## Koy Kunkel\_SC

From:applications.administrator@capitol.localSent:Friday, February 12, 2021 8:36 AMTo:Senate RedistrictingSubject:INETMAIL: Redistricting Public InputAttachments:2021-2-12 Senate Redistricting.pdf

Date: 2021-02-12 First Name: Laurie Last Name: Flores Title: Former Harris County Precinct Chair 574 Organization: Bonita Gardens Civic Club Address: City: Houston State: Tx Zipcode: Phone:

Affirm public info: I agree

**Regarding: House** 

Message: To the Honorable Texas Senate Redistricting Committee:

Good morning, Members of the Senate Redistricting Committee. My name is Laurie Flores and I am here representing Voting Precinct 574 of Harris County, Texas. I grew up in Precinct 574, moved away after high school, returned in 1998 and have been advocating for our community since my return. Although I am currently not a precinct chair, I have held that position for many years. Currently, both of our chair positions are vacant.

I would like to present a little history of our community and its experience and consequences with the 2010 redistricting process. At the 2010 Census Redistricting hearings, I spoke before this committee advocating to have our community, commonly known as Bonita Gardens or La Bonita, combined into one state representative district and one precinct. It had been divided into two state districts 141 and 142 and into three precincts: 574, 230 and 168. The people, a modest 823, 76.8% Hispanic, were in Harold Dutton's State House District 142 and in Precinct 574; Our Lady of St. John Catholic Church, built and supported by the people of 574, was in Precinct 230; and the Bonita Gardens subdivision park, once the home of 22 Hispanic families who were displaced in 1966 and 67 so that a school could be built, was in Precinct 168. Both were in Senfronia Thompson's, State House District 141.

I thank this Committee for listening to the request of the people and combining the Church, Park and People into State District 141. Once that was accomplished, Precinct 574 successfully petitioned to be moved from Houston City Council District B, to District H, a Hispanic dominated district, with generally Hispanic leadership at its throne. The result of that move has transformed our once desolate, foreclosure desert, into a vibrant community attracting new people, new home construction and home renovations that continue to multiply. Our community, Bonita Gardens, was given a new life, a rebirth.

We are now asking to be redistricted from State District 141 to State District 140 which is in proximity (See attached map) to our precinct. We, the people, believe that by making this move, we would be combined with a predominantly

Mexican-American/Hispanic population that would receive representation sensitive to the needs of our people and culture.

Respectfully submitted,

D Laurie Flores Precinct 574 Bonita Gardens Civic Club La Bonita Civic Club



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A Lauris Floren

D Laurie Flores Precinct 574 Bonita Gardens Civic Club La Bonita Civic Club 7318 Los Angeles St. Houston, Texas 77016 Laurie555flores@gmail.com 713-628-737

