

L.E.A.D Filipino
San José based non-profit organization
August 6, 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. 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 5 in which they live are kept together within the district.

Thank you.

Daniel Lazo
Resident of San José
September 18, 2021

Hello,

My name is Daniel Lazo and I have lived in San José for over 23 years. My parents used to live in Milpitas and moved to the Alum Rock neighborhood. I am part of a local non-profit called L.E.A.D Filipino, focused on advancing civic participation and civil rights within the Filipino/a/x American and broader communities. I ask that the Redistricting Commission keeps our community within the District 5 boundary lines by keeping the lines the same.

Growing up my family would travel to the [FilAm business corridors](#) in the Berryessa/Milpitas/Commodore area such as Seafood City, Jollibee, Great Mall, Valerio's Bakery, and 7 Leaves Plaza. As a Catholic household, my family would attend church at St. Francis of Assisi which was alongside San Felipe Road and had a large FilAm congregation. For family picnics, we would gather at Lake Cunningham (D8), Cataldi Park (D4), and Welch Park (D8).

I'd also like to acknowledge the Filipinx/o/a elderly population in downtown San José (D3) the shares similar interests and concerns to our COIs in Berryessa. There's also a history of FilAms in Japantown represented by the Filipino Community Center which just celebrated their 88th Anniversary in August. This area had a rich history of Filipinxs and also contained Pinoytown before our community left due to the housing prices and lack of opportunities.

Geographically, the FilAm community is connected by Highway 101, 280 and 680. There is also FilAms living along White Rd. (connecting Evergreen to Berryessa). There are many schools along White Rd such as James Lick, Piedmont, Independence, Silver Creek, EB that educate many of our community's youth. Community organizations such as Filipino Youth Coalition (FYC). Transportation-wise, the 71 was my bus going from Piedmont Hills to Eastridge Mall and also home on White Rd

Thank you.