

Public Comment 7/21/22

Good afternoon. First, I'd like to comment on the redistricting maps, which have been shown to the public without any of the corresponding data attached. All three of the maps appear to fail to meet the standards set by the new 2021 law. Villages, towns and electoral districts are broken, just for starters, and the map maker obviously lacked the local knowledge that would have led to at least one map that makes sense. If you're having a public hearing on this, show us the data. Show us the data. We're going to have to live with this redistricting long after this legislature is just a memory.

Secondly, I've commented before on the unfitness of Mr. Salamone to act as Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. His so-called surprise visit to inspect the Adult Care Center was neither a surprise nor an inspection, because he lacks the education and expertise to conduct an inspection that is meaningful. Mr. Salamone's vacuous comments at last week's committee meeting about all the wonderful improvements taking place show how callously out of touch he is with the lives of our county's residents who utilize the services that the committee is supposed to oversee. Mr. Salamone's appointment exemplifies the Chairman's contempt for Health and Human Services, period. Department heads should be at meetings or at least available on remote to answer questions, since reports are always at

least a month old, and the Department Heads are the experts. Mr. Liddle is not; he is a manager. County employees are still working multiple jobs to fill in for vacant positions and their sick colleagues, and there have been a lot of sick people lately. The only person to mention COVID last week was the Personnel Director in another Committee meeting and we are still in a pandemic, actually in a wave, although we are all so tired of that reality. It is irresponsible for this to not be discussed at the Health and Human Services Committee meeting.

Finally, this great new PA system could also be used to allow the public to make comments remotely, as officials do routinely promote during their meetings in Orange County. They must actually believe in Open Meetings Law and that a diversity of opinion and expertise contributes to the best decision making and planning. The newest Social Media policy which was on the agenda today also bans public comment on county sites. It is really sad to watch the erosion of democracy under this legislature.

Lise Kennedy