When you give community of interest testimony to the Districting Commission, you are explaining what bonds you together with your neighbors and loved ones in city. Your testimony should give the Commissioners a clear picture of your community’s shared traits and characteristics so that it does not get divided and placed in different districts. When writing your testimony consider that you are speaking to someone that may have never visited your community. Be as descriptive as possible.

There are four main elements to a community of interest testimony. Each is explained below but remember that there is no one way to describe a community of interest. Each community is unique and so be creative and comprehensive in describing your community of interest.

1. Social and economic characteristics – Use personal experience and/or statistics to describe common traits of your community.
   a. What is the common language spoke by your community?
   b. What is the common ancestry? (I.e. Mexican, Filipino, African-American, etc. Let the Commission know of our diversity.)
   c. Is there a common income level to the community? What is the educational level?
   d. Are there common interests in schools, public safety, parks, transit lines, and land use?

2. Your community story – Use anecdotes to describe how your community is united.
   a. Has your community worked together to achieve a common goal? (Examples can include investments in redevelopment, organizing an annual festival or parade, etc.)
   b. What are the common activities that your community participates in? (Examples can include a soccer league, a shared religious congregation, a common shopping area, etc.)

3. Relation to communities around you – Identify which communities are most similar to you and most different from you.
   a. Identify which communities share your experience or social and economic characteristics.
   b. Share with the Commission which communities around you are different.
4. Define your boundaries – Explain where your community sits within Chula Vista. Your testimony can include a map that demonstrates your community of interest.

   a. Be specific in identifying your north/south and east/west boundaries; include distinctive features such as street names, rivers, highways, etc.

   b. You do not need to provide a map of all four districts in Chula Vista. If you use a map, simply show the outline of where your community is located. Use Google Maps for this purpose.

   **REMEMBER: You are the expert of your community!**
   **The Commission needs to hear from you!**
Structuring Your Written or Verbal Testimony

Introduction:
My name is ______________________ and I am from (neighborhood/community) ________________ (if applicable include how many years you have lived in this community) _____________________________________________________________________

State Your Goal/Purpose:
I am here today to request that the Commission keep my community of interest together (or identify any other goal that you have identified) ________________________________________________

Describe Your Community’s Shared Social and Economic Characteristics:
(use demographic data if possible to show common characteristics)
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

Distinguish Your Community:
My (our) community is similar to ________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

And it is unique/distinct/different from ____________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

Define your Community Boundaries: Identify street names, highways, landmarks, parks, lakes, etc.:
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

Provide a Community Map (not required): (if you have a computer and internet you can use Google Maps, or simply sketch on paper with labeled boundaries)

Conclude Your Statement: Re-State your goal/purpose; thank the Commission for hearing your views:
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
How to Draw a Map of your Community of Interest


2. Click on the right-hand tab, “Sign In.” You must have a Google account to use Google Maps. Then scroll to the left, and on the drop down menu select the “My Maps” button. Click on the “Create” button.

3. Select “New Map” or if you are editing an existing map, select “Edit Map.” You may give your map a title by clicking in the box where it says, “Untitled layer.” Click the “Save” button.

4. To start mapping, zoom in to your neighborhood area so that the entire area is visible in your monitor.

5. Select the “Add line or shape tool,” located at the top of the map below the search bar.

6. Draw a border around your neighborhood or community by clicking and dropping points around the border.

7. To finish the border, click on your starting point. You will end up with a grey shape showing your neighborhood or community. Google Maps will name it “polygon” by default. Note: if you don’t click on the first point to close the “polygon” your area will be a line rather than a polygon.

8. You may edit the area by deleting or moving points. Use the “Pan tool”, and click on the area to reactivate and edit the points that form your polygon.

9. To delete a point, click on it with the “Pan tool” to select it, right click then select “delete point.” You may also delete the entire area and start over. If you have accidentally deleted your area or a point you wish to keep, use “Ctrl Z” to bring to bring it back.

10. If you wish you may then name your “polygon” and add a description.

11. You may use the “Add marker” tool to add place marks to your map in order to indicate locations of significance in your COI. Click on the “Add marker” and then click the location on the map you want to mark.

12. Once finished, click on “Untitled Map” and name your newly drawn district map!

13. Your map will be automatically saved to your Google Drive. You can print your newly drawn map and bring it with you to one of the Districting Commission’s public input hearings. Make sure to bring enough copies for all the Districting Commissioners and city staff. Twelve copies is a safe bet.