

To: Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission and Citizens of Austin

From: Anna Saenz

Date: July 7, 2013

At the same time that we are considering removing Catherine Cocco from the ICRC, I would like the Commissioners to reflect on the fact that we would be penalizing Catherine Cocco for being Asian.

The responsibility of caring for an ailing parent is of utmost importance to the Asian culture.

At this point in our deliberations, if we are able to swear in Catherine Cocco as a member of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission using Skype technology, we might consider retaining her as an important link to the Asian community of Austin.

Our responsibilities presently will be to advertise for and select an Executive Director, who will, in turn, assist us in selecting the Legal Counsel, Mapping Specialist and Administrative Assistant.

The main deliberations of the ICRC will begin when we listen to members of the community, for "Citizen Input," within each of the four precincts, and later, when we consider the actual map and how exactly to divide the city into 10 districts.

Even if we are not able to have Catherine Cocco swear in as a member of the ICRC using Skype, perhaps we could simply wait until she returns to Austin, at which time we could then have her sworn in at a regular meeting of the ICRC.

In the meantime, by using a computer, Catherine would be able to see meetings, either live, or on video, and in that way, she would be able to understand what we are doing until she is able to become a member of the ICRC and participate in the deliberation process.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Saenz, Commissioner, ICRC