in Japantown, the Jollibee and FilAm restaurants in Evergreen, Tapsilog and Toppings. Growing up, my family and I also attended mass at St. Victor which had a large FilAm congregation.

Geographically, our community in San José is connected by the 880 freeway which connects South San Jose to North San Jose, the Montague BART Station, White & Piedmont Rd., Ruby Rd., Empire & Jackson (where historic Filipino town used to be), Quimby & Tully Rd, the Ocala Area, & Mclaughlin. These streets contain FilAm Business corridors, neighborhoods, and just frequently traveled by FilAms.

Keeping our communities together helps keep healthier relationships between parents and children, fills our community's intergenerational gaps, helps us protect our undocumented community, and creates intersectional relationships with other communities. Keeping our community together also gives us a voice to stand up to AAPI hate crimes and help reimagine public safety.

Thank you.

**James Binauhan**  
**Resident of San José**  
**September 18, 2021**

Hello,

My name is James Binauhan and I've lived in Milpitas for 15 years, but also know San José well. I am a part of L.E.A.D Filipino, which a non-profit based in San José. We are focused on advancing civic participation and civil rights within the Filipino/a/x American and broader communities.

The FilAm community in Milpitas is connected by its community spaces, businesses such as St. Elizabeth, St. John the Baptist and also the Evangelical Faith Communities, "PNC" Music Schools, Seafood City, Seasons Mall (the stage in the middle of the mall), Jollibee, The Pines (neighborhood, duplex, single-family homes) near Great Mall, and the Manong Mural at Milpitas Library. Due to its proximity, my family would also visit Berryessa often to visit the community spaces and businesses such as St. John Vianni, St. Victor, Valerio's Bakery, King Eggroll, L&L's, Olivera's Eggs, Berryessa Flea Market, Penitencia Creek County Park, Manila Oriental, and Seafood City (on McKee, before it closed).

I ask that the Redistricting Commission keeps our community within the District 4 boundary lines.

Thank you.