85th Street Association
37-60 85th Street
Jackson Heights, New York 11372

August 16, 2012

NYC Districting Commission
253 Broadway 7th Fl.
New York, New York 10007
Attn: Jonathan Ettricks

Members of the Commission:

The most important decision you can make regarding redistricting is to assure that neighborhoods, as defined by the residents and grassroots community organizations, remain intact. When a neighborhood is divided into two or more council districts, the residents' power is effectively diminished.

We live in Jackson Heights which is divided into two council districts. Not only is the neighborhood divided but the New York City Historic District and the National Register Historic District are divided into two council districts.

The Jackson Heights Beautification Group is our neighborhood organization whose boundaries are the BQE on the west, Northern Blvd. on the north, Junction Blvd. on the east and Roosevelt Avenue on the south. The Jackson Heights Historic District and the National Register Historic are both within these boundaries.

Therefore we request that however the district lines are drawn please keep our neighborhood intact. Do not diminish our political voice.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Janet O'Hare

Enc: Map

Residents | Business | Visitors | Government | Office of the Mayor |

NYCityMap

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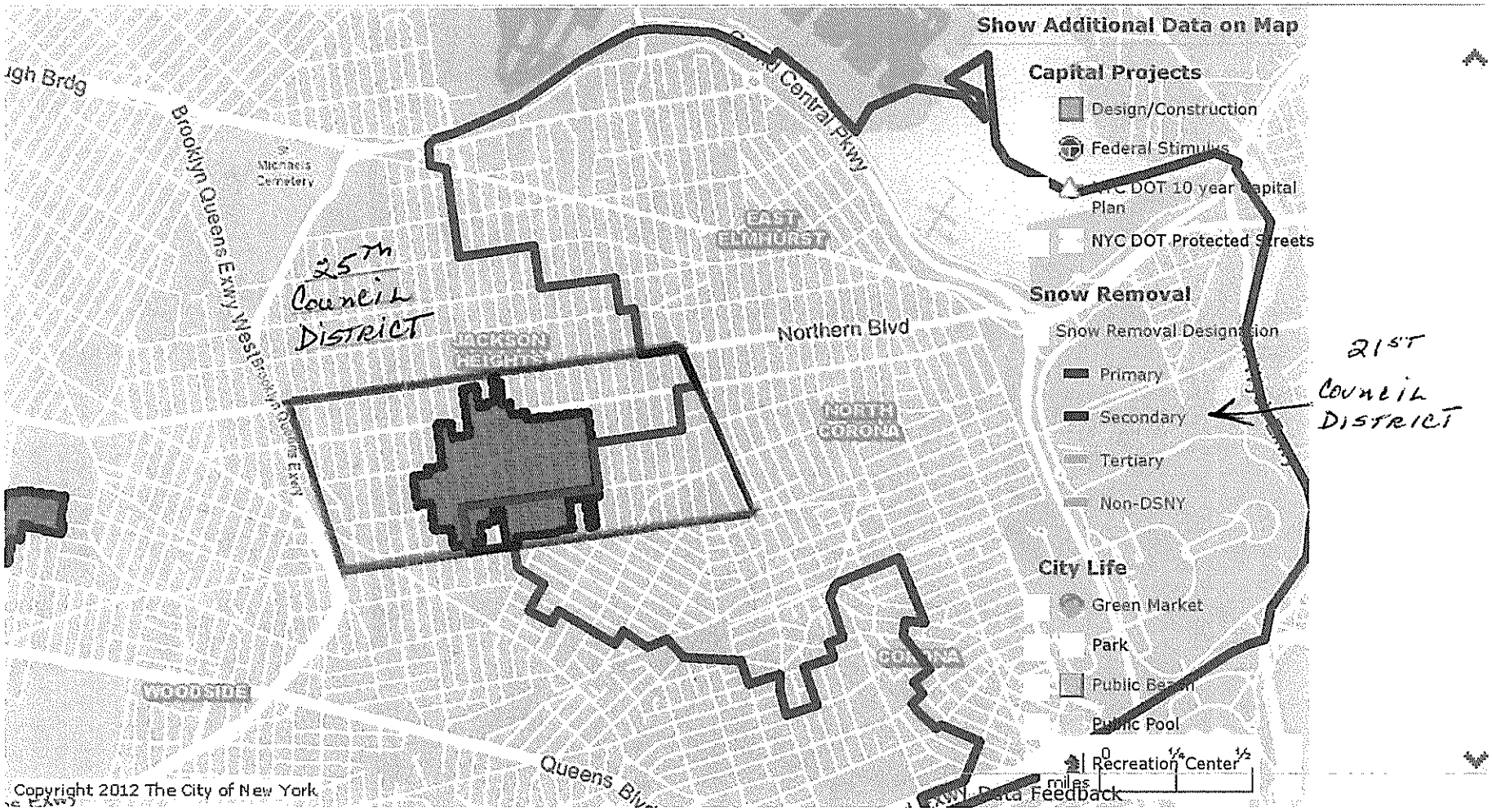

ALLIANCE OF SOUTH ASIAN AMERICAN LABOR (ASAAL)

P.O. BOX 1698, NEW YORK, NY 10008

E-mail: asaal08@gmail.com

August 21, 2012

NYC Districting Commission
253 Broadway, 7th Fl.
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioners:

The Alliance of South Asian American Labor ("ASAAL") is a community-based organization comprised of South Asian Americans that are part of the trade unionist movement. We seek to share our experiences in politics and labor unions to create a more dynamic culture of civic participation in the wider South Asian American community. We are a membership-based organization with chapters in Brooklyn, Bronx and Queens.

The current Council district lines can be shifted to better serve our community, and increase our political standing in this city. Presently, the neighborhoods of Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park, Queens—one of the densest concentrations of South Asian Americans in this city—are gerrymandered into four Council districts. This community of interest must be united and has enough population to be its own district.

The neighborhood of Jamaica Hills, Queens is also one of the most substantial concentrations of South Asian Americans. Presently, this community is united in one Council district (24th district), and we urge you to maintain its unity. Similarly, the neighborhoods of Bellerose and Floral Park, Queens represent another substantial concentration of South Asian Americans. This community of interest is presently united in one Council district (23rd district), and we encourage you to maintain the unity of this community of interest.

Although these latter enclaves are well preserved in separate districts, we believe that it is beneficial to unite them into a single district, and we encourage you to explore this option. These communities not only share a similar racial identity and immigration history, but also language, rates of homeownership, family structure and common political interests. Joining these two areas would not be unprecedented; parts of these two enclaves have been combined by the state legislature into the new 24th Assembly district, and we believe this body can do even better for this community by including the entirety of these enclaves together.

We implore you to keep our community united and adhere to your duties under the Charter of the City of New York to preserve communities of interest.

Sincerely,

Maf Misbah Uddin
President, ASAAL

Statement by the
Asian American Community Coalition on Redistricting and Democracy to the
New York City 2012-2013 Districting Commission
for the Queens Borough's Pre-Map Release Public Hearing
Delivered by James Hong

August 21, 2012
Queens Flushing Public Library, 41-17 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355

Good afternoon Districting Commission members, staff and concerned citizens of Queens. My name is James Hong and I am here speaking on behalf of ACCORD, the Asian American Community Coalition on Redistricting and Democracy.

ACCORD is a non-partisan, pan-Asian coalition of 14 organizations across the city. We are committed to advancing the opportunity of Asian Americans and minority communities to meaningfully participate in the political process.

We urge the Commission today not to approach the task of redistricting as merely the one of equalizing populations among districts. By our city's own charter, our city council lines should reflect our communities of interest. This will require thoughtful consideration of demographics and community input, and ultimately, whether the district lines will account for and respect what are dramatic changes underneath a seemingly modest 2.1% increase in citywide population.

For example, the Asian American population in Queens grew 30.6% between 2000 and 2010. There are now over half a million Asian Americans in this borough and they are 22.8% of its population. Just to put it in perspective, fully half of New York City' Asian American population resides in Queens.

Our member organizations will speak more specifically to certain neighborhoods. However, we want to point out two areas that need significant changes: Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park, and Bayside.

- We consider Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park to be a single community of interest, and currently, voters there are divided and thus diluted among four elected officials. This area should be united within a single city council district and thus given meaningful representation.

- The neighborhood of Bayside is also divided, and while much of it is in district 19, the southern portion of the neighborhood falls into district 23. This area, also known as Oakland Gardens, should be joined into district 19. The residents of Oakland Gardens often identify themselves as living in Bayside. For the definitions of these neighborhoods we again recommend AALDEF's community boundaries.

And, with regards to other significant neighborhood clusters:

- The current district lines in Elmhurst, Jackson Heights and Woodside do not reflect the communities of interest existing in those neighborhoods, and should be reconfigured.
- The neighborhood clusters of Bellerose, Floral Park, Queens Village and Glen Oaks are currently kept whole and this should not change.
- Briarwood and Jamaica Hills should also stay together and intact.
- Finally, Flushing, East Flushing, Murray Hill and Queensboro Hill are currently largely kept whole within a single district. This should not change.

We look forward to a draft from the Commission that brings equal voice to the Asian American residents and voters of Queens and all of New York City.

ACCORD's members include the following organizations: Asian American Bar Association of New York, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Asian Pacific Americans for Progress New York, Chhaya CDC, Chinese Progressive Association, Indo-Caribbean Alliance, Korean Americans for Political Advancement, Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, MinKwon Center for Community Action, OCA-NY, Queensboro Hill Neighborhood Association, Taking Our Seat, United Chinese Association of Brooklyn, YWCA of Queens and Dr. Carol Huang of Queens, New York.

STATEMENT OF GLENN D. MAGPANTAY

ASIAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND
TO THE
NEW YORK CITY DISTRICTING COMMISSION

Queens Public Hearing, August 21, 2012
Flushing Library, Queens, New York

Good evening. My name is Glenn Magpantay, and I am the Director of the Democracy Program at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. AALDEF is a 38-year-old nonpartisan organization based in New York City that protects and promotes the voting rights of Asian Americans through litigation, advocacy and community education.

AALDEF has documented Asian American voting patterns by conducting multilingual exit polls of Asian American voters, in every major election since 1988, surveying almost 17,000 Asian American voters in the 2008 Presidential Election.

AALDEF's exit poll results show that Asian Americans are politically cohesive and vote as a bloc on matters that transcend ethnicity or party affiliation. During the November 2009 general elections, John Liu won overwhelming support from all Asian ethnic groups--94% of Chinese Americans, 92% of Korean Americans, and 73% of South Asian Americans.[1] Election returns for elections in New York City also show that voting in New York City is racially polarized.

The New York City Charter requires this Commission to keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether racial, economic, ethnic or religious.[2] The Charter also requires this Commission to ensure the fair and effective representation of the racial and language minority groups in New York City which are protected by the Voting Rights Act.[3] Keeping communities of interest together will ensure that Asian Americans will have a full and fair opportunity to elect candidates of their choice, in accordance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965[4] and the New York City Charter.

This Commission should superimpose or overlay the Asian American Neighborhood Boundaries over each proposed redistricting plan to determine if Asian American communities of interest are kept whole and grouped with other similar Asian American

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[1] AALDEF 2009 Exit Poll Results (Nov. 4, 2009), *available at http://aaldef.org/press-releases/press-release/first-asian-american-wins-citywide-office-and-two-asian-americans-join-city-council-in-historic-nyc.html*
[2] N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, Section 52(1)(c) (2004).
[3] N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, Section 52(1)(b) (2004).
[4] 42 U.S.C. § 1973(b).

communities of interest as detailed in our Asian American Community of Interest Survey.

Unity Map

AALDEF is working with other minority groups protected under the federal Voting Rights Act, to construct a Unity Map for New York City Council, as we did for New York State Assembly, Senate and Congress. The Unity Map will likely be the only submission to this Commission that complies with the one person one vote requirement of the U.S. Constitution, the federal Voting Rights Act and protects and preserves the communities of interests for all of New York City's federally protected minority groups, as required by the New York City Charter.

The civil rights organizations representing members of federally protected groups under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 will submit one identical plan that protects and preserves the voting rights of racial minority groups in New York – the Unity Map. The Commission should adopt the Unity Map configuration, or at the very least, use the Unity Map as a benchmark to measure other proposals' adherence to the Voting Rights Act and the degree to which minority voting strength and communities of interest have been respected.

Asian Americans in Queens

Asian Americans are the fastest growing racial group in New York City.

CENSUS 2010	Total Population	Asian Population	Asian Percent of Total	Total Growth Since 2000	Asian Growth Since 2000
New York State	19,378,102	1,406,194	7.3%	2.1%	35.7%
New York City	8,175,133	1,028,119	12.6%	2.1%	31.8%
- Queens	2,230,722	508,334	22.8%	0.1 %	30.6%
- Manhattan	1,585,873	177,624	11.2%	3.2%	24.0%
- Brooklyn	2,504,700	260,129	10.4%	1.6%	41.2%

* Only includes those who checked "Asian" and no other race[5].

In Queens, Asian Americans have grown over 300 times faster than the overall rate of the borough, numbering over half a million. Asian Americans now comprise more than 20% of the population of Queens. Of all the municipalities in the nation, New York has the largest Asian American population.

[5] This "Not Hispanic Asian alone" number should be taken as the bare minimum number of Asian Americans. In the 2000 and 2010 censuses, respondents were allowed to mark more than one race, yielding a race concept known as "alone or in combination", which includes people who reported a single race alone (e.g., Asian) and people who reported that race in combination with one or more of the other race groups (i.e., White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race). In addition, race and ethnicity are considered separate and distinct identities, with Hispanic or Latino origin asked as a separate question. This means that all respondents are also categorized as either "Hispanic or Latino" and "Not Hispanic or Latino". Therefore, a more accurate and inclusive estimate of Asian Americans would be to aggregate both the Hispanic and Not Hispanic Asian alone or in combination populations (e.g., the maximum number of Asian Americans citywide should actually be reflected as 1,134,919 or 13.9% of the total NYC population).

Asian American communities of interest in Queens are divided in Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park, Elmhurst, Jackson Heights and Bayside.

The Asian American communities of interest in Queens that should not be divided are listed below:

Queens

- **Flushing** - This community-defined area is substantially in City Council District (CD) 20 and part of CD19. Flushing is the cultural, economic and social hub of the Asian American community in Queens. It is imperative that Flushing, in particular, be kept whole. Asian Americans in Flushing are politically cohesive, especially between the two largest Asian ethnic groups, Chinese Americans and Korean Americans. During the November 2001 City Council elections, 94% of Chinese American voters and 90% of Korean American voters voted for John Liu.[6] Residents of Flushing share many common interests, such as the need for language assistance, immigration issues and reliance on public transportation, and they should be grouped together into the same legislative district when possible.
- **Bayside** - The community-defined area of Bayside is currently divided among CD19 and CD23. Bayside is home to a large Korean American community. In the November 2009 general election, 99% of all Asian American voters polled by AALDEF voted for the Korean American City Council candidate for CD19, Kevin Kim.[7] Bayside is a residential neighborhood where most people own their homes. Bayside retains many close cultural and economic ties to neighboring Flushing. Bayside should not remain divided among multiple districts.
- **Elmhurst** - This community-defined area is currently divided among CD21, CD25, CD29 and CD26. Elmhurst is home to a large pan-Asian American and Latino population. Chinese, Indian, Filipino and Nepali Americans have settled in Elmhurst. Most residents rely on public transportation, including the E, F, M, R and 7 train subway lines. There is a lack of healthcare for many in the neighborhood. The neighborhoods of Jackson Heights and Woodside are similar to Elmhurst and should be grouped together into the same legislative district when possible because of the shared socio-economic status of the residents, need for language assistance and shared concerns. The

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[6] See also Jennifer Lee, *Poll Finds Asian Overwhelmingly Back Liu*, N.Y. Times City Room (blog) (Sept. 18, 2009), *available at* http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/09/18/poll-finds-asians-overwhelmingly-backed-liu/.

[7] AALDEF 2009 Exit Poll Results (Nov. 4, 2009), *available at http://aaldef.org/press-releases/press-release/first-asian-american-wins-citywide-office-and-two-asian-americans-join-city-council-in-historic-nyc.html*

neighborhoods of Maspeth and Middle Village are vastly different from Elmhurst and should not be grouped together with Elmhurst.

- **Jackson Heights** - This community-defined area is currently divided among CD25 and CD21. Jackson Heights is a diverse neighborhood of mostly South Asian and Latino residents. Many of the residents are limited English proficient and require some form of language assistance. Many South Asian residents have limited access to interpreters and face greater difficulties in applying for government entitlements. There are common concerns in this community including lack of green space and recreational facilities, high traffic congestion, insufficient number of parking spaces, overcrowding and congestion, and inadequate infrastructure to accommodate the growing population. Similar surrounding neighborhoods include Elmhurst and Woodside because of the shared socio-economic status of the residents, need for language assistance and shared concerns.
- **Woodside** – This community defined area is substantially in CD26 with some portions in CD25. Woodside is home to a diverse population comprised of Nepali, Korean, Filipino and Bangladeshi Americans. Many of the immigrant population are limited English proficient and there is a need for language assistance. The majority of the residents rent apartments or homes. The people are working class, working in nail salons, restaurants, construction, driving taxi cabs, working as domestic workers and entrepreneurs. Many of the residents share common interests, including: immigration issues, workers' rights, restaurant workers' rights, legal awareness, assistance in applying for and receiving public benefits that they are eligible to receive and health related issues.

  The surrounding neighborhoods that are most similar to Woodside are Elmhurst and Jackson Heights. Residents in Elmhurst use the same hospital as residents in Woodside, Elmhurst Hospital, and many residents from both neighborhoods do not have health insurance. Residents often move between Woodside and Elmhurst and can move easily back and forth using the 7 train subway line. Woodside, Elmhurst and Jackson Heights should be grouped together into one legislative district when possible. The neighborhood of Maspeth is distinctly different from Woodside, in that it lacks diversity, and does not share common issues, such as the need for language assistance, immigrant issues or workers' rights.
- **Floral Park/Queens Village/Bellerose/Glenn Oaks** - This community-defined area is currently within CD23. There is a large concentration of South Asian residents in this neighborhood, mostly Indian American. Most of the residents are homeowners and are opposed to down-zoning, and want to be able to rebuild and renovate their homes to a larger size. Many of the men

work in civil service for the United States post office or Metropolitan Transportation Authority, while many of the women work in the medical field, mainly as nurses. Residents moved to these areas due in part to the proximity of local hospitals. The neighborhoods of Bellerose, Floral Park, Queens Village and Glenn Oaks share many common interests and should be considered as one neighborhood that should not be divided.

- **Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park** - The community-defined area of Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park is currently divided among 4 city council districts (CD28, CD32, CD29 and CD30). Most of the Asian Americans in Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park are Indo-Caribbeans or Asian Indians. Indo-Caribbeans share a unique diasporadic history, leaving India as indentured servants more than a century ago and arriving in Caribbean nations, most often Guyana, Suriname, and Trinidad. Their second migration was to the United States, specifically settling in Richmond Hill, Queens. Most residents are dependent upon public transportation and utilize the A train and J train subway lines for transportation services. There are a high number of senior citizens that reside in Richmond Hill, but the only senior center is in Ozone Park on Sutter Avenue. There is only one park in Richmond Hill, Phil Rizutto "Scooter Park" (formerly Smokey Oval Park). There is no other space for recreation in Richmond Hill.

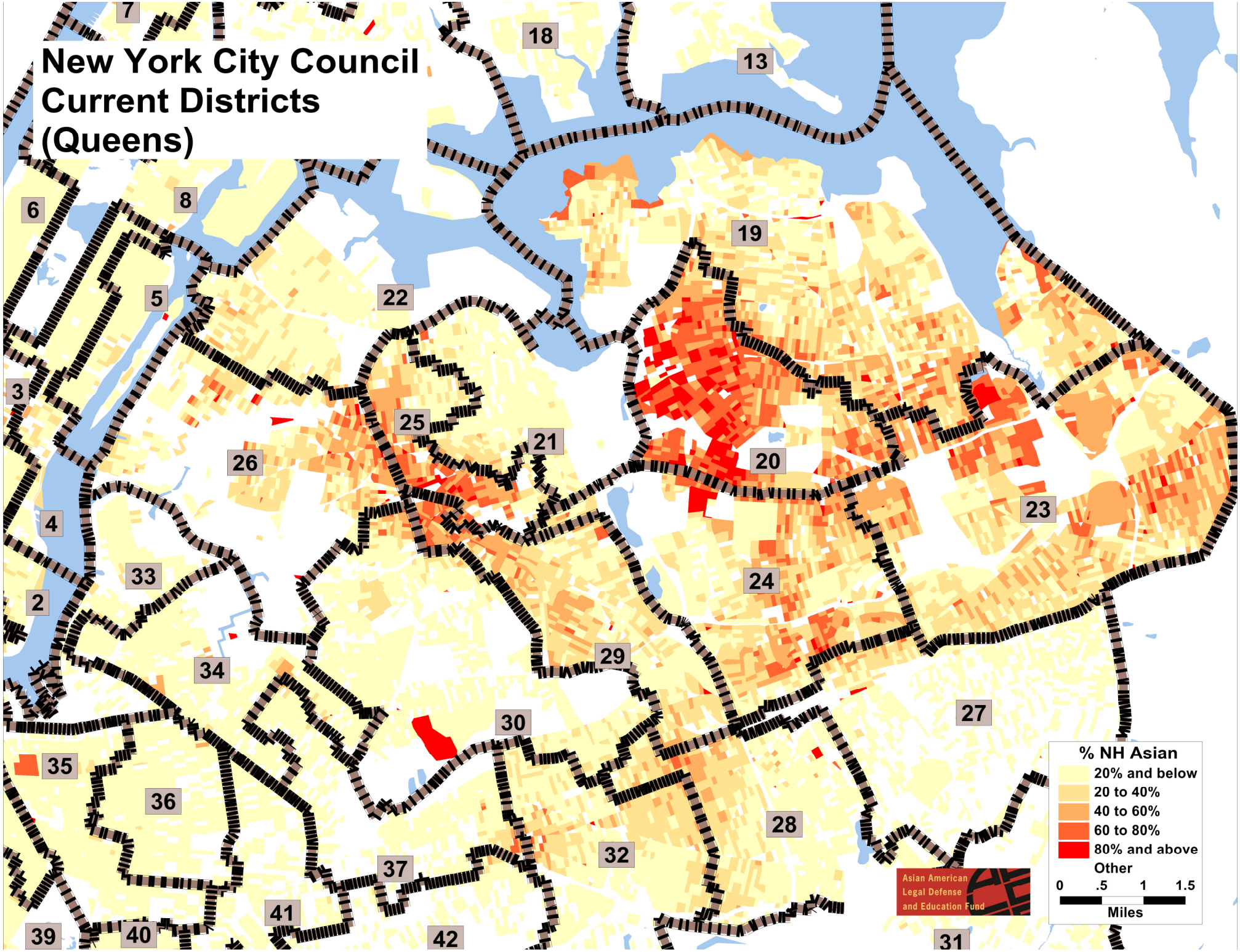
  The neighborhood of South Jamaica, east of the Van Wyck Expressway should not be grouped with Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park because the home property values are significantly less, the high school population is not comprised of students from any of Richmond Hill's or South Ozone Park's middle schools and the population in South Jamaica is not comprised of many immigrants like Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park. The population of South Jamaica is mostly African American who have settled in that neighborhood for a long time and they rely on different public transportation lines, mainly the E train subway line to Jamaica Center.
- **Ozone Park** – The community defined area of Ozone Park is currently in CD32. Ozone Park is also home to many South Asian Americans and Indo-Caribbeans, and shares many concerns with Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park, and should be joined with those communities into a single city council district if possible.
- **Briarwood/Jamaica Hills** - This community-defined area is substantially in CD24, with a portion in CD27. Briarwood and Jamaica Hills is home to a large Bangladeshi American population. Most of the residents are owners of either single family or multi-family homes. Many of the residents do their shopping along Hillside Avenue at ethnic stores, but they do not travel below Hillside Avenue into Jamaica. Most of the population are immigrants and rely

on public transportation, primarily the F subway line. Many of the residents are in favor of the rezoning of Hillside Avenue from six story buildings to fifteen story buildings. Briarwood and Jamaica Hills should be grouped together in a single city council district.

AALDEF submitted the Asian American Neighborhood Boundaries and Communities of Interest Survey for consideration by the Commission. AALDEF's neighborhood boundaries provide the Commission with the spatial boundaries of the Asian American communities of common interest – the Commission should adhere to these boundaries when drawing new legislative districts, in accordance with the New York City Charter. The Asian American communities of common interest, listed above, should not be divided.

Conclusion

AALDEF's neighborhood boundary lines and communities of interest survey provide a guide to the Commission to ensure that new legislative districts will preserve the voting rights of Asian Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities, as guaranteed under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the New York City Charter. The right to vote is fundamental, and we must ensure that this constitutional right is protected for Asian Americans and all New Yorkers. The Commission is required to abide by the Voting Rights Act and the New York City Charter, and must ensure that racial minorities have a full and fair opportunity to elect candidates of their choice and not divide the submitted neighborhood boundary lines.


New York City Council
Current Districts
(Queens)
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20% and below
20 to 40%
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60 to 80%
80% and above
Other
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Miles
Asian American
Legal Defense
and Education Fund

Auburndale Improvement Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 580331, Station A
Flushing, NY 11358
August 21, 2012

New York City Districting Commission
Attn: Jonathan Ettricks
253 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10007

To the New York City Districting Commission:

My name is Henry Euler and I am the First Vice President of the Auburndale Improvement Association, Inc. My civic organization has over six hundred members in the Auburndale, Flushing and Western Bayside communities. We have been in existence for over one hundred years.

We have examined the proposal for new district lines for the 19th, 20th, 23rd and 24th Council districts that has been submitted to the Queens Civic Congress. My organization is a member of the Congress.

The new proposed lines are attempting to keep communities and/or neighborhoods with similar zoning designations in the same district. This should be a major goal when forming council lines for new districts. According to Commission guidelines, it is expected that new lines will "keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other" considerations. Forming districts with similar zoning designations complies with Commission goals.

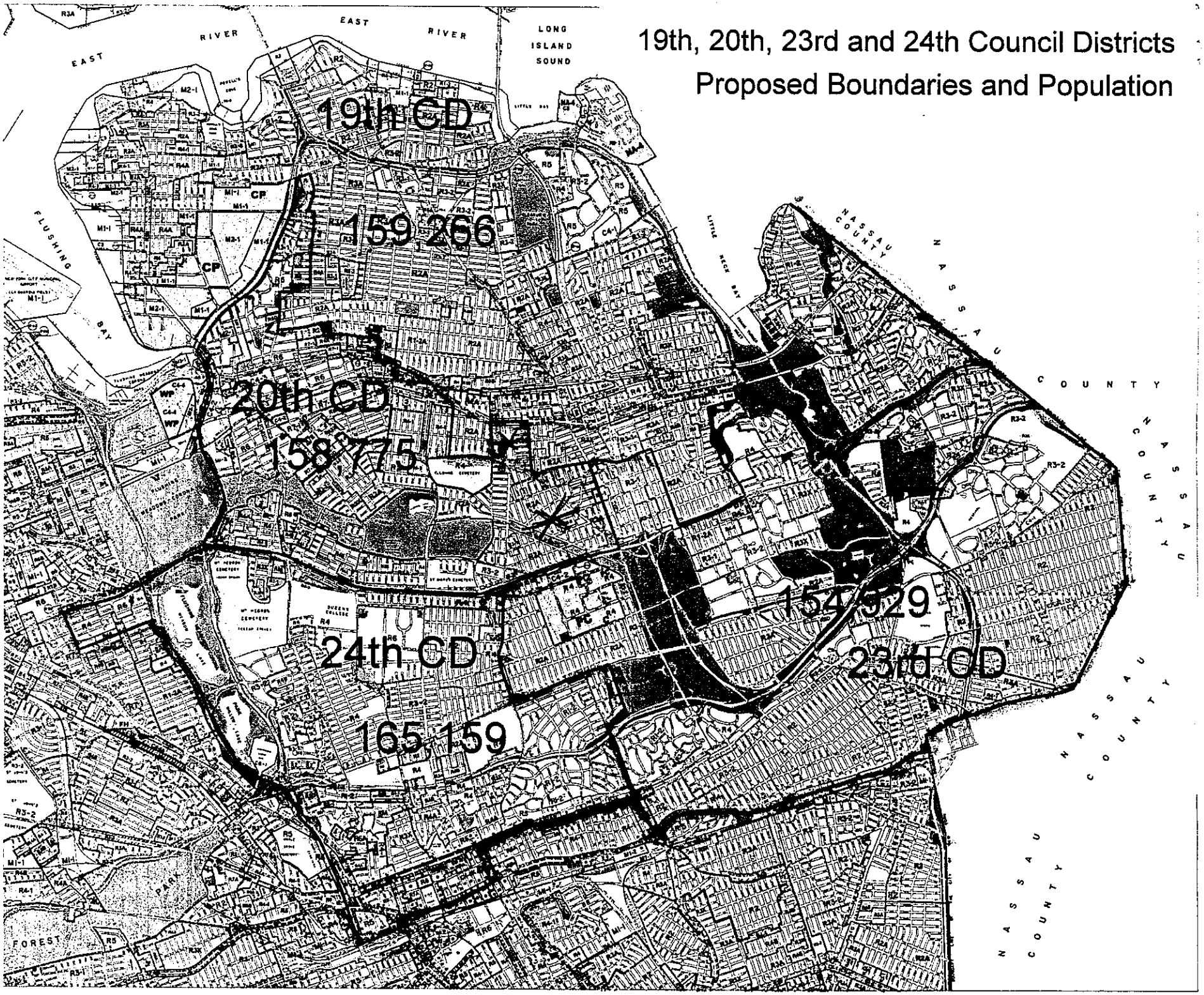
In the 19th district, it makes sense to extend the boundary of the district westward to include one and two family neighborhoods in North Flushing. Those areas have similar interests to Broadway-Flushing to the east, a neighborhood of one and two family homes. The two areas should be united in one district.

As advocates for the Auburndale community, we do have concerns that Auburndale is cut in half with the proposed plan. The southern portion of the community as well as a small portion of central Auburndale (see two asterisks on attached proposal map) are placed in the 20th Council district, which is a district of mostly multi-family homes and apartments. Those two asterisked parts of Auburndale are made up of mostly one and two family homes, which is not consistent with most of the rest of the 20th district. If the Commission approves this proposal, some tweaking is needed for these two areas. Perhaps, southern Auburndale would be more appropriately placed in the 23rd Council district and the central portion that was asterisked should be in the 19th Council district.

Thank you for the opportunity to give this testimony and thank you for the important work that you are undertaking. Your job can not be easy, given all of the components a viable district must possess, however, we are confident that an appropriate districting plan will emerge from your work that will be fair to everyone and appropriate for the concerns and needs of all communities.

Henry Euler Henry Euler

19th, 20th, 23rd and 24th Council Districts
Proposed Boundaries and Population



UNIFICATION OF BAISLEY HOUSES

Testimony of: ROBERT HOGAN
BAISLEY HOUSES RESIDENT ASSOCIATION
PARK

Good evening. My name is ROBERT HOGAN.

I currently reside in District 28.

I am the _____.

I am here to support the redrawing of Council District 28:

To incorporate the portion of Baisley Houses East of Guy Brewer Boulevard. In the interest of promoting fiscal responsibility and ensuring that resources are allocated fairly, it is important that Baisley Houses no longer be separated into two Councilmanic districts. Just like South Jamaica houses, which are governed by one Council Member, Baisley Houses should also be under the jurisdiction of a single Council Member. An amalgamation eliminates the unfortunate situation of the perceived inequitable distribution of funding, resources and city services presently occurring among the houses. The resources I speak of include but are not limited to NYCHA security cameras, city services and recreational amenities (i.e. basketball courts). In addition, such a union will aid in the better management of maintenance issues that undoubtedly plague these housing facilities. Under the supervision of one Council Member, tenant complaints,

lodging disputes and matters, will be better controlled and overseen. Along with the aforementioned, the unification of the Bailey Houses will help the community to unite behind violence prevention and offer a safer future for its residents and businesses. This proposition comes at a critical time as community centers in Councilmanic District 28 have been closed, which resulted in the growth of violence in the area. The employment of a single Council Member, charged with addressing the multitude of violence problems in the area, would be advantageous. The Council Member would be unhindered in his efforts to foster a partnership with law enforcement agencies and the Police Athletic League building, housed jointly with the H.S. of Law and Government situated directly across the street in Councilmanic District 27.

Moreover, the purported position of unification endorses impartiality, and removes any view of one-sidedness. It is important that the residents of the Baisley Houses perceive that they are being treated as a whole, as it relates to the receipt of city services and support. This understanding will only be realized if unification is accomplished. Ultimately, unifying the Baisley Houses will provide the community with a "one- stop" model of service, aiming to provide resources that will result in a mutually beneficial circumstance.

UNIFICATION OF BAISLEY HOUSES

Testimony of: _____

Good evening. My name is _____.

I currently reside in District 28.

I am the _____.

I am here to support the redrawing of Council District 28.

The unification of the Baisley Houses is essential to the efficient and effective handling of constituent complaints. Such facilitation will dispel disorganization and off-putting perceptions that housing resources are not being allocated justly.

As it relates to the dispersal of monetary support, the project would be better served if a single Council Member were to be empowered with the allocation of such funding. For instance, in the recent fiscal year, $360,000 capital dollars were funded to the Baisley Houses east of Guy Brewer Boulevard to install security upgrades and various recreational services; while the other houses received funding for recreational amenities (i.e. basketball court). This circumstance shows a difference in priorities and encourages the perception of partiality and preference—a situation that should not and cannot be tolerated. Additionally, the majority of students presently residing in the Baisley Houses are zoned to attend P.S. 140. These students are not afforded

the opportunity to make use of relevant academic programs that are presently made available to secondary schools. Such programs include the Distance Learning Program, which is implemented within the curriculum of twelve schools and the Junior Knicks Program, presently used by all other elementary schools. I believe we can all agree that it is of utmost importance that our youths are given all opportunities to excel in the classroom, and a unification of the Baisley Houses will work towards the fulfillment of this goal.

CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION

Testimony of: _____

Good evening. My name is _____.

I currently reside in District 28.

I am the _____.

I am here to support the redrawing of Council District 28:

This testimony affects P.S. 140, P.S. 30, and P.S. 80. All aforementioned schools serve as feeder schools for other secondary institutions (i.e. M.S.226, M.S 72) majorly located in Councilmanic District 28. In addition, P.S. 140, 30, and 80, are presently funded by the Council Member, due in part to the large amount of attendees who reside within Councilmanic District 28. A portion of the funding has been dedicated to the Distance Learning program.

The Distance Learning program is an agenda that intends to interconnect all the schools in Councilmanic District 28 with unlimited outside resources. With the Distance Learning Program, students are able to interact with other students across the district, with the possibility of a global educational environment. Utilizing different technologies like video conferencing and smart boards, students are

able to learn together with expanded learning environments and compete in educational activities like science fairs. The Distance Learning Program also creates a global learning platform. Schools with the distance learning program are privileged with the ability to communicate to Foreign Diplomats, NASA, and other schools equipped with this technology around the globe.

This technology is presently in schools located in Councilmanic District 28 and not P.S. 140 (a school zoned for Councilmanic District 28 residents), which creates a major education disparity amongst the children. It is important to note that capital funding was allocated this fiscal year to P.S. 140 because of the advocacy of residents from the Baisley Houses and surrounding areas, which had not happened in fiscal year of 2012 when the Distance Learning Program was funded. This promoted a stigma of inferiority among children not privileged with experiencing the technology. This technology is found in the elementary and middle schools.

In view of the above-mentioned and the fact that these secondary schools share similar teaching methodologies, it is within reason for P.S 140 to join P.S 30, and 80 to fall within the purview of the Councilmanic District 28 jurisdiction. Such action will ensure the continuity of education among the schools and most importantly the

students.

CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION

Testimony of: _____

Good evening. My name is _____.

I currently reside in District 28.

I am the _____.

I am here to support the redrawing of Councilmanic District 28:
On the subject of education, P.S. 140 was overlooked with regard to the distance learning program. It is important to note that while P.S. 140 is not housed in Councilmanic District 28, but in District 27, many of P.S. 140's students reside in the Councilmanic District 28. This is unacceptable, as this institution should have been included in the list of schools being given access to such academic resources. However, this is through no fault of any one Council Member but instead a result of the skewed positioning of Council district lines. But for the exclusion of P.S. 140, students residing in the surrounding south Jamaica area would have been fortunate enough to have been a host for the Distance Learning Program.

It is important to note that P.S. 30, 354, and 80 because of their physical location within Councilmanic District 28 were able to utilize the Distance Learning Program; whereas P.S. 140, due to its location

directly across the street, was unable to take part in the program. Moreover, the students residing within the geographic area for the Baisley Houses are zoned to attend P.S. 140 and the H.S. for Law and Government. Thus, it is only fitting that these schools are afforded equal academic resources as similar schools within the community. As shocking as this circumstance is, it is the stark reality, and such disenfranchisement will only be rectified with a unification of communities with common interests.

DRAWING OF LINES

Testimony of: _____

Good evening. My name is _____.

I currently reside in District 28.

I am the _____.

I am here to support the redrawing of Councilmanic District 28:
The state lines were redrawn with the intent to keep communities of common interests together. When communities of common interests are unified, elected leaders can better advocate for the constituents of that community.

We live in a community that is diverse with many common interests including but are not limited to the delivery of city services, flooding due to deteriorating sewer infrastructures, transportation and education amenities. We are also a community which share common interests concerning economic development which is largely attributed to the growth of our small businesses. However, with the current lines which are used to divide Councilmanic Districts 27 and 28, they have grown to a point where they are perceived counterproductive to the aforementioned interests. For instance, if we review the dividing lines of Guy R. Brewer Boulevard, the predominant eastern boundary of Councilmanic District 28, we will see

a significant change in pattern. For approximately twelve blocks between Foch Boulevard and 130th avenue, the dividing border is no longer Guy R. Brewer Boulevard; instead it is an uneven border consisting of Lakeview Boulevard, 160th street and Baisley Boulevard. This lends to issues such as voter confusion, which would exist in the predominant voting site of August Martin High School, and also creates confusion of Councilmanic confines affecting various small businesses (i.e. Walgreens, The Door). We firmly believe that if we used Guy R. Brewer Boulevard, a naturally occurring border, it would reduce the issues of voter confusion matters, and economic development concerns.

DRAWING OF LINES

Testimony of: _____

Good evening. My name is _____.

I currently reside in District 28.

I am the _____.

I am here to support the redrawing of Council District 28: Redrawing the Council lines to mirror the Southern boundaries of the 32nd Assembly lines that utilize the N. Conduit—a major boulevard which is a natural occurring boulevard—would help minimize or eliminate voter confusion at the polls. For example, I live on 137th avenue. Currently, that is a dividing line between Councilmanic Districts 28 and 31. However, district lines are generally drawn along major boulevards. 137th avenue is a secondary road, not a major boulevard, and most of my neighbors become confused when they learn that they are represented by entirely different Council Members. This circumstance can also be applied to the Sidewalk and Trees Program. This was a capital project organized through the Parks Department, and funded by Council Member Ruben Wills. The project paid for damages done to sidewalks as a result of city trees. Due to the physical location of many homes that were situated outside of

Councilmanic District 28, many residents were not able to benefit from this program, such as my neighbor that lived directly across the street from me.

Because of this confusion, voters are deterred from exercising their right to vote, resulting in a low turnout. For instance, many voters who were assigned to polling sites housed at P.S. 80 and August Martin High School inadvertently voted for different representative. This indirectly results in the constraint of the fundamental right to participate in the electoral process. Such unfairness cannot and should not be allowed to persist. If the Council lines were drawn to divide districts along main roads and boulevards, as they are generally drawn, constituents would be much more aware of their representatives, thus lowering voter confusion and low turnout rates. The legislature redrew the new Assembly District boundaries, to adeptly respond to the evolving population within our communities. It is in our best interest to align with the state's concern and goal of combining communities of common interests.

COMMUNITY BOARDS

Testimony of: _____

Good evening. My name is _____.

I currently reside in District 28.

I am the _____.

I am here to support the redrawing of Council District 28:

As it relates to the effective representation of community boards we are here to testify that these community boards represent communities of common interest. Community boards serve as conduits to assist the community and its constituents in the delivery of city services. However, it is difficult to assert and see major change in significant issues when those afflicted make up a minority. For the purposes of this testimony we will concentrate on community boards 9, 10, and 12. Within Councilmanic District 28 the majority community boards are community boards 10 and12 making up 68.5% of representation. When reviewing Councilmanic District 31, the representation for community board 12 is only 5% making Councilmanic District 31 a minority stake holder of community board 12. If we take this into account and in tandem with the new state lines, which have included geographic areas taking into account naturally occurring borders of Farmers Boulevard and the N. Conduit, we can

logically surmise that following the same patterns of Councilmanic District 28, will employ the full power of community board 12. Thus, this increases the majority representation of 68.5% to 73.5% majority representation of community boards 10 and 12. If we continue down this path of reasoning, looking at community board 9 Councilmanic District 28 only represents 11.6%; while Councilmanic District 32 represents 37.2%. If we combine Councilmanic Districts 28 and 32, it raises the majority representation of community board 9 within the confines of Councilmanic District 32 to above 47%, which not only allows for more favorable advocacy when dealing with communities of common interests, but fits along the natural occurring borders of Lefferts Avenue and 101st avenue.

BROADWAY-FLUSHING HOMEOWNERS' ASSN., INC.

P.O. BOX 580031, FLUSHING, NY 11358-0031

August 21, 2012

NYC Districting Commission
c/o Johnathon Ettricks
253 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10001

Re: New York City Council Districting Commission Hearing, August 21st, 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

Good afternoon. My name is Janet McCreesh and I am the President of the Broadway-Flushing Homeowners Association. Our association represents 1,300 households in an area bounded by 155th Street, 29th Avenue, 170th Street, Crocheron Avenue and Northern Boulevard.

I am here today to ask the Districting Commission to support proposed changes to the 19th and 20th Council Districts that affect our overall neighborhood of North Flushing as well as the adjacent community of Auburndale to the east.

As shown in a detailed summary created for the Queens Civic Congress these proposed changes would keep intact North Flushing, which is currently divided between the 19th and 20th Council Districts in an uneven line from 150th to 153rd streets.

North Flushing, is almost all made up of detached single-family houses in R1-2A and R2A "anti-McMansion" zones. The total area is represented by a number of civic and homeowner associations including BFHA who all work very closely together to protect our common interest: North Flushing. This has included the 2009 North Flushing Rezoning, initiated by our neighborhoods by the Department of City Planning; beautification projects; public safety; and other significant areas of mutual interest. We are proud of our ethnically diverse neighborhood and strive to maintain the entirety of North Flushing as a pleasant, low-density home-owning community.

By placing the 25% of the North Flushing area west of 150th Street into the 19th Council District, you will reunite that portion of our neighborhood with the rest of North Flushing. This is very important, as the high-density areas to the west and south - the Mitchell-Linden cooperative apartments and Downtown Flushing - are entirely different in character.

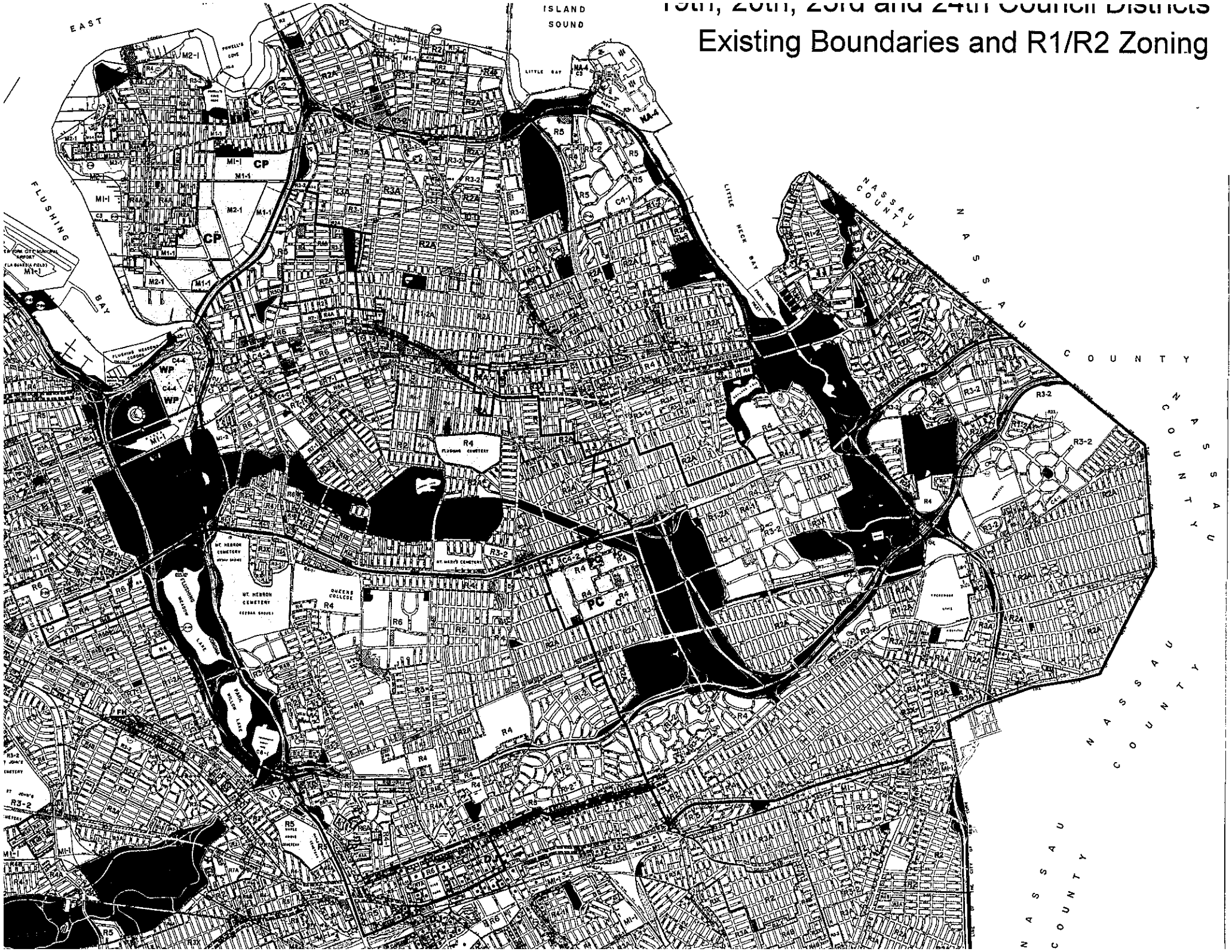
Similarly, we support the inclusion of all of the Station Road Civic Association area in Auburndale, our neighbors to the southeast, to be shifted into the 19th Council District instead of being split in half as is currently the case.

Submitted is a copy of the summary report and accompanying maps prepared for the Queens Civic Congress. We urge the Districting Commission to make North Flushing whole again and place it all in one Council district.

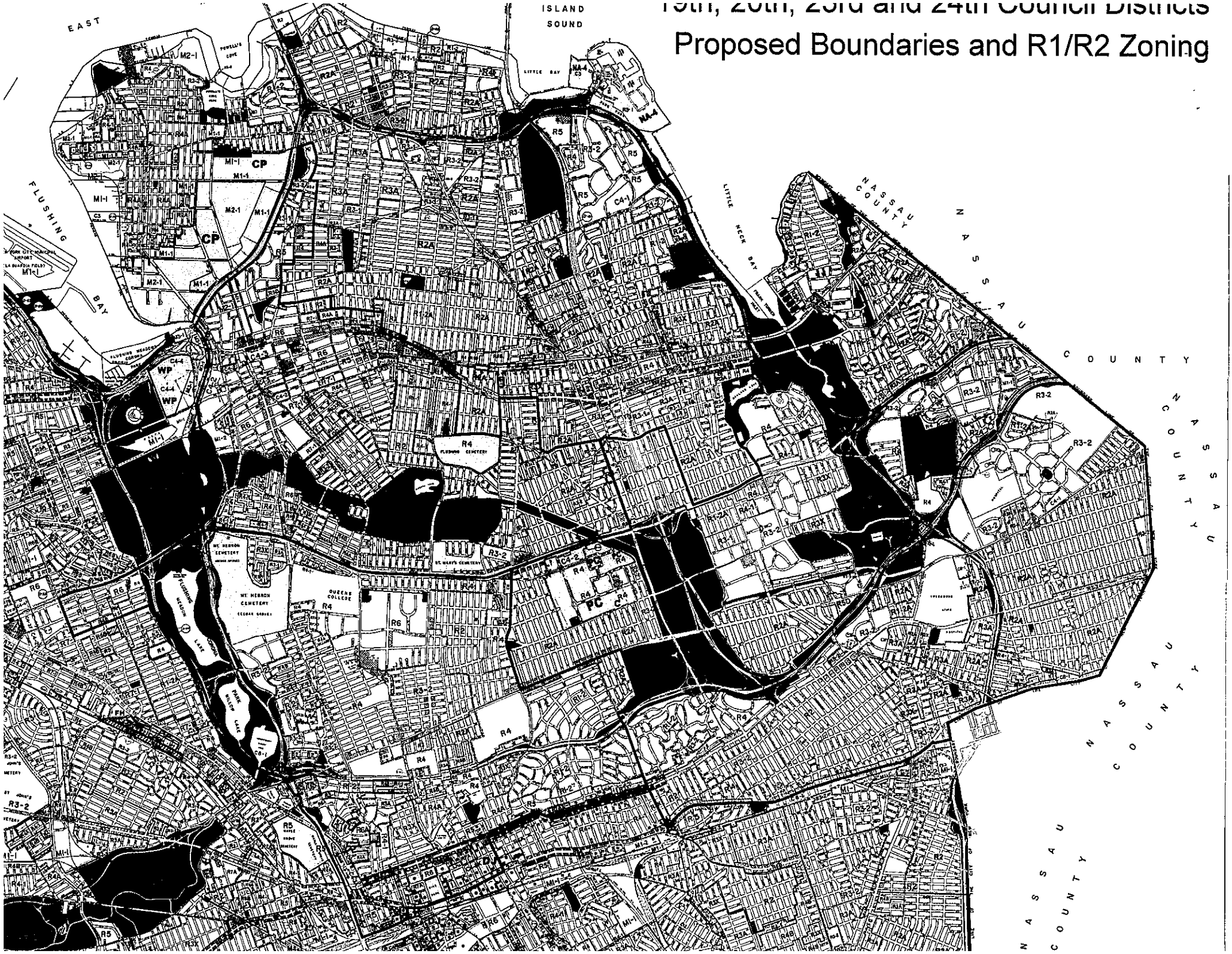
Respectfully,

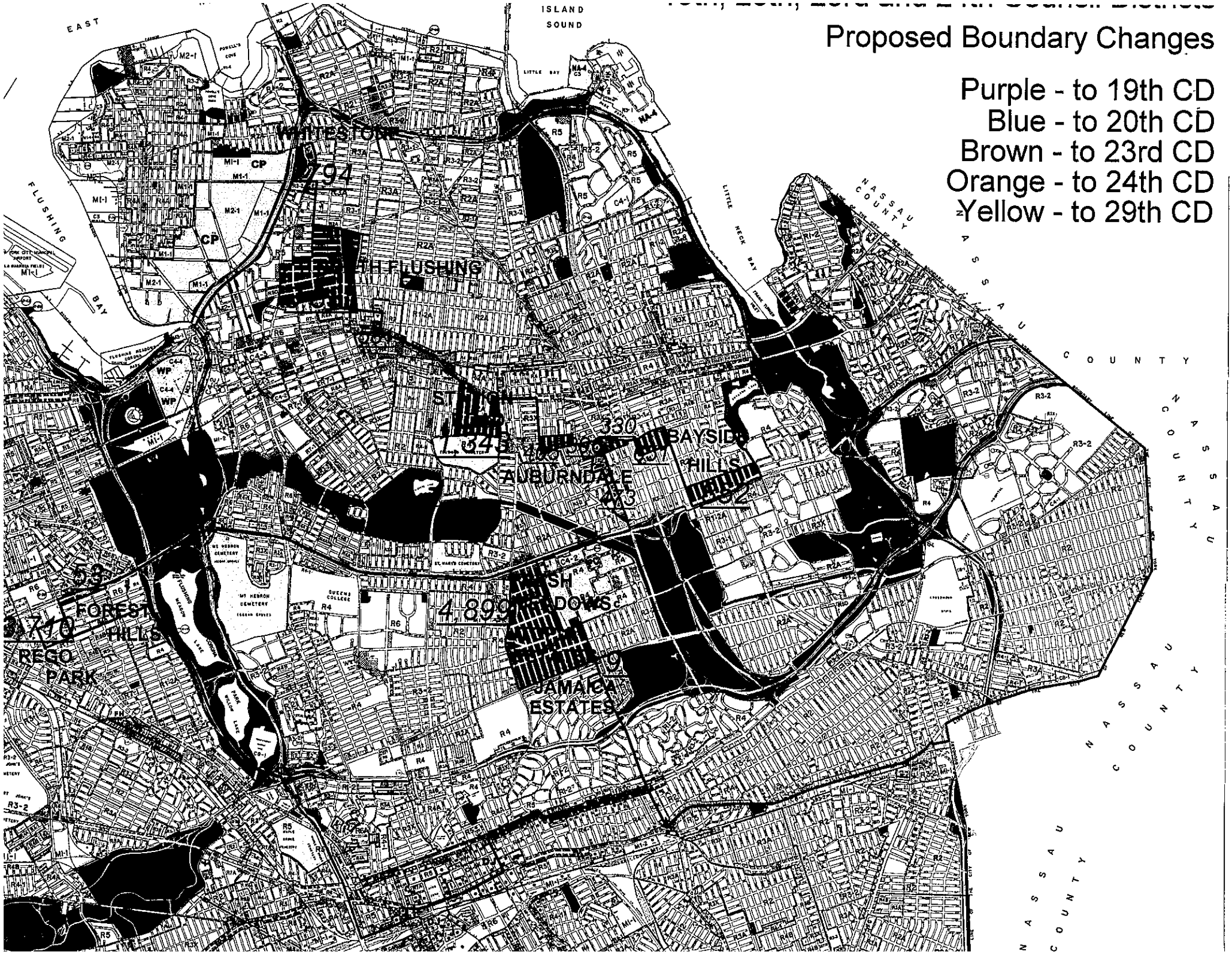
Janet McCreesh, President
Broadway-Flushing Homeowners Association

19th, 20th, 23rd and 24th Council Districts
Existing Boundaries and R1/R2 Zoning



19th, 20th, 23rd and 24th Council Districts
Proposed Boundaries and R1/R2 Zoning




Proposed Boundary Changes
Purple - to 19th CD
Blue - to 20th CD
Brown - to 23rd CD
Orange - to 24th CD
Yellow - to 29th CD
EAST
FLUSHING
BAY
ISLAND
SOUND
LITTLE BAY
LITTLE NECK BAY
NASSAU COUNTY
WHITESTONE
794
CP
M1-1
M2-1
R2
R2A
R3-2
R3A
R5
R6
C4-3
C4-4
WP
NA-4
C5
C4-1
R1-2
R3X
R4
R4A
R4B
R1-2A
C4-2
C2-1
M1-1
M1-2
M1-3
M1-4
M1-5
M1-6
M2-1
M3-1
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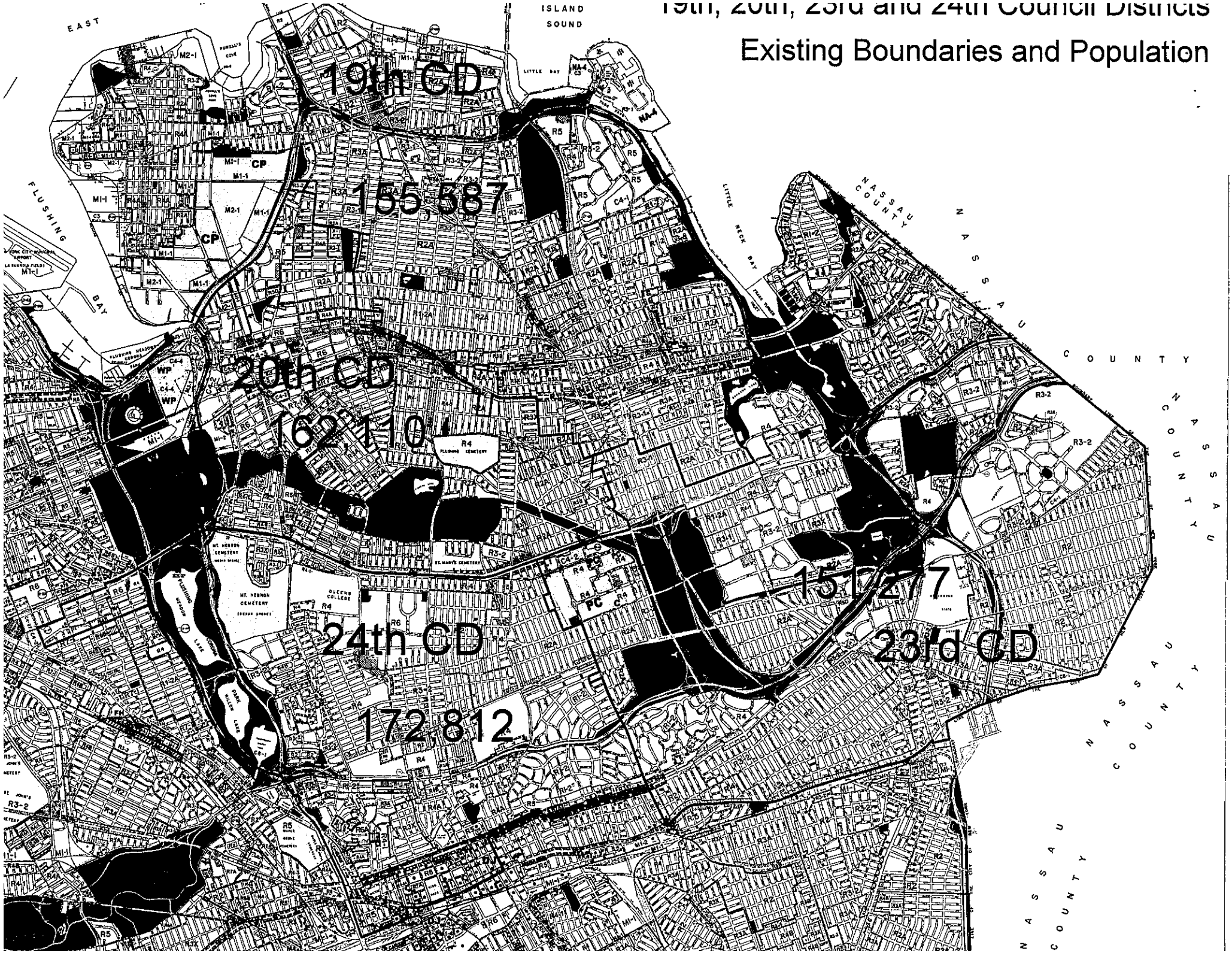
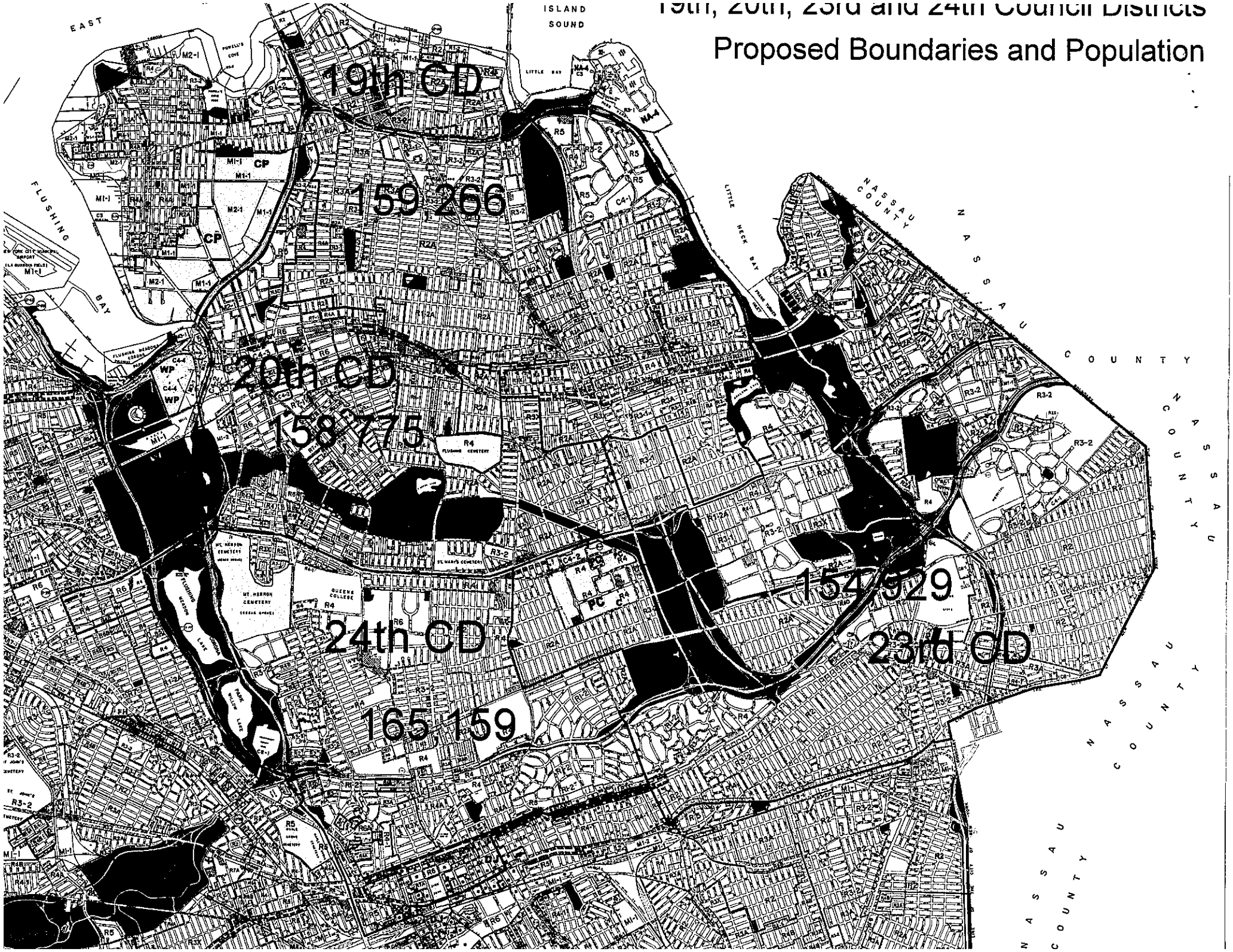
19th, 20th, 23rd and 24th Council Districts

Existing Boundaries and Population



19th, 20th, 23rd and 24th Council Districts

Proposed Boundaries and Population



chhaya CDC

Sustaining Homes
Strengthening Communities

STATEMENT OF

RASEL RAHMAN, COMMUNITY LIASON AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR
AND ZARIN AHMED, COMMUNITY ORGANIZING FELLOW
CHHAYA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
TO THE
NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE
FOR DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT
August 21, 2012

Good evening – my name is Zarin Ahmed, and I am a Community Organizing Fellow at Chhaya Community Development Corporation (Chhaya); and my name is Rasel Rahman, Community Liason and Outreach coordinator. Based in Jackson Heights, Queens, New York, Chhaya – meaning "shelter or shade" – is dedicated to creating more stable and sustainable communities by increasing civic participation and addressing the housing and community development needs of New York's South Asians, new immigrants and their neighbors. Its work encompasses tenant rights, homeownership, foreclosure prevention, housing rights, civic engagement, and advocating for affordable housing opportunities; as well as research and advocacy around community needs.

South Asians—immigrants from the regions and border areas of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, as well as the diaspora from the Caribbean and other areas—are one of New York City's newest immigrant groups and also one of its fastest growing ethnic populations.

Over the past ten years, Chhaya CDC has assisted more than 3,000 residents – primarily those in the borough of Queens - through its organizing, education and counseling services; and hundreds of thousands through partnerships with the media. Chhaya's eleven staff speak more than five languages including: Bangla/Bengali, Hindi, Nepali, Tibetan, & Urdu.

As civic engagement is a core component of Chhaya's mission, I am here today to share some of our findings about where concentrations of the South Asian community reside and the common interests residents share in order to ensure that this population has equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.

With a clear undercount in the recent Census, we feel our contributions to this planning process are extremely critical in ensuring that the Task Force takes into account these underrepresented communities. South Asians and other immigrant residents of Queens face some of the most challenging housing and economic conditions in the City and need adequate access to the political process in order confront these challenges and continue to contribute to the City's economy.

Population estimates

Based on the census, the Asian population in New York City is the fastest growing group increasing by 32 percent since 2000, from 783,058 to 1,034,399 (except for Native Americans and Alaska Natives which grew from a very small base) and by 110 percent increased since 1990. South Asians are 29 percent percentage of the city's Asian population – and grew by 159 percent.

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www.chhayacdc.org

Indians continue to be the largest ethnic group within the South Asian category, and following the Chinese community, the second largest Asian community in New York City with a population of 192,209. The Bangladeshi community tripled in size since 2000, seeing the second highest growth rate, surpassing Pakistanis as the second largest South Asian category with 53,174 members. Pakistanis are now the third largest ethnic group within the South Asian American population in New York City at 41,887; followed by Nepali at 5,681, Sri Lankans at 3,696 and Bhutanese at 345. The Indo-Caribbean population is potentially among the largest of these groups, however the census data does not collect information for this community. Based on our knowledge of the community, these numbers actually do not fully reflect the population size of South Asians in the City.

What these numbers do show is the rapid growth in the community, and the need for adequate representation. The South Asian community to date has no representation on the City, State on Congressional levels of New York City - despite its growing impact and influence.

South Asian Communities of New York City

In 2010, Chhaya CDC conducted an on-the-ground survey of 430 South Asian residents of New York City. The following neighborhoods were the top neighborhoods of residents of respondents (made up of 40% Bangladeshi, 21% Indian, 12% Nepali, 9% Guyanese or Trinidadian, 7% Pakistani, and 5% Sri Lankan) in Queens:

- Woodside, Queens
- Jackson Heights, Queens
- Jamaica/Briarwood, Queens
- Flushing, Queens
- Elmhurst, Queens
- Astoria, Queens
- Sunnyside, Queens
- Ozone Park, Queens
- South Richmond Hill, Queens
- Richmond Hill, Queens
- Ridgewood, Queens

In addition the following neighborhoods have high concentrations of South Asian residents:

- Kensington, Brooklyn
- Parkchester, Bronx

These communities represent communities with a common cultural background, economic status, language and countries of origin – all factors to consider in drawing district lines.

In addition to the common cultural backgrounds and countries of origin, the challenge of the current housing crisis should also be considered when evaluating appropriate district lines. The Borough of Queens will continue to face grave challenges ahead in the areas of housing. Chhaya conducted a city-wide survey of 440 South Asians in 2010 (full report attached). Renters in many communities face grave challenges in terms of access to safe and decent housing, lack of legal rights due to informal housing conditions and harassment in the face of

gentrification. In addition, thousands of homeowners will continue to struggle to keep their homes. These communities were targeting by predatory lenders, and today, continue to be targeted by rescue scam lenders promising a solution.

Renters facing gentrification and lacking rights
Seventy percent of respondents our survey were renters. These renters – identified a number of challenges – some related to harassment within rent regulated buildings as they impact of gentrification and others living in informal housing situations lacking rights. Some of the most alarming findings were:

- 65% live in overcrowded conditions
- 50% of respondents did not have a lease
- 41% paid rent in cash , and 60% did not receive a receipt for this payment

Ramped foreclosures in distinct communities of Queens.
Foreclosure filings in the Borough of Queens continue to occur and overall and then the additional three maps include three communities of particular need: Jackson Heights/Elmhurst, Briarwood-Jamaica Hills/Jamaica, and Richmond Hill Ozone Park.

- 69% of owners purchased in the last 10 years – 37% in the last 5 years
- 60% of respondents saw their income drop after purchasing their home
- South Asians made up a high percentage of those in foreclosure. Primarily in: Briarwood/Jamaica, South Ozone park, Queens Village/Bellerose Terrace, Woodside, Jackson Heights, Elmhurst, Kew Gardens, and Jamaica – ranging from 17% to 65%.

These communities will need adequate representation over the coming years as they struggle to recover by addressing bad mortgages combined with loss of income.

Conclusion – Keeping Asian American and South Asian American Communities of Interest Together
We urge this Task Force to take a closer look at these neighborhoods and ensure that South Asian and Asian American communities are kept together and not splintered among newly-drawn districts. We support AALDEF's Asian American Neighborhood Boundaries and Communities of Interest Survey, which lists the clusters and shared concerns/issues among certain Asian American communities.

There are four neighborhoods with high concentrations of South Asians that we urge the Task Force to keep together in the re-districting process in Queens: Bellerose, Floral Park, Queens Village and Glen Oaks, Briarwood & Jamaica Hills, Richmond Hill & South Ozone Park, and Jackson Heights & Elmhurst

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Creedmoor Civic Association, Inc.

PO Box 260143 Bellerose, NY 11426 718 464-3369

Statement Before The City Council Redistricting Committee Wednesday, August 21, 2012

On behalf of the Creedmoor Civic Association, I would like to thank the Commission for taking on the responsibility to ensure that City Council Redistricting is done in transparent, common-sense manner that provides the best possible governmnent for New York City.

We believe that the 23rd City Council District should remain as presently configured, to the greatest degree possible. The roughly rectangular in shape of the 23rd provides for geographical continuity. The communities that comprose the 23rd District have many similarities and common interests, in terms of similar housing stock, shared community boards, police precincts, etc. Many civic and community groups already work together on various initiatives. For example, the Creedmoor Civic Association is a member of Eastern Queens United (EQU) , an umbrella group consisting of civic and community groups from Queens Village, Bellerose, Floral Park, Glen Oaks and New Hyde Park. EQU represents people of many ethnic and religious backgrounds who work togather to achieve our common goals.

We recognize that some modifications to council district boundaries are necessary, due to population changes documented in the 2010 Census. We ask that if areas need to be added to or removed from the district, that you consider boundaries of civic associations, community boards, etc., to avoid dividing communities.

Thank you,

Michael D. O'Keeffe
President
Creedmoor Civic Association

Hearings

From: feslaw@aol.com
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2012 11:34 AM
To: Hearings; feslaw@aol.com
Subject: REDISTRICTING THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL – RECLAIMING NEW YORK FOR AND BY NEW YORKERS

QUEENS TUESDAY 21 August, 2012

REDISTRICTING THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL – RECLAIMING NEW YORK FOR AND BY NEW YORKERS

The notion that in representative democracy one can choose who will vote is preposterous.

That assertion is made even more outrageous when one factors in who that decision-maker will be – namely the individual who seeks to be elected and/or re-elected.

Let's be very clear – when one says ' the fix is in' that artifice is not the exclusive purview of current office-holders. Indeed, not. There are many 'out-of-office-holders' who benefit disproportionately by this very crafty re-arrangement of democracy. They too benefit who play this political charade on the side-lines.

That I submit is overwhelmingly why re-districting has been the bane of 20th Century New York City. If all those who have gone along to get along were not so substantial in perceived clout and influence this political razzle-dazzle would never have flourished so successfully within the five Boroughs of the City of New York.

Given the well-deserved reputation of the N.Y.S. Legislature as an at best dysfunctional entity many assume that this bastardization of democracy is exercised north of New York City. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The basic tenet of re-districting – that the office holder and/or office-seeker gets to draw the lines – seeks to dictate who will be privileged to vote for him or her – is a tomfoolery that has been perpetuated at the expense of representative democracy for too long.

The Thirtieth Olympiad has just concluded. It's time now in Downstate New York to let the real and most important game of democracy to begin – namely unfiltered, unbiased interactive selection by

voters of their legislative representatives – namely via voting.

It's well overdue to stop treating democracy as if it's a private party and only a select 'chosen' few decide who's invited. Democracy is the ultimate party - by, for, one and all!

Who can be surprised that this rigged political scheme has resulted in so much malaise at the voting site – fewer and fewer individuals voting, fewer and fewer number of voters engaged in the process of selecting and advancing their needs and interests by their self-selected representatives.

As the political gig is now played the only individuals whose ambitions are served are those who call and draw the district lines thereby readily predicting outcomes and winners.

Say it ain't so: are current office-holders in New York so frail, so insecure, so incompetent that the only way they can ensure continued full employment is by racheting up this deplorable methodology time and time again.

This is New York City – it's time to hold our political representatives to a real standard of political accountability – not this chicanery and political faux 'favour'. Noblesse oblige move over - it's time to give real legal meaning to the right to vote back to New Yorkers.

Frances E. Scanlon, Esq.

New York, New York

Written Testimony for the
New York City Districting Commission

Aneesah Shah, Youth Leader, Indo-Caribbean Alliance, Inc.
Public Hearing at Flushing Library, 41-17 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355
August 21st, 2012

Good Afternoon Commission Members and concerned residents of Queens,

My name is Aneesah Shah. I am 16 years old and I live with parents and my older sister in South Ozone Park. In the fall, I will also be a senior at Richmond Hill High School where I am an honors student. I am involved in several extra-curricular programs at my school and in my community. At school, I am the Vice President of the prestigious Key Club International chapter and in my community I am a Youth Leader with the Indo-Caribbean Alliance, a local non-profit organization.

I have always thought of my immediate neighborhood to include where I live, where I go to school, where I go grocery shopping with my family or where we go to pray together. What I did not know is that each of these is in a separate City Council District. This has certainly contributed to some of the poorest local governance we see anywhere in New York City.

When older people in the neighborhood find out about this, they quickly compare it to some of the political situations they faced in Guyana. They say this was a big part of the reason they left and came here in the first place.

I don't think they're right, but I'm having a hard time proving them wrong. For example, while I am an honors student, less than 50% of the students at Richmond Hill High School actually graduate. They're not very different from me –most of the students there or their parents are from Guyana or from South Asia. They live in Richmond Hill, Ozone Park or South Ozone Park. This is the case for John Adams High School and even some of the junior high schools in the area. The model minority myth that Asians do well in school is even less true in this part of Queens. What's different here?

In this entire area of over 100,000 residents, there is a single community center. And while I have some friends who go to the South Queens Boys & Girls Club, most students and families from immigrant communities have never heard of it. Even if they did, it could not accommodate us all. While we have lots of places to worship, ethnic food stores and dozens of family members close by, we have nowhere to go for assistance with homework, we have nowhere to go afterschool or on weekends and we usually have to leave the neighborhood to find anything useful to do with our time.

You can help with this. The parents from my school should not have to go to two or more Council Members to deal with issues at the local school –like when both of our major high schools were proposed for closure. We need a district where the elected official will be from this neighborhood and who will work with the community on our

needs, such as a space for students to go after school –for most high school students in the neighborhood, afterschool starts at 1pm because of overcrowding.

We need work together with residents in Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, and South Ozone Park to make our City Council more fair and reflective of the needs of our community. I strongly urge you to keep these neighborhoods together in a single district.

Thank you.

Indo-Caribbean Alliance, Inc.

Written Testimony for the
New York City Districting Commission

Richard S. David, Executive Director, Indo-Caribbean Alliance, Inc.
Public Hearing at Flushing Library, 41-17 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355
August 21st, 2012

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. My name is Richard S. David and I am the Executive Director of the Indo-Caribbean Alliance, Inc. (ICA).

ICA is a nonpartisan non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that serves the Indo-Caribbean and South Asian, or collectively the South Asian American (SAA), community. The SAA community includes residents from Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, India, Bangladesh and other Caribbean and South Asian nations, who trace their ancestral history to South Asia. ICA provides civic advocacy as well as youth development, cultural and community building programs to residents in Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park neighborhoods in Southern Queens, New York.

We ask that the Districting Commission keep these neighborhoods whole and together when considering the electoral boundaries for City Council.

ICA provides programs and services to meet their needs of our constituents. One of our strongest programs is our holistic Youth Development Program which helps young people lay the groundwork for future success by helping them to develop job skills, increase academic performance and improve their social skills under the guidance of mentors and program administrators. The majority of students and families in this program are SAA's and recent immigrants. The program is needed because the public high schools in our neighborhood, namely Richmond Hill High School and John Adams High School, are failing to properly integrate and educate these students.

In 2010, a joint report by the New York State Education Department and the New York City Department of Education (see Exhibit A) identified the need to "assist staff in revising the curriculum to incorporate multicultural issues and concepts in the curriculum" to address the disconnect between students, parents and the community. ICA is part of a coalition working on an initiative to introduce SAA history and culture into the public school curriculum and a bill to this effect was introduced in the New York

92-15 103rd Avenue, Ozone Park, NY 11417

State Assembly in 2011, Bill No. A08126. The report also noted that 33% of the students were Asian, mostly SAA's. Many of our students are now returning to school after one or two years of irregular attendance, others volunteer as afterschool tutors and parents are now getting more involved. Keeping the SAA community together would help to address the education and youth development issues at Richmond Hill High School and John Adams High School by helping us to target our programs to maximize its social impact.

We also find that many of our residents, especially recent immigrants, are not aware of the health care programs, tenant/home owners' rights and their legal rights. To address this, we have worked with the local Police Departments, Community Boards and Government Agencies. We have even sponsored streets fairs, conferences and workshops to empower our residents to address these imbalances. However, a major barrier to serving our community has been the electoral lines that require massive coordination between elected officials to ensure permits are issues, address quality of life issues and ensure that services are provided and available within the community.

For Census 2010, ICA took on a large scale volunteer, public awareness and education campaign to increase the response rate from the dismal performance in 2000. We enlisted and trained college and high school students who formed teams to cover nearly 100 blocks in South Queens. We also created ad campaigns, using both print and digital media. We held rallies, town hall meetings and collaborated with numerous stakeholders. One of the major issues in the campaign was ethnic identity. Many SAA's, particularly Indo-Caribbeans, do not ethnically identify themselves with the options available on the Census forms. Residents were skeptical about completing the forms due to their immigration status, people complained that their elected officials were not addressing the lack of affordable housing in the area which has contributed to basement dwellings, and some just needed to have the information reinforced by a source they trusted. Although we are confident we increased the count by several thousands, we also know that thousands of our constituents were not counted. We believe that far more SAA's live in South Queens than Census 2010 reported.

The economic hub of the SAA community in South Queens consists of the Liberty Avenue commercial strip between the Van Wyck Expressway and Woodhaven Boulevard. The strip is filled with roti shops, sari boutiques and many professional services run by SAA's. The neighborhood has even earned the nickname "Little Guyana" for its sheer volume of ethnic stores. Based on a 2010 study sponsored by the New York City Department of Small Business Services and the Richmond Hill Economic Development Council, the area consists of 29% Asians using a 1 mile radius from the Liberty Avenue commercial strip and incomes stood at $65,991 and are expected to grow to $69,000 by 2014 (see Exhibit B). The neighborhood is artificially divided by electoral lines along Lefferts Boulevard, which divides the economic strip our residents depend on and hinders our ability to efficiently serve these residents.

These neighborhoods host some of the largest gatherings of SAA's in North America, including the largest Phagwah Parade (Holi) which attracts nearly 35,000 participants,

92-15 103rd Avenue, Ozone Park, NY 11417

the Diwali Motorcade which attracts 15,000 participants and other significant conferences and cultural events. The neighborhood is home to several SAA-led non-profit organizations including the Rajkumarie Cultural Center and the Jahajee Sisters. It is also home to dozens of mosques, temples and more recently, gurdwaras.

Our recommendation

The SAA community residing in Ozone Park, South Ozone Park, Richmond Hill bounded by the Van Wyck Expressway to the East , City Line/Brooklyn County boarder to the West and Hillside Avenue to the North and Conduit to the South. We support the proposed map for the area presented by the Asian American Community Coalition on Redistricting and Democracy (ACCORD) and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (ALDEF).

These neighborhoods must be kept together in any district map if these residents are to receive a quality education, if they are to be integrated and be productive, responsible citizens of the great City of New York.

Thank you.

92-15 103rd Avenue, Ozone Park, NY 11417

"Working for the Future of Our Community"

KACE

Korean American Civic Empowerment

시 민 참 여 센 터

KACE.ORG

NY: 3520 147th Street, Suite 2D, Flushing, NY 11354
NJ: 144 Main Street, Suite 203, Hackensack, NJ 07601
Tel. (718)961-4117 Fax. (718)961-4603

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

August 21, 2012 Queens Library at Flushing

Good Evening! My name is Chae No of the Korean American Civic Empowerment (KACE). KACE is a nonpartisan non-profit community education and advocacy organization devoted to empowering Korean American and Asian American community in New York City.

On behalf of the Korean Americans in Queens County, KACE urges the Redistricting Commission to recognize the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund's neighborhood boundaries as Asian American's Communities of Interest (COI) and keep all Asian American COIs undivided.

A COI is where residents have "actual shared interests" or some "common thread of social, economic or political interests." Keeping a COI together is one of traditional districting criteria. Also the New York City Chapter mandates the Redistricting Commission to keep COIs intact.

KACE and many Asian American community organizations provided information about each ethnic community's social, economic and geographic boundaries to draw the neighborhood maps. AALDEF already submitted the maps of neighborhood boundaries that KACE strongly supports.

Among COIs, KACE and the Korean American community are especially interested in two neighborhoods: Flushing and Bayside, where Korean Americans are concentrated. Most parts of the Flushing Asian American COI is included in Council District 20.

However, the Bayside Asian American COI is divided into Council District 19 and 23. KACE respectfully recommend the Redistricting Commission to include Bayside COI into Council District 19 without any division because Asian Americans in Bayside COI are sharing characteristics of racial composition, ethnicity, language, limited English proficiency, immigration experience, settlement pattern, voter registration, and schools with Council District 19.

Again, KACE strongly urges the Redistricting Commission to recognize AALDEF's neighborhood maps as COIs and include Bayside Asian American COI into Council District 19. For your convenience, we have enclosed AALDEF's Queens neighborhood maps.

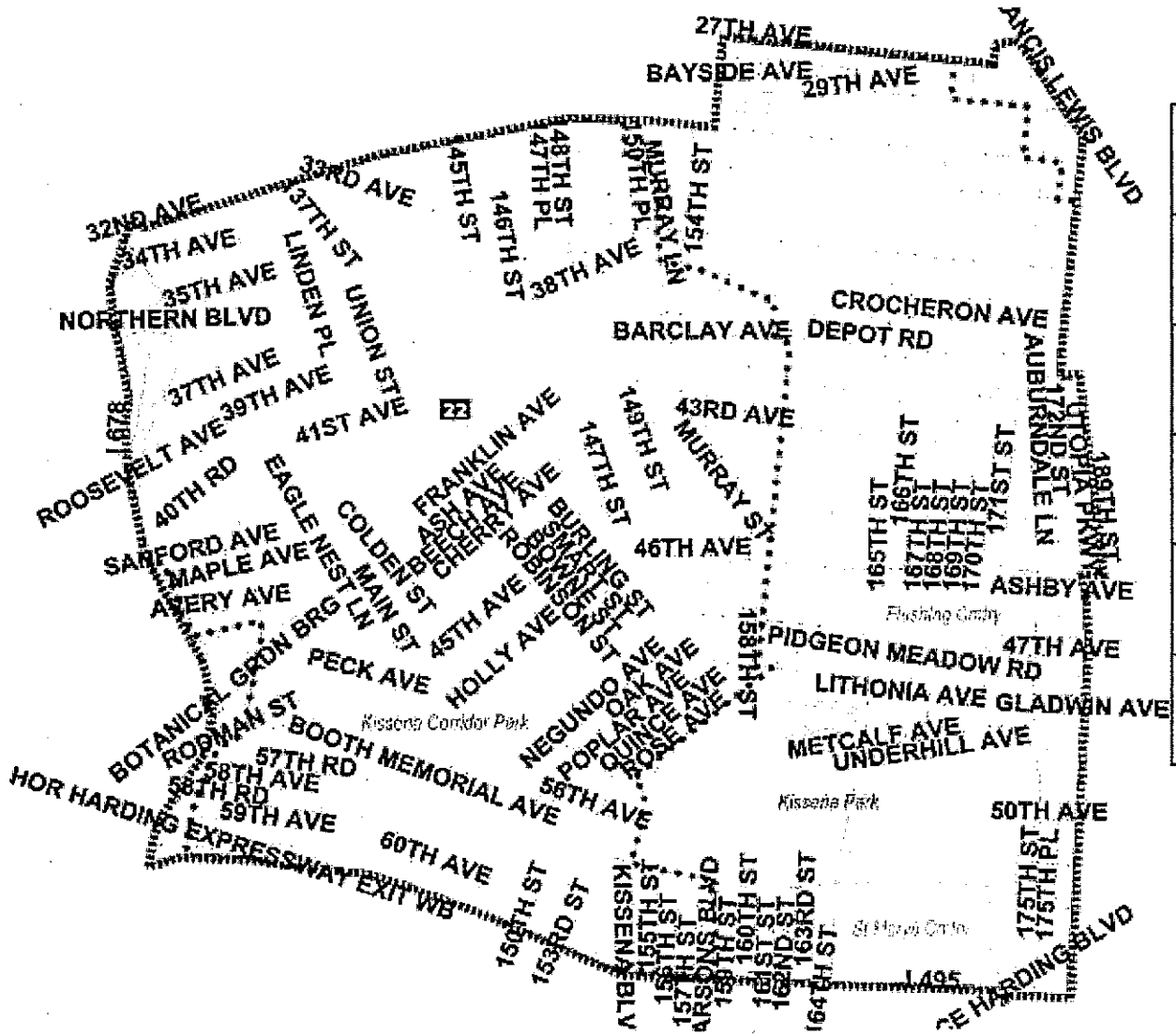
Should you need more information or have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 718-961-4117 or info@kace.org.

Thank you for this opportunity to deliver the opinion of the Korean Americans community.

Chae No

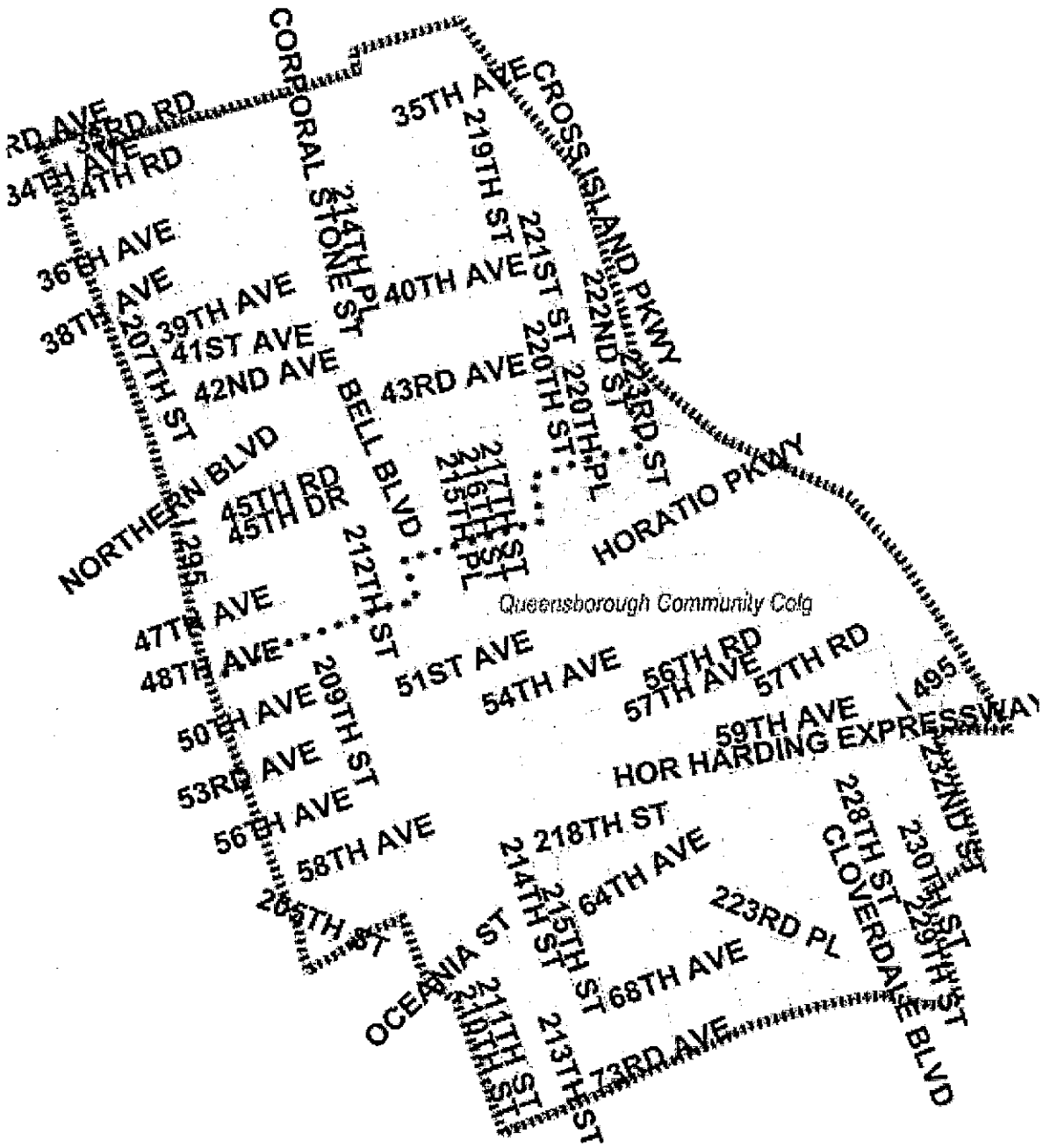
Program Coordinator, KACE

Flushing



POPULATION	152,078
DEVIATION FROM IDEAL ASSEMBLY SIZE	+22,891 (+17.7%)
% HISPANIC	16.3%
% NH WHITE	14.8%
% NH BLACK	2.8%
% NH ASIAN	63.8%

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund



Bayside

POPULATION	**43,588**
DEVIATION FROM IDEAL ASSEMBLY SIZE	-85,599 (-66.3%)
% HISPANIC	9.7%
% NH WHITE	39.0%
% NH BLACK	2.8%
% NH ASIAN	46.7%

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Statement of Bright Limm, Korean Americans for Political Advancement, to the New York City Districting Commission

My name is Bright Limm, and I am testifying today in my capacity as Board President and Steering Committee Chair of Korean Americans for Political Advancement (KAPA). The recommendations I will present at today's hearing concern both guiding principles and adjustments to Council Districts 19, 20, and 23.

About KAPA

KAPA is a nonprofit advocacy and political organization with dues-paying members residing predominantly in Queens and Manhattan. Through our advocacy and political activities, we have knocked on thousands of doors throughout northeastern Queens – particularly in Flushing, Bayside, Murray Hill, Auburndale, and Fresh Meadows – and have met with elected officials, business associations, and other community leaders throughout this region.

Redistricting is priority policy area for KAPA, and for over a year we have worked together with over a dozen organizations on state legislative and congressional districting matters as a member organization of ACCORD, the Asian American Community Coalition on Redistricting and Democracy. KAPA now joins with its fellow ACCORD members again to advocate for fair City Council districts.

Recommendations

Guiding principles. Like the other members of ACCORD, KAPA recognizes that the Districting Commission's top consideration must be one of compliance with existing legal mandates. Within this legal framework, KAPA believes that the next most important consideration should be the identification and protection of communities of interest. In order to identify communities of common interest in northeastern Queens, KAPA believes that common language, socioeconomic, housing, citizenship/immigration status and commercial characteristics ought to be accorded the greatest weight.

In identifying what communities of interest exist in northeastern Queens, KAPA strongly recommends that the Commission utilize the excellent fieldwork and analysis performed by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), which is also a member organization of the ACCORD coalition. As a fellow member of ACCORD, KAPA has had an opportunity to see in advance the findings and analysis presented by AALDEF at both the Brooklyn hearing and at today's hearing. We find AALDEF's methodology to be rigorous and its conclusions fully in accord with KAPA's own demographic research and fieldwork.

Council Districts 19, 20, and 23. KAPA's positions regarding Council Districts 19, 20, and 23 are simple: we ask that the Commission draw these three districts in such a way that:

(1) Flushing, as defined in AALDEF's "Asian American Neighborhood Boundaries" document, is kept within one Council district (i.e., Council District 20); and that

(2) Bayside, as defined in AALDEF's "Asian American Neighborhood Boundaries" document, is kept within one Council district (i.e., Council District 19).

I should point out specifically that under the Neighborhood Boundaries document, the small neighborhood of Oakland Gardens is included as part of the "Bayside" community of interest. Currently, Oakland Gardens is part of the 23rd Council District. We believe that it should be part of the 19th District for the following reasons:

(a) Oakland Gardens has seen a recent influx of East Asian immigrant residents with characteristics that are very similar to those in neighboring Council District 19. Specifically, these new residents are mostly middle-class, home-owning families whose heads of household often are of limited English proficiency. Many, if not most, of these immigrants speak only Korean or Mandarin with proficiency. As someone who works with families in Oakland Gardens every week, I can also tell you from first-hand experience that many Korean American families attend the same churches and after-school programs as families in "Bayside proper," as the latter is defined by the Department of City Planning.
(b) Over the past ten or so years, the growing Korean American voting population in northeastern Queens has exhibited increasing political cohesion, not only in voter data but also in Korean-language press and other media. The 2009 City Council election was a recent example of this cohesion, with record numbers of Korean American voters turning out to help candidate Kevin Kim win the Democratic Primary. Another recent example of political cohesion is the 2010 General Election for State Senate District 11, in which, according to an exit poll by the MinKwon Center for Community Action, almost 90% of Korean voters who went to the polls voted for Democratic candidate and now-Senator Tony Avella. Based on their common characteristics with these voters, Korean American voters in Oakland Gardens are likely to vote in a manner similar to those in Bayside, Bayside Hills, and perhaps even the rest of Council District 19.
(c) The Long Island Expressway (I-495) serves as a sensible physical border between Districts 19 and 23 in that area.

I thank the members of the Commission very much for your consideration and hope that the Commission will incorporate these recommendations into its preliminary and final maps.

KCS
WWW.KCSNY.ORG
THE KOREAN COMMUNITY SERVICES OF METROPOLITAN NEW YORK, INC.
뉴 욕 한 인 봉 사 센 터
Since 1973

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Fax: (212) 463-8347

Brooklyn Project
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Bay Ridge, NY 11209
Tel: (718) 630-0001
Fax: (718) 630-0002

KCS Statement for Queens Public Hearing, 8/21/12

Statement of Linda Lee, Executive Director
Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc.
To the Districting Commission of New York City
August 21, 2012, 5:00 p.m.
Flushing Library 41-17 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355

Good afternoon, members of the districting commission. My name is Linda Lee, and I am the Executive Director of the Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (KCS), a multi-social service agency founded in 1973. Our mission is to support and assist members of the Korean community to improve the quality of their lives to be healthy and productive individuals through a broad range of professional social service programs in the areas of Aging, Community and Public Health. Currently, KCS provides professional social services programs to over 1,100 individuals daily from five different project sites in the New York Metropolitan area.

As an organization whose mission is the well-being of the community, we feel that it is our responsibility to represent the voices and concerns of the community we serve and be an advocate for those who have no voice. Redistricting and the drawing of district lines is an issue that will impact our communities and in many ways is the foundation of democracy.

KCS mainly serves the Asian community in Queens, more specifically Northern Queens, and is a member of ACCORD, the Asian American Community Coalition on Redistricting and Democracy.

We and other ACCORD organizations came numerous times as a coalition to the LATFOR hearings and voiced our concerns regarding the redistricting process. Now, looking at the city council district maps, we are hoping that the commission will keep communities of interest in tact as much as possible when drawing the new district lines, especially for the Flushing and Bayside neighborhoods. The members of the community that live in these neighborhoods share similar values and resources and would benefit by remaining whole. Breaking up parts of Flushing and Bayside and putting them into neighboring districts that do not necessarily share similar characteristics does not make sense.

We basically agree with the community boundaries that AALDEF has submitted and believe that Flushing should be kept whole because of similarities in transportation, socio-economic status, language, and use of public facilities. This can also be said for Bayside as well. In particular, we ask that Oakland Gardens be included with Bayside, since they share many of the same characteristics. Currently, Oakland Gardens is in District 23, which does not make sense since it is more similar to the neighborhoods of Bayside.

I am personally a resident of Oakland Gardens, and I have noticed that many of us in the neighborhood often identify themselves as living in Bayside. Even for myself, when I give out my address to folks, I often write "Bayside, NY" as opposed to "Oakland Gardens, NY." Also, when asking community members of Oakland Gardens where they live, people often say

"Bayside" because it is a more recognized city name. People identify more with Bayside as opposed to any nearby neighborhoods that are in the current District 23.

In short, please keep Flushing whole and make Bayside whole.

Thank you.

KRIS GOUNDEN, COMMUNITY ACTIVIST:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I would like to thank the Community for giving me this opportunity to speak.

On a matter that everyone has been very boisterous about. My testimony is basically when it does not work, when the redistricting does not work. Ozone Park, Richmond Hill is a community that my family has been in since 1976. We have been victims of redistricting that did not work. The Caribbean, West Indian community has grown throughout Ozone Park through our will to live together. Because of the shape of the voting district, we cannot vote to elect someone who is born of us. We cannot vote for someone who is more likely to speak of our interests. We can raise our children together, but we cannot vote together for one of us born of us who all raises children in the community. Instead the schools in our community do not talk to our child about how we came to America many years ago. The schools in our community act like we have no history and no voice in the City Council to demand that our past be included in our curriculum so that we can have pride and self-respect. This is what school is supposed to be about; self-esteem, self-respect, self-confidence. It is just not other people's history that makes them feel good about themselves. We deserve to feel good about ourselves too. Right now, part of my property has been taken without compensation. Former City Councilman of Howard Beach, Joseph Addabbo, headed the land grab--there was no easement on my property on an official map as required by law.

There was no hearing on the taking of my property as required by law. There was no notice on the taking of my property as required by law. Eminent Domain Law §208 was never complied with and these local politicians and the judges act like the Law does not have to be complied with when it comes to the Caribbean community. NYPD do not respect our private property, our civil rights, our rights as American citizens.

I took my case to Court. Michael Divernio, a City employee, got up on the witness stand and admitted to the Court; admitted to the City; admitted to all of you that he had no knowledge of the facts of an Affidavit that he signed. That is perjury. Federal Judge Cogan did absolutely nothing about the perjury. The City did nothing about the perjury. The now State Senator, Joe Addabbo, did nothing about that. The current City Councilman, Eric Ulrich did nothing about the land-grab on my property. This is what had been done to the American Indians, now it is being done to the West Indians. And if we do not get some representation that we can trust, it is going to keep happening. We need districting that allows us a voice in the machine. Where is our voice to speak out on the conspiracy between the Judges and those outside of our community?

Our voice is in the redistricting of the voting lines. Our voice is ourselves. Our voice must be heard just like Councilman Barron's voice is heard in his community. As matter of fact, Councilman Barron came out of his district to my house to put a stop to the White Supremacy that is running rampant.

We need to select our own Councilman who can represent us when our homes is under attack, when we are harassed, abused, tortured by politicians; City agencies without

repercussions. We have no way to address our concerns other than doing a lawsuit. The police do their job as per community meetings, which we are not part of. The District Attorney rubber stamps the behavior of which the Judges have zero tolerance attitudes for our people. We have lived on this reservation-type neighborhood to the point that we self-deport ourselves to other U.S. States and other countries. We come together on the Internet to share our experiences of the discrimination by the ruling class that is represented during the John Gotti crime spree that goes back before JFK Airport was idle wild Airport. NYPD 106th , Howard Beach Precinct disbanded for assisting these individuals. Politicians are profiting from their relationships with these activities; politicians, criminals, police within blocks of each other, co-existing with each other all of the same color and kind.

The Federal Government had to come in and stop this blatant abuse of Civil Human Rights to the minority community here in Richmond Hill and Ozone Park. We have been victims of this for much too long of this abuse. Our community needs representation. Our voice is falling on deaf ears without political presence. Our children need to be empowered to see a future here instead of elsewhere. Our people have been bled of our aspirations with the ongoing barrage of ticketing, Summons, violations; and disciplinary action the City wants to impose on us selectively. This system only hurts us when this system is supposed to help us and protect us. Police have memory problems and refuse to enforce the Law. The City refused to produce foiled documents and create damaging paperwork. The District Attorney sleeps on our cases and moves quickly to punish us. We have meetings with Borough President Helen Marshall with results that just got worse. It is blatant without representation.

I have to go to Harlem. I have to go to East New York. I have to go wherever a politician might even listen to me and give me advice that your people have no representation; I cannot go against the established politicians that bend the Law, that twist the law. I have to go to the Federal Court of Appeals. I have become a lawyer now. I am not a lawyer. I am a small business owner being taken advantage by the city that caters to the big business owners...

We are professional people. We are law abiding citizens. We have family in law enforcement. My father retired from New York City. I am a Federal Airmen. We are honest hardworking people, but we see not fruits of our labor. Instead we get the thorns and thistles. This is passionate because it has taken everything that I ever worked for this. It is being made into a documentary, and you will see that in "Holding Out for Justice"; website " Holding Out for Justice.com" That is all I want is justice. All I have asked for is equal treatment. Equal treatment, that is all that I have asked for. That is all everyone here has ever asked for is that you keep the lines so that we can be productive individuals, not leave the country and say how bad it was here. We are the type of people from the Caribbean; wherever we go we will survive. That is my testimony.

Thank you very much: Airmen Kris Gounden 8-21-2012 NYC city council

LEELA MARET

Testimony for city Council Redistricting.

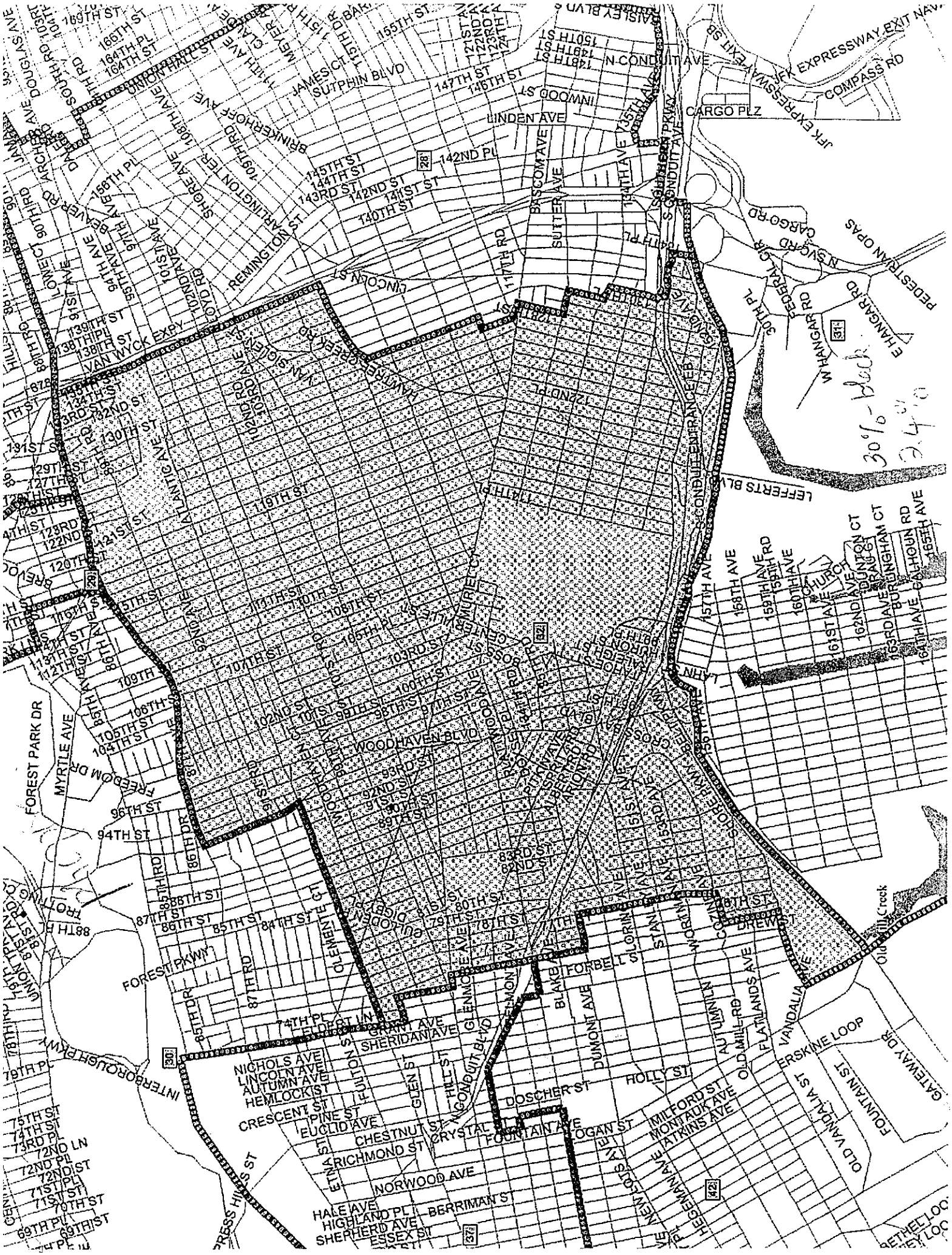
My name is Leela Maret. I was the Recording Secretary of Local 375, DC 37 for 10 years and the delegate to DC 37 largest Municipal union in the city representing 125,000 members.The city Employees nurses ,Cross guards, Engineers, Clerks, Teachers, Police officers, Fire Fighters make the city work day by day. I am a community activist and Vice President of Federation of Indian Association Of North America and Canada and I live in Richmond Hill for the last 25 years.

Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park Community of interest continues to be divided by 4 city Councils. It is a continous area of people of common interests, culture, and heritage. This Community is disenfranchised ,chopped up and fragmented. Punjabis, Indo Carribians, Bangladesis are a group of same origin and background. We also congregate in the same places of worship. Heavily populated mundirs Mosques and Gurudwaras are dispersed. The children go to same high Schools John Adams and Richmond Hill, share common Country of Origin, dialect and language. We have opened up small businesses in Richmond Hill that reflect our Culture. We run Countless Roti shops and we have countless ethnic Garment stores in the area . We have Local newspapers West Indian, Carribean Newyorker, Indian panorama And host radio programs to the needs of our community and share community services and organizations. We identify as Americans who can trace our ancestory back to South Asian Diaspora. We did not have health clinics, Community centers, daycare centers, Senior centers , social service centers, or even job training center in our Area.

The Most important family Policy ,urban Policy , foreign policy

Labor policy to have and ensure representation by all people. We are a vital part of the economic engine of New York. We are asking for the opportunity to become part of the mechanism in America. We humbly request to Show us some respect and keep us together in one district. We do not have any South Asian elected so far to the city Council. We would like to have a Piece of pie too. We are one of the fastest growing ethnic population. Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park Community should be kept as one district as it functions as one neighborhood. It should be unified into one Community that must be kept together and not splintered.

Within each community throughout the city is a vibrancy civic historic cultural richness of many diverse groups that deserve to be preserved through political empowerment. The proposed map is attached for Commission's consideration.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DUMONT AVE
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ATKINS AVE
DOSCHER ST
OGAN ST
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CRYSTAL ST
CONDUIT BLVD
NICHOLS AVE
LINCOLN AVE
AUTUMN AVE
HEMLOCK ST
CRESCENT ST
PINE ST
EUCLID AVE
CHESTNUT ST
RICHMOND ST
NORWOOD AVE
HALE AVE
HIGHLAND PL
SHERPERD AVE
ESSEX ST
BERRIMAN ST
ELTON ST
GLEN ST
HILL ST
Old Mill Creek

My name is Michael Mallon. I am president of the Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club of Queens (LGDCQ.) Founded in 1994, LGDCQ is the only LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) independent Democratic club in the Borough of Queens. LGDCQ was founded to increase the visibility of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities in the political arenas of Queens, New York City, New York State and the nation.

I would like to address redistricting as it effects the LGBT community in Queens County. Queens--specifically, western Queens--has been home to a large and ethnically diverse LGBT population for several decades. While people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender may be found throughout the entire borough, the neighborhoods that comprise most of Western Queens--Astoria, Jackson Heights, Long Island City, and Sunnyside--have gained the reputation of being both "gay" and "gay-friendly" neighbhorhoods due to their large and visible LGBT communities.

Of these neighborhoods, Jackson Heights has the distinction of being home to the greatest concentration of LGBT individuals, many of whom identify as Latino and are recent immigrants. The prominence of the neighorhood's LGBT population is made manifest in many ways. A number of not-for-profit organizations that make their home in Jackson Heights are headquartered there to serve the neighborhood's LGBT community. Some notable examples include the Jackson Height Historic District's Queens Center for Gay Seniors, which provides services to LGBT older adults, and Make the Road NY's "PRYDE" youth group, which serves low income and recent immigrant LGBT youth. Jackson Heights is also home to the Queens Pride Parade and Multicultural Festival, the largest LGBT Pride celebration outside of Manhattan, which has taken place in the neighorhood's historic district on the first Sunday of June for 20 years. Furthermore, LGDCQ is headquartered and was founded in Jackson Heights because of the neighborhood's sizeable LGBT population.

LGDCQ strongly believes that the current Councilmanic district lines in western Queens--particularly the 25th Councilmanic district, which comprises most of Jackson Heights-- are in accordance with the New York City Charter, which mandates that "district lines shall keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other (N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, §52(1)(c) (2004) Therefore, we urge the Districting Commission to keep Jackson Heights within the 25th Councilmanic district. With regard to electoral politics, dividing Jackson Heights into two or more districts would greatly diminish if not silence the voice of the neighborhood's LGBT community, which, in 2009, contributed to the historic election of New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm, one of the first openly-gay elected officials in Queens and the first to represent the 25th Councilmanic district. We are of the opinion that the existing Councilmanic district lines allowed for these historic elections and allow for "LGBT representation" in the City's legislative body. It is our fervent hope that the redrawn lines allow for such adequate representation and keep this prominent western Queens LGBT community intact.

MINKWON CENTER
For Community Action

Testimony of Steven Choi, MinKwon Center for Community Action, to the City of New York 2012-2013 Redistricting Commission

City of New York 2012-2013 Redistricting Commission Public Hearing, August 21st, 2012
Flushing Library
41-17 Main St, Flushing, NY 11355

Good afternoon. My name is Steven Choi, and I am the Executive Director of the MinKwon Center for Community Action. I'm here to discuss our interest in the redrawing of City Council districts by this Commission.

Since our founding in 1984, the MinKwon Center has had a profound presence in the Korean American, Asian American, and other marginalized communities. We are based in the heart of Flushing, and our goals are to educate and organize our community members, including the Korean American community; to provide critically-needed services; to increase Korean American civic participation; to build youth leadership; and to preserve our cultural roots.

1. The MinKwon Center's Engagement in Civic Participation

The MinKwon Center is committed to increasing civic engagement of our communities.

Many Korean American voters are disenfranchised. Our community's voters are confused by complicated procedures, denied in-language materials, and unlawfully harassed at the polls. So the MinKwon Center works to empower voters from the start of the electoral process to the finish – registering voters, educating them, mobilizing them to vote, and then protecting them at the polls. We are completely non-partisan and independent of any politicians or parties. Our goal is to help our communities build power, have a strong voice on community issues, and then hold elected officials accountable.

2. The Importance of Redistricting for our Communities

We believe that redistricting is a critical civic engagement issue.

In previous years, districts have not followed natural community boundaries, were only drawn to help incumbents, and have diluted the votes of minorities. But if districts are drawn properly – that take into account natural communities of interest, respect the Voting Rights Act, and adhere to the principle of one person, one vote – then we are rewarded with competitive elections, accountable politicians, and the protection of disenfranchised minorities. This is critical for the Asian American community, which has grown by more than 30% since 2000 and is by far the fastest-growing major racial group in New York. 19 City Councilmembers have districts where Asian Americans make up more than 15% of their constituents, yet many of these City Councilmembers are unaware of their needs and concerns.

In addition, this Commission must engage the community in a robust public debate. Yet we have not seen enough efforts to publicize these hearings in our communities, nor provide translated

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documents and interpreters – language access that is legally required by the Civil Rights Act and the Mayor's Executive Order 120.

3. MinKwon Center's Recommendations for Flushing and Bayside

The MinKwon Center is committed to working with ACCORD, the Asian American Community Coalition on Redistricting and Democracy, to educate our community members, engage them, and advocate for our communities' interests.

Our recommendations today relate to the Flushing and Bayside communities, and neighborhood boundaries that we worked on together with the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. For Flushing, we recognize that this community as bordered on the west by the Van Wyck Expressway, the north by 32nd Avenue and 27th Avenue, the east by Utopia Parkway and 189th Street, and the south by the Long Island Expressway, represents a true community of interest. Flushing residents share many common characteristics – as the majority are immigrants, mostly from Asia, for whom language access is a key issue. This community has become one of the largest immigrant gateways in New York City.

Bayside, as we define it as bordered on the west by the Clearview Expressway, the north by 33rd Avenue and 33rd Road, the east by the Cross Island Parkway, and the south by 73rd Avenue, is also another community of interest. The greater Bayside area is home to a large, growing Korean and Asian American community, and we believe that this specifically includes the Oakland Gardens neighborhood as part of this community.

Together with our ACCORD coalition partners, we will continue to advocate for our communities throughout the entire redistricting process, to ensure that our communities are heard and that our political rights are protected. Thank you.

The National Association For The Advancement of Colored People
Metropolitan Council

Good evening, my name is Kenneth D. Cohen, Regional Director of the NAACP NYS Conference Metropolitan Council. I bring you greetings from our New York State Conference President Dr. Hazel N. Dukes. As most of you should know the NAACP was founded right here in New York City in 1909, since that time the NAACP has shown a great interest in the election process and representation of the people in this great nation, especially in this great City of New York.

Not only has the NAACP fought against segregation and prejudice, not only has the NAACP opened the doors for good health services, quality housing, employment, fair and equal education, but the NAACP fought so the many people in this room could vote and participate in this process as the NAACP continues the struggle for voters rights against all odds and tricks. The NAACP understands the long battle, which cost the lives of many great leaders, to get to today's hearing. Although this is the third hearing of five, that will conclude at the end of this week. The next phase in this process will start shortly, our members have been present, observing, and monitoring these hearings so we can make an analyst of these proceedings to make a presentation that will represent the diversity of this City and not forget the long hard battles to for representation of the diversity of New York City on the New York City Council. We must know the past to move into the future and the New York City Council in their first one hundred years did not reflect the entire City of New York until the first African American Adam Clayton Powell was elected in 1941, then a slow progression of great African American Council members, until the first Latina, Nydia Velasquez was elected in

1984. It was not until 1989 when we saw the number of Council members increase to its current number of 51 that we saw a drastic change in its diverse representation. Although today the New York City Council has a diversity with the election of the first Asian John Liu to the City Council with Margaret Chen and Peter Koo becoming elected New York City members. The NAACP will remain diligent in its efforts for equal representation as the NAACP in its 103 years watchdog group that opened doors for all.

At the beginning of 2012 the process for District lines started with the selection and appointment of this body of individuals representing this great city and charged with fairly reviewing current New York City Council lines, holding hearings, then making positively sure that the people of New York City can be represented fairly.

August 21, 2012
Flushing Library
Redistricting Hearing – Testimony from the North Flushing Civic Association

Good Afternoon/Evening Everyone:

The North Flushing Civic Association is a homeowners association consisting of about 90 blocks just north of Northern Boulevard in the Flushing area of Queens toward Whitestone. See Map #1. Our civic boundaries are within the purple lines, council boundaries are the heavy black lines. District 19 is to the right, District 20 to the left. As you can see, almost all of our civic association area is currently in District 20 except for 17 blocks on our easternmost boundary which is in District 19.

Look at Map #2 where the zoning is colored in yellow. This map shows that we have a large yellow swath of R2-A which is really part of the R2-A zone to the East in District 19. The R2-A zones extend all the way over to Little Neck Bay and into Douglaston. We think that the District 19 West boundary should be shifted to the heavy black line on Map 2 to include this R2-A zone and the lower zones of R4A, R3-1 and R3-2 above it. This change would better represent the zoning and housing stock in the area.

Look at map #3 and you will see how the yellow color indicates how the lower residential zones extend way over to the bay and beyond. A shifting of the District lines accordingly makes sense.

These changes have been made in a full report submitted to the Queens Civic Congress. The highly-detailed full report is attached to my testimony. The Queens Civic Congress is an umbrella organization of over 100 civic and homeowners associations in Queens. The full report proposes District line changes for Districts 19, 20, 23 and 24. The lines have been redrawn to group together same zoning, housing stock and community names to better serve the populations living there. A study of the population shifts is also included. The population changes are within the numbers required for each District.

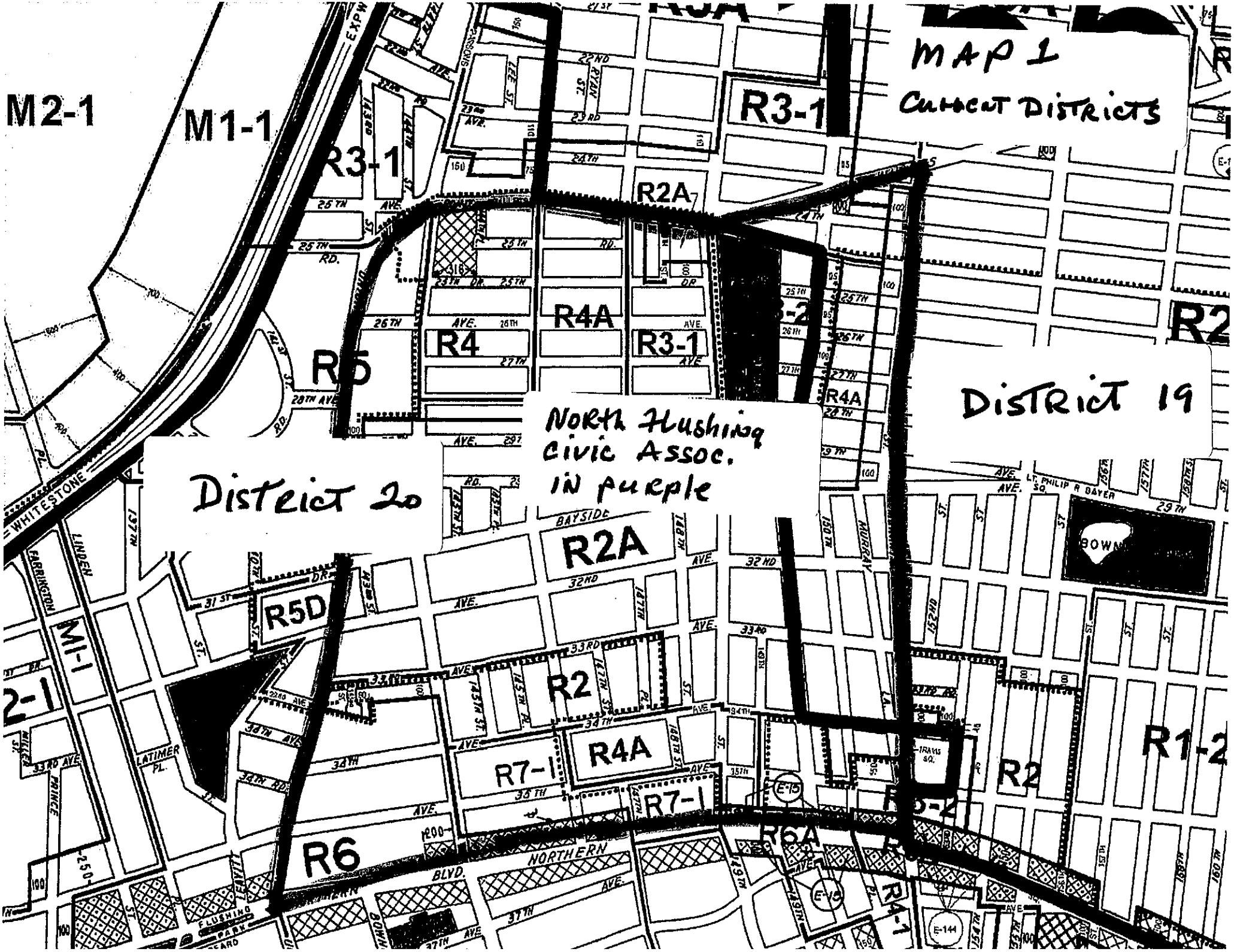
It is important for the North Flushing Civic area to be included in District 19 because we share the same common issues and interests with the low-density residential community that we do with the higher apartment zones in District 20 in this area. In fact, we oftentimes attend each other's civic association meetings because we know each other and we are so alike. We have homes with garages, driveways and yards. We shop locally. Representatives who live in District 19 would better represent us.

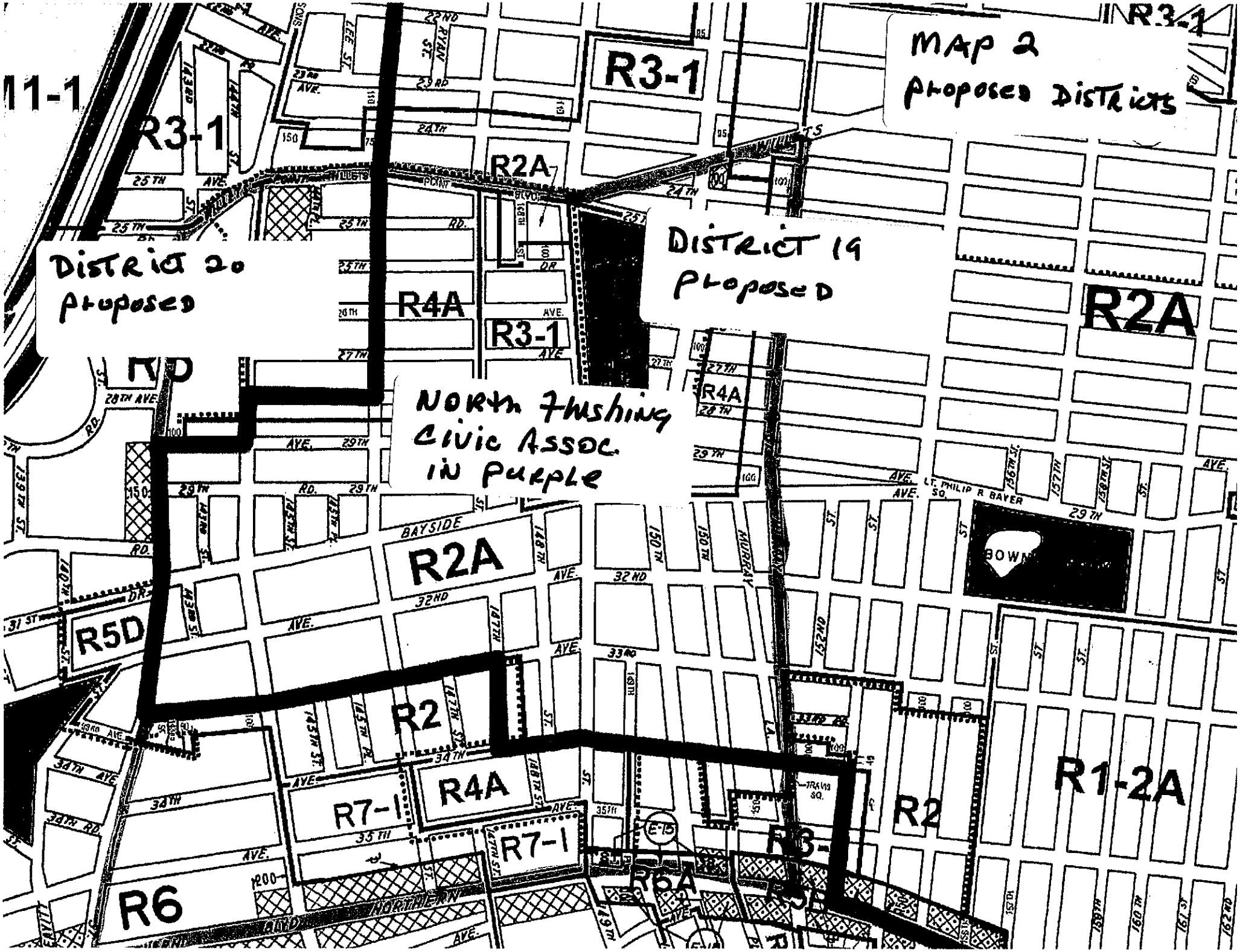
We have little in common with District 20 that includes the Mitchell Linden apartment complex on Union Street, and the apartment and commercial area on Northern Boulevard. We have little in common with the rest of District 20 to the south which includes downtown Flushing which is a mix of commercial and multi-story apartment and condo complexes. Most of us never even go to downtown Flushing due to problematic parking and the congestion there.

We urge the commission to use the lines represented here when putting the final touches on District lines. We will be much better served by these important District line changes.

Thank you.

Tyler D. Cassell
President

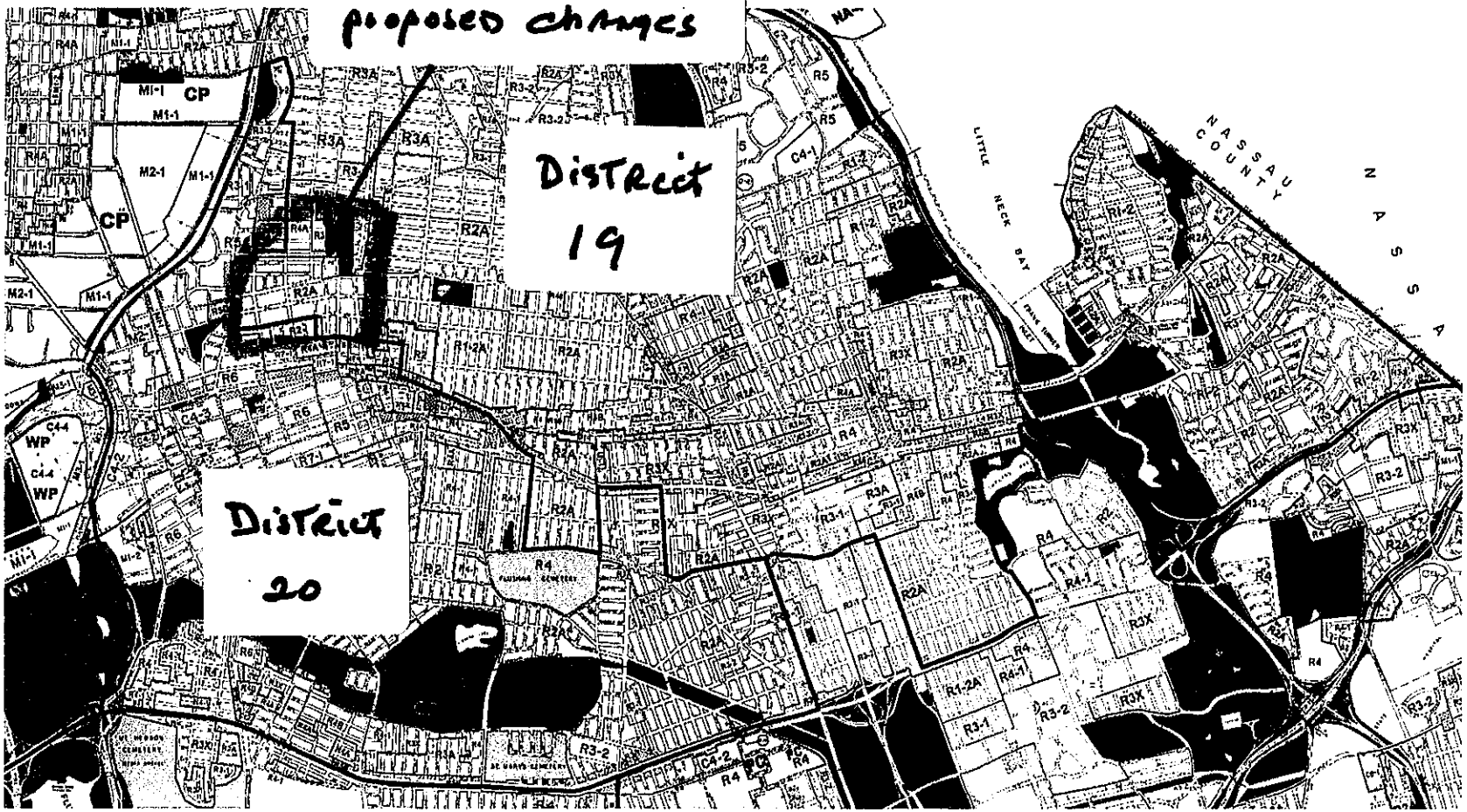

MAP 1
CURRENT DISTRICTS
M2-1
M1-1
R3-1
R2A
R4A
R4
R5
R5D
R2
R7-1
R6
R6A
R1-2
DISTRICT 19
DISTRICT 20
NORTH FLUSHING CIVIC ASSOC. IN PURPLE
WHITESTONE
BAYSIDE
NORTHERN BLVD.
FLUSHING PARK
LATIMER PL.
LINDEN
FARRINGTON
PRINCE
BOWNE
LT. PHILIP R DAYER SQ.
TRANS SQ.


MAP 2
Proposed Districts
District 20
Proposed
District 19
Proposed
North Flushing
Civic Assoc.
in Purple
R3-1
R2A
R4A
R5D
R2
R7-1
R6
R6A
R1-2A
BAYSIDE
NORTHERN BLVD
LT. PHILIP R BAYER SQ.
BOWN

MAP 3
LARGER VIEW

District 19 and 20

NORTH FLUSHING
CIVIC ASSOC.
proposed changes



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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36TH District – Brooklyn

ALEXANDER RIAS
Director of BLAC Affairs

Distinguished members of the New York City Districting commission: my name is Alex Rias, and I present this testimony on behalf of the Black, Latino & Asian Caucus (BLA Caucus) of the New York City Council, as its Director, and on behalf of the Caucus' two Co-Chairs Councilman Robert Jackson and Councilman Fernando Cabrera. This testimony is also presented on behalf of the twenty-six of fifty-one City Council districts it represents in all five boroughs. Our constituencies alone represent over 4 million residents of this City. As a citywide Caucus, we are and have been vocal in all aspects of our civic duty—on budget and legislation, as well as advocacy on issues of social justice and equality. Our ability to serve our individual and collective constituencies hinges upon this very process of redistricting every ten years.

Staff Diversity

First, the BLA Caucus is pleased that the Commission appointments have resulted in putting together a diverse group tasked with this difficult undertaking. To ensure that the needs of all communities are best served and respected, diversity must be prevalent at every step and stage of this process; even beyond the members of this Commission. The racial and gender diversity of the Commission at all staff levels is also paramount. The Caucus understands that as this process rolls on, and some of the more arduous aspects of the process ramp up, further staff will be added. And we look forward to applauding this Commission on making a concerted effort to ensure that all levels of this Commission reflect the diversity of this great city.

Common Communities

Voting Rights

Next, while the Voting Rights Act protects African Americans, Latino Americans and Asian Americans as racial groups, challenges to the act by the Supreme Court refute racial predomination, and argues that the districting process must protect communities of significant cultural, economic, political and social interests. In resolving the lack of clarity in these conflicting premises, the Commission must be transparent in its interpretation of these legal mandates.

After all, "life and death is by the power of the tongue." The power of community voices lay in their ability to rally around commonality; to spur on change; to vote. No one knows the issues of a community like those who live within it. If the voices of particular communities are disjointed in their Council District identities, the power of their vote is fractured as a result.

Dramatic changes in New York City population have occurred in communities of color; particularly in the Asian and Latino communities. Migration throughout the city has been particularly pronounced within Latino communities, and is particularly prevalent throughout Queens, the Bronx and Upper Manhattan, and continues to change the face of the local electorate. A 32% increase has been realized within the Asian community, and despite totaling 13% of New York City's population, no New York Congressional Representative, nor New York State Senator is Asian. Just one Assembly district is

represented by an Asian member, and just two members of the City Council—members our Caucus—are Asian.

While the Caucus is not advocating for specific lines at this time, it is committed to the protection of common community voices as a priority of this process. The processes of mitigating these dramatic shifts will require special attention and careful detail from the Commission.

End Prison-Based Gerrymandering
It is also expected that the Commission interpret the laws—upheld in court—that prevent prison-based gerrymandering. It is our understanding that the Commission is currently reviewing prison population data, and it is our hope that these figures are used appropriately. The diluting of votes through gerrymandering has hurt communities. It has starved them of resources and representation that can prevent members of those communities from entering the prison system in the first place. Prison-based gerrymandering has overwhelmingly affected Black and Latino communities, as these populations account for 81% of the New York State prison population. Fully implementing the law can undoubtedly change the course of many young people's lives and change many communities around this City for the better.

Public Access

Finally, the Caucus thanks the Commission for clearly articulating its districting timeline as well as its public hearing schedule to date. This, of course, is just the tip of the iceberg in this difficult and, at times, tumultuous process. The process requires public access and transparency, and when we reach the point of drawing lines, the public will undoubtedly want more—and they deserve it.

Establishing a clearly articulated, interactive data and mapping system that allows the public to engage and lend a voice to the districting process is critical. With the technological improvements witnessed and adopted over the last decade, the public deserves a system that allows them to observe the evolving landscape, and at the very least a resource room where the public can submit map suggestions. We believe that utilizing these tools will lend its hand to establishing fair and equitable lines.

The BLA Caucus thanks the Commission for accepting this testimony on behalf of its twenty-six members and the communities that we represent. We recognize the weight and difficulty of the task ahead, and intend to fully participate in these proceedings to bring equity and fairness to communities around this city. Thank you.

A Message from Assemblywoman

CATHERINE NOLAN

Chair, Education Committee
37th Assembly District
Queens County

August 21, 2012

Statement from Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan to the New York City Redistricting Commission

As New York State Assemblywoman for Ridgewood Queens for over 26 years, I feel that Ridgewood is best represented by being in a Queens city council district. Ridgewood has long been a part of the cultural landscape of Queens and should be able to continue to be a part of Western Queens- not just geographically but also by being in a Queens city council district. Many of the schools, parks and community groups are intertwined with the Queens communities and would best be served by continuing to remain within a Queens city council district.

-30-

District Office: 61-08 Linden Street, Ridgewood, N.Y. 11385 (718) 456-9492
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nolanc@assembly.state.ny.us

OCA | EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

New York Chapter

STATEMENT OF OCA-NY
Before the New York City Council Redistricting Commission
Given by Rose Eng
August 21, 2012

Good evening. My name is Rose Eng. I have been a Queens resident for more than 30 years and currently live in Hollis Hills. I am a retired educator for the NYC Dept. of Education and have worked in the educational system for 33 years. Today, I am testifying as a board member of OCA-NY. Founded in 1976, OCA-NY, formerly known as Organization of Chinese Americans, is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the political, economic, social, and cultural rights of Asian Americans. OCA-NY is a founding member of ACCORD-Asian American Community Coalition on Redistricting and Democracy.

OCA-NY covers the five boroughs of New York City. In Queens, OCA-NY held a naturalization training in downtown Flushing that attracted over 100 people. We participate in the Flushing Lunar New Year Parade, conduct voter registration drives, and organize community education forums, including meetings with the Queens District Attorney involving crimes against Asian Americans. We co-sponsored candidate forums for former State Senate Districts 11 and 16, current City Council District 20, and newly drawn State Assembly District 40 and Congressional District 6 at Flushing Public Library. We participate in the International Dragon Boat Races in Flushing Meadows. OCA-NY works with MinKwon Center for Community Action, Chinatown Planning Council-Queens division, Korean Community Services, and Flushing Chinese Business Association. Our joint projects include language access, voter empowerment, and immigration reform.

The 2010 Census shows that there are 500,000 Asians living in Queens alone. OCA-NY's position on redistricting is based on its community involvement, input from its Queens members and the 2010 Census.

City Council District 20

OCA-NY supports City Council District 20 remaining in tact. Many Flushing residents face the same issues of street sanitation problems, parking, and access to language instruction. More than half the population in Flushing are foreign born and need bilingual assistance. Under section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act, poll sites in Queens are required to provide translated materials and assistance to Asian American voters with limited English proficiency. However, to encourage greater voter participation, communities of interests must be drawn together so that we can unite more effectively to elect a candidate of our choice. Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT HELEN M. MARSHALL BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY DISTRICTING COMMISSION

(AUGUST 21, 2012)

GOOD EVENING, AND WELCOME MR. CHAIRMAN AND ALL OF YOUR COLLEAGUES FROM THE NEW YORK CITY DISTRICTING COMMISSION, TO THE GREAT BOROUGH OF QUEENS. OF COURSE, SEVERAL COMMISSION MEMBERS COME FROM QUEENS, INCLUDING FORMER STATE SENATOR FRANK PADAVAN AND FORMER CITY COUNCILMAN TOM OGNIBENE. IT'S GOOD TO KNOW THAT OUR BOROUGH IS WELL-REPRESENTED IN THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS. AS THE QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT, I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION AS IT EMBARKS ON ITS IMPORTANT MISSION TO DETERMINE THE PROPER CONFIGURATION OF NEW YORK CITY'S CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

AS WE ALL KNOW, FAIRLY DRAWN, REPRESENTATIVE ELECTION DISTRICTS ARE AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT IN ENSURING THAT OUR RIGHT TO VOTE-- ONE OF THIS

GREAT DEMOCRACY'S MOST CHERISHED CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS-- ACTUALLY MEANS SOMETHING. I TRUST THAT THIS COMMISSION WILL GIVE IN-DEPTH AND DETAILED CONSIDERATION TO THE DRAWING OF NEW LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS FOR THE CITY, WHILE OF COURSE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF OUR RESIDENTS.

I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT, AFTER SEEING THE ORDEAL THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK WENT THROUGH DURING THE STATE LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING PROCESS, I AM A LITTLE CONCERNED ABOUT HOW THIS PROCESS WILL TURN OUT. HOWEVER, THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL HAVE CONVENED AN IMPRESSIVE GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS TO SERVE ON THIS COMMISSION. I LOOK FORWARD TO ITS PROPOSALS FOR NEW DISTRICTS. IN COMING UP WITH YOUR PROPOSALS, I ASK THAT YOU KEEP A NUMBER OF FACTORS IN MIND.

AS YOU KNOW, QUEENS HAS THE SECOND-LARGEST AND MOST DIVERSE POPULATION OF ANY COUNTY IN THE STATE, IN TERMS OF NATIONALITIES, ETHNICITIES AND RELIGIONS REPRESENTED. WE HAVE MORE THAN 2.2

MILLION PEOPLE HERE. FOR THE RECORD, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE CENSUS BUREAU UNDERCOUNTED THE POPULATION OF QUEENS BY MORE THAN 100,000 DURING THE 2010 CENSUS.

QUEENS IS A BOROUGH OF SEPARATE NEIGHBORHOODS. OUR PEOPLE LIVE IN DOZENS OF COMMUNITIES. WHEN YOU ASK WHERE WE ARE FROM, WE OF COURSE SAY WE'RE FROM QUEENS; HOWEVER, WE ALSO MAKE SURE TO TELL YOU WHAT COMMUNITIES WE'RE FROM. IN FACT, QUEENS IS THE ONLY BOROUGH WHERE, WHEN WE RECEIVE MAIL, IT IS ADDRESSED TO US IN OUR INDIVIDUAL NEIGHBORHOODS. SO, WHEN WE RECEIVE MAIL, RATHER THAN BEING ADDRESSED SIMPLY TO QUEENS, IT IS ADDRESSED TO LONG ISLAND CITY, GLENDALE, BAYSIDE, LITTLE NECK, FOREST HILLS, JAMAICA, OR ANY ONE OF OUR DOZENS OF OTHER COMMUNITIES. WE PROUDLY IDENTIFY OURSELVES WITH OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND THEIR RICH CULTURES AND HISTORIES.

IN LIGHT OF THE UNIQUE NATURE OF QUEENS AND ITS COMMUNITIES, IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT WHEN ANY ENTITY IS CHARGED WITH REDRAWING LEGISLATIVE

DISTRICTS, SPECIAL CARE MUST BE TAKEN. WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT COMMUNITIES REMAIN INTACT AND THAT EVERY VOTE COUNTS.

AS THIS REDISTRICTING PROCESS BEGINS, WE EXPECT THAT ANY PROPOSED NEW LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS WILL RESPECT THE INTEGRITY OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND PROTECT THE VOTING RIGHTS OF OUR MINORITY POPULATIONS.

I ASK THAT AS YOU UNDERTAKE THIS DELICATE TASK, YOU LEARN FROM— AND THEREFORE AVOID-- SOME OF THE MISTAKES MADE BY THE STATE'S LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE IN ITS INITIAL PROPOSALS. LET ME TAKE JUST A FEW MINUTES TO REMIND YOU. FOR EXAMPLE, IN SOME CASES, THE PROPOSED LINES SEEMED ARBITRARILY DRAWN. IN OTHER CASES, IT LOOKED AS THOUGH SOMEONE WAS TRYING TO SOLVE A JIGSAW PUZZLE BY JAMMING PIECES INTO PLACES WHERE THEY DIDN'T BELONG.

WHILE I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE OF MANY OF THE CRITICISMS EXPRESSED DURING THE STATE

DEDISTRICTING PROCESS, THEY REFLECTED VALID CONCERNS AND ARE WORTH REPEATING HERE. I REMIND YOU THAT BLACK, LATINO, AND ASIAN-AMERICAN LEADERS AND GROUPS EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT UNDERREPRESENTATION IN MANY PARTS OF THE CITY, INCLUDING OF COURSE IN QUEENS.

THE INITIAL STATE REDISTRICTING PROPOSALS SHOWED A CLEAR LACK OF RESPECT FOR COMMUNITY LINES, AND THEY WOULD HAVE DIVIDED COMMUNITIES BY, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CROSSING NATURAL BOUNDARIES, INCLUDING MAJOR ROADS AND HIGHWAYS. IN FACT, THE NEW DISTRICTS WOULD HAVE DIVIDED COMMUNITIES IN ELMHURST, WOODHAVEN, ASTORIA, AND MANY OTHERS, AND WOULD HAVE JEOPARDIZED THE LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION THEY DESERVE.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN WOODHAVEN, SOME OF ITS RESIDENTS WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE SAME DISTRICT AS ASTORIA—WHICH IS NEARLY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BOROUGH. OTHER WOODHAVEN RESIDENTS WOULD HAVE BEEN IN A DISTRICT THAT STRETCHES NEARLY TO GREEN ACRES MALL IN NASSAU COUNTY! UNDER THOSE PLANS, PARTS

OF WOODHAVEN WOULD HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED BY THREE DIFFERENT STATE SENATORS, RATHER THAN ONE SENATOR, FOR WHOM THE COMMUNITY WOULD NO DOUBT BE A BIGGER PRIORITY. THE PROPOSED DISTRICT MAPS EVEN APPEARED TO SHOW—AND I REALLY FOUND THIS HARD TO BELIEVE—THAT A PART OF LEFRAK CITY WOULD HAVE BEEN CARVED OUT AND PUT IN A SEPARATE DISTRICT! ALSO DISTURBING WAS THE PROPOSED MUTILATION OF THE VENERABLE ASTORIA NEIGHBORHOOD. THE NEW LINES WOULD HAVE CUT OFF DISTRICT 12 SEVERAL BLOCKS SOUTH OF THE OLD BOUNDARY AT 20TH AVENUE, AND WOULD HAVE ONE SIDE OF DITMARS IN ONE DISTRICT AND THE OTHER SIDE IN ANOTHER.

I WAS ALARMED, BECAUSE THAT SEEMINGLY ARBITRARY AND ILLOGICAL REDRAWING OF DISTRICT LINES COULD ONLY HAVE LED TO DIMINISHED REPRESENTATION FOR QUEENS COMMUNITIES. REDISTRICTING SHOULD PROTECT OUR NEIGHBORHOODS BY ENSURING COHESIVE REPRESENTATION. THAT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO GUARANTEE THAT OUR LAWMAKERS WILL RESPOND TO OUR COMMUNITIES' NEEDS. AND IN THIS ERA OF

LIMITED RESOURCES, WITH CRITICAL ISSUES SUCH AS EDUCATION, TRANSPORTATION AND MEDICAL CARE LOOMING LARGER BY THE DAY, WE NEED THE BEST REPRESENTATION WE CAN GET!

OUR RIGHT TO VOTE IS ONE OF OUR MOST BASIC AND CHERISHED RIGHTS, AND ANY ACTIONS THAT COULD IMPACT THAT RIGHT MUST BE TAKEN WITH THE UTMOST CARE. I, THEREFORE, URGE YOU TO IMMERSE YOURSELVES IN A STUDY OF OUR COMMUNITIES, AND TO DESIGN DISTRICT MAPS THAT ARE FAIR, BALANCED, AND TRULY REPRESENTATIVE.

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF QUEENS, I INSIST THAT ANY CHANGES IN OUR CITY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS MUST ACKNOWLEDGE AND ACCOMMODATE THE DISTINCT, DIVERSE QUALITIES OF ITS DOZENS OF COMMUNITIES.

I THANK YOU AGAIN FOR COMING TO QUEENS TO HEAR OUR RESIDENTS AND TO TAKE HEED OF THEIR CONCERNS. THANK YOU.

Summary for the Queens Civic Congress for the City Council Districting Commission:

Every decade, the various districts of the City Council must undergo boundary changes based on the overall change in population. Most of the time, these changes are relatively minor, though they can be of import to the neighborhoods that are affected. This is particularly true when neighborhoods are divided amongst two or more Councilmembers; oftentimes, rather than those neighborhoods having the attention of two or more representatives, they are in danger of being ignored by both as they are usually located on the fringe of their respective districts, in essence becoming "orphaned" communities with diminished representation. Another extremely important factor in effective representation tends to be the make up of a geographical area, whether pertaining to ethnic origin, population density or physical character.

The Queens Civic Congress analyzed four districts that interact significantly with each other: the 19th, 20th, 23rd and 24th. While each of these districts fairly represents a substantial number of communities in their entirety, there are reasonable changes that would benefit certain divided neighborhoods being placed either in one Council District or another, as per the N.Y. City Charter, ch. 2-A, 52(1)(b)(2004).

These changes can occur with minimal alterations to total population counts, population density and population diversity, i.e. making sure that required representation is not significantly altered in a way that it would negatively impact the voting rights of various population groups within the parameters as described in the City Charter. In reality, the demographic shifts based upon these proposed changes will only vary slightly, with most of these areas having significant diversity by area and often by block, already creating neighborhoods of very mixed ethnicity with no particular plurality.

The proposed changes would, however, change the map in several locations, with a final outcome being Council Districts that are significantly less gerrymandered, with more straight lines using natural and man-made boundaries (such as the Flushing River or Long Island Expressway) and encompassing entire neighborhoods rather than dividing them between two or more Council Districts, thereby keeping these neighborhoods intact as they are clearly "communities with established ties of common interest and association."

Census 2010 Population Change and its Effects on Council Districts

According to the City Charter, each Council District should optimally contain a population of 160,296 based upon the 2010 Census. The districts can contain as few as 152,281 or as many as 168,311. Currently the Council Districts are as follows:

19th CD - 155,587
20th CD - 162,110
23rd CD - 151,277
24th CD - 172,812

While the 19th and 20th Council Districts are within range, the 23rd and 24th Council Districts are not. The proposed changes to these districts population are as follows:

19th CD - 159,266
20th CD - 158,775
23rd CD - 154,929
24th CD - 165,159

These changes, while relatively small overall, bring all four Council Districts closer to the optimal population. Additionally, neighborhoods that are currently divided by Council Districts are placed in one district.

For example, the smaller remainder of North Flushing - 40 blocks or approximately 25% of the primarily single-family low-density residential neighborhood currently located in the 20th Council District with no relation to the adjacent areas of high-density downtown Flushing to the south or the Mitchell-Linden Cooperative apartment buildings to the west, but is consistent with the rest of North Flushing to the east - would be placed entirely within the 19th Council District. The area, with 3,831 residents, is approximately 38% Caucasian, 7% Hispanic and 53% Asian-American, with the remainder African-American or Other.

Another example would be the Station Road area in Auburndale, currently divided between the 19th and 20th Council Districts. The well-defined neighborhood, almost entirely located in a detached single-family zone, straddles Northern Boulevard. The portion to the north and two individual blocks to the south are located in the 19th, with the remainder located in the 20th. To the west lies East Flushing, with significantly higher zoning and population density, while to the east is another portion of Auburndale that has a preponderance of two-family houses. The area, with 1,343 residents, is approximately 49% Caucasian, 14% Hispanic and 35% Asian-American, with the remainder African-American or Other.

Other areas that would be included within one Council District include Fresh Meadows/Utopia Estates/West Cunningham Park; Jamaica Estates; Bayside Hills; and Rego Park. This would be accomplished by keeping those neighborhoods with a common interest, which includes historical and neighborhood character as well as demographics, as intact as possible.

The full changes are listed below and a block by block and neighborhood by neighborhood analysis is listed on the pages that follow:

19th to 20th CDs:	7 blocks, population 1,771
20th to 19th CDs:	64 blocks, population 5,579
19th to 23rd CDs:	10 blocks, population 981
23rd to 19th CDs:	11 blocks, population 852
20th to 23rd CDs:	6 blocks, population 473
24th to 23rd CDs:	42 blocks, population 4,899
23rd to 24th CDs:	14 blocks, population 903
24th to 29th CDs:	4 blocks, population 3,710
25th to 24th CDs:	3 blocks, population 53

Proposed Blocks from 19th to 20th Council Districts

Whitestone - Zoning: R3-2

W	B	H	A	O	
219	7	71	225	4	526
51	1	80	129	7	268
270	8	151	354	11	794
34%	*1%*	*19%*	*44.6%*	*1.4%*	*100%*

Flushing - Zoning: R6A

W	B	H	A	O	
51	9	428	85	8	581
8.8%	*1.5%*	*73.7%*	*14.6%*	*1.4%*	*100%*

Auburndale - Zoning: R3-2

W	B	H	A	O	
77	1	27	61	5	171
55	2	32	44	2	135
28	0	18	30	0	76
6	0	0	8	0	14
166	3	77	143	7	396
41.9%	*.8%*	*19.4%*	*36.1%*	*1.8%*	*100%*

Proposed Blocks from 23rd to 20th Council Districts

Auburndale - Zoning: Primarily R2A

W	B	H	A	O	
35	0	3	51	0	89
48	1	17	35	1	102
48	0	3	42	0	93
39	0	5	52	0	96
34	0	6	45	3	88
1	0	2	2	0	5
205	1	36	227	4	473
43.3%	*.2%*	*7.6%*	*48%*	*.8%*	*100%*

Proposed Blocks from 20th to 19th Council Districts

North Flushing - Zoning: Primarily R2A, lesser amounts of R4A/R3-1

W	B	H	A	O	
81	0	12	14	0	107
52	0	3	17	0	72
32	1	2	31	0	66
78	0	24	21	0	123
71	0	9	71	2	153
94	2	12	53	2	163
78	0	5	48	0	131
48	0	0	82	0	130
63	0	10	78	0	151
10	0	0	49	0	59
16	3	3	51	0	73
12	0	0	39	0	51
17	4	0	68	0	89
54	0	7	52	5	118
58	0	10	52	4	124
44	2	0	84	0	130
26	1	18	32	0	77
16	1	0	31	0	48
42	0	8	109	2	161
89	1	27	107	5	229
0	0	2	25	0	27
14	0	0	31	0	45
5	2	0	52	5	64
94	0	10	193	0	297
56	0	15	136	0	207
67	4	5	79	5	160
40	0	25	84	1	150
19	0	2	40	0	61
12	0	10	21	0	43
27	0	3	19	0	49
9	0	9	26	7	51
19	0	15	58	7	99
24	0	3	36	0	63
36	0	0	26	0	62
32	0	0	65	3	100
36	0	10	50	2	98
1471	21	259	2030	50	3831
38.4%	*.5%*	*6.8%*	*53%*	*1.3%*	*100%*

Auburndale / Station Road - Zoning: R2A

W	B	H	A	O	
9	0	0	4	0	13
12	0	3	5	2	22
37	2	7	112	0	158
48	0	32	63	5	148
48	4	11	67	0	130
74	0	13	54	3	144
35	0	16	8	0	59
73	2	21	38	6	140
74	0	28	21	0	123
63	0	15	15	0	93
75	0	12	11	0	98
30	0	15	27	0	72
74	5	19	44	1	143
652	13	192	469	17	1343
48.5%	*1%*	*14.3%*	*34.9%*	*1.3%*	*100%*

Auburndale / St. Kevin's - Zoning: R2A/R3-2

W	B	H	A	O	
76	5	8	29	2	120
59	0	23	43	0	125
28	0	1	18	0	47
20	0	4	32	3	59
27	0	1	26	0	54
210	5	37	148	5	405
51.9%	*1.2%*	*9.1%*	*36.6%*	*1.2%*	*100%*

Proposed Blocks from 23rd to 19th Council Districts

Bayside Hills - Zoning: R2A

W	B	H	A	O	
34	1	4	20	0	59
41	0	5	34	0	80
48	0	6	35	4	93
35	3	5	47	0	90
41	0	0	62	0	103
22	0	18	24	4	68
37	0	4	49	0	90
26	0	8	43	0	77
25	0	6	65	2	98
18	0	12	37	0	67
19	0	0	8	0	27
346	4	68	424	10	852
40.6%	*.5%*	*8%*	*49.8%*	*1.2%*	*100%*

Proposed Blocks from 19th to 23rd Council Districts

Auburndale / Clear Spring - R2A/R3-1

W	B	H	A	O	
18	0	6	27	0	51
41	11	41	65	3	161
21	2	8	73	0	104
0	0	4	9	1	14
71	3	26	59	0	159
62	1	31	83	7	184
49	0	22	59	8	138
29	0	18	91	1	139
46	0	13	63	1	123
337	17	169	529	21	1073
31.4%	*1.6%*	*15.8%*	*49.3%*	*1.9%*	*100%*

Proposed Blocks from 24th to 23rd Council Districts

Fresh Meadows / Utopia Estates - Zoning: R2A

W	B	H	A	O	
8	9	4	23	1	45
24	7	7	87	2	127
19	1	19	57	3	99
41	0	11	89	1	142
10	4	3	18	0	35
23	0	0	26	1	50
8	1	4	23	5	41
13	0	1	31	1	46
30	4	2	25	0	61
25	0	0	42	0	67
25	0	5	40	0	70
53	1	6	56	0	116
28	0	8	79	0	115
43	0	6	12	0	61
23	0	2	20	0	45
44	0	15	56	0	115
43	0	8	45	1	97
31	0	9	54	10	104
32	0	0	52	1	85
52	4	14	21	0	91
37	0	14	61	2	114
83	1	11	42	3	140
67	0	8	54	2	131
78	4	21	35	0	138
26	0	14	53	9	102
51	0	12	73	1	137
49	0	6	57	0	112
40	4	19	77	25	165
49	2	0	28	0	79
44	0	2	22	2	70
43	0	3	15	3	64
37	0	1	18	0	56
39	0	4	27	0	70
33	3	1	49	0	86
45	0	3	23	2	73
44	0	3	25	2	74
27	0	1	50	0	78
32	3	5	46	3	89
34	0	12	42	1	89
62	0	24	108	10	204
67	0	6	56	2	131
75	0	12	32	0	119
86	0	7	20	1	114
66	0	8	34	3	111
80	0	18	17	4	119
75	0	4	29	2	110
73	0	2	40	0	115
65	2	15	36	0	118
68	4	7	25	0	104
54	0	3	25	1	83
54	1	7	30	0	92
2258	55	377	2105	104	4899
46.1%	*1.1%*	*7.7%*	*43%*	*2.1%*	*100%*

Proposed Blocks from 23rd to 24th Council Districts

Jamaica Estates - Zoning: R2A

W	B	H	A	O	
40	2	5	9	0	56
66	0	3	16	2	87'
81	4	5	4	0	94
50	1	7	39	0	97
69	0	6	0	0	75
65	0	0	16	4	85
81	0	0	9	1	91
65	6	4	11	0	86
57	0	2	3	0	62
34	0	0	0	0	34
34	0	1	1	1	37
11	0	0	11	0	22
28	0	0	10	0	38
38	0	1	0	0	39
719	*13*	*34*	*129*	*8*	*903*
79.6%	*1.4%*	*3.8%*	*14.3%*	*.9%*	*100%*

Proposed Blocks from 25th to 24th Council Districts

Forest Hills - Zoning: R4

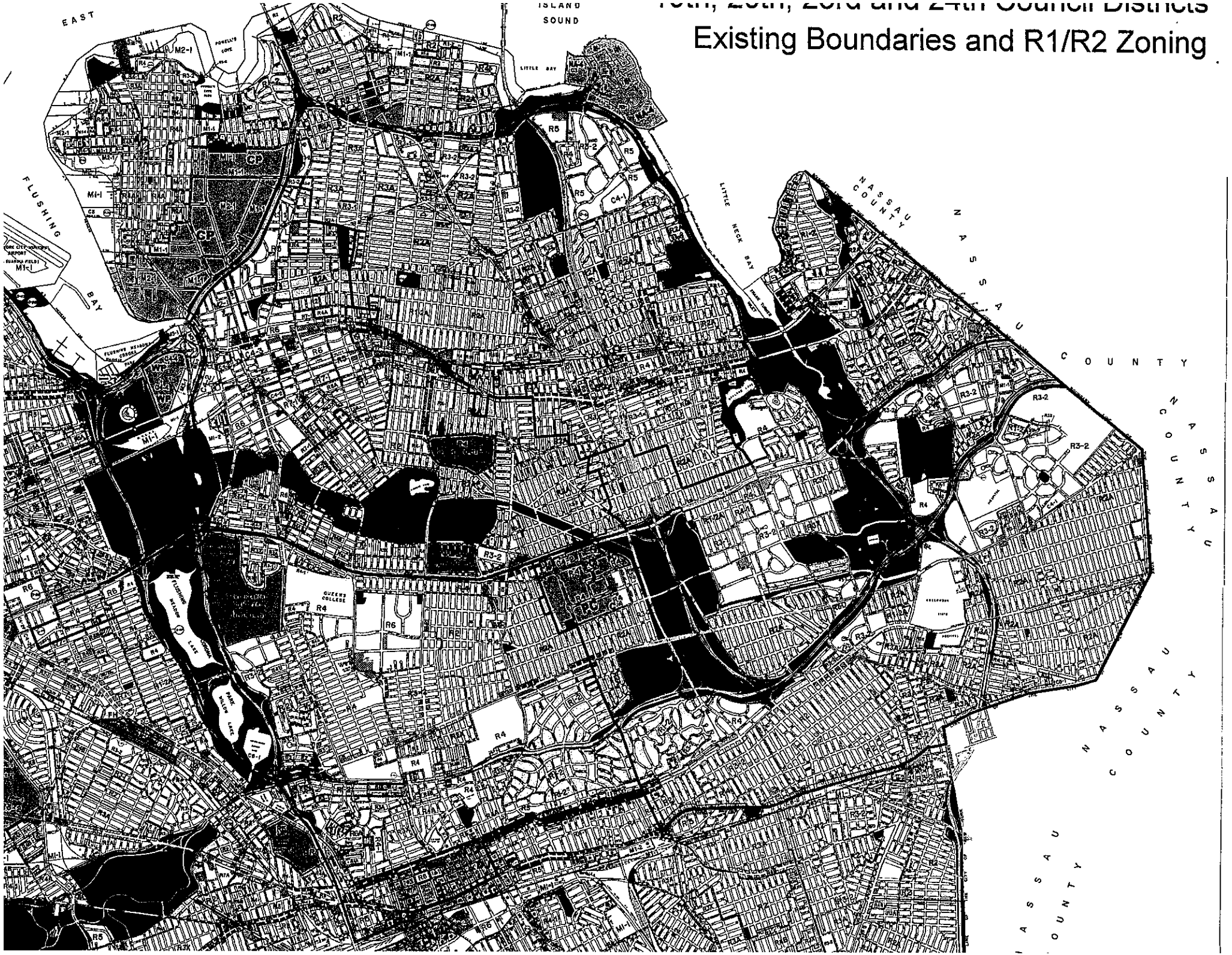
W	B	H	A	O	
17	0	20	16	0	53
32.1%		*37.7%*	*30.2%*		*100%*

Proposed Blocks from 24th to 29th Council Districts

Rego Park - Zoning: R7-1

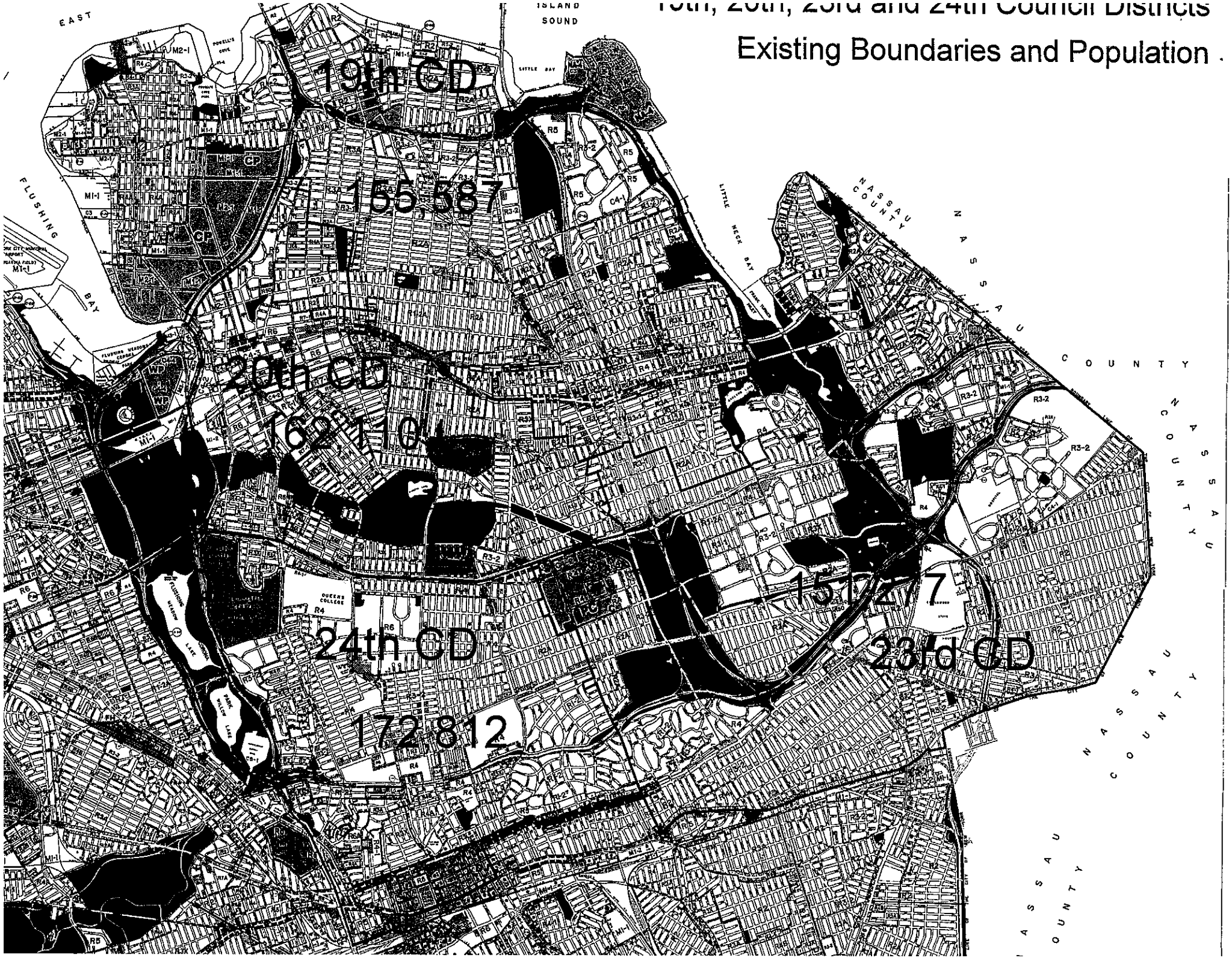
W	B	H	A	O	
369	17	95	233	25	739
317	10	83	243	17	670
1083	33	125	289	61	1591
99	5	51	30	3	188
47	0	77	40	10	174
152	6	79	96	15	348
2067	71	510	931	131	3710
55.7%	*1.9%*	*13.7%*	*25.1%*	*3.5%*	*100%*

16th, 20th, 22nd and 24th Council Districts
Existing Boundaries and R1/R2 Zoning

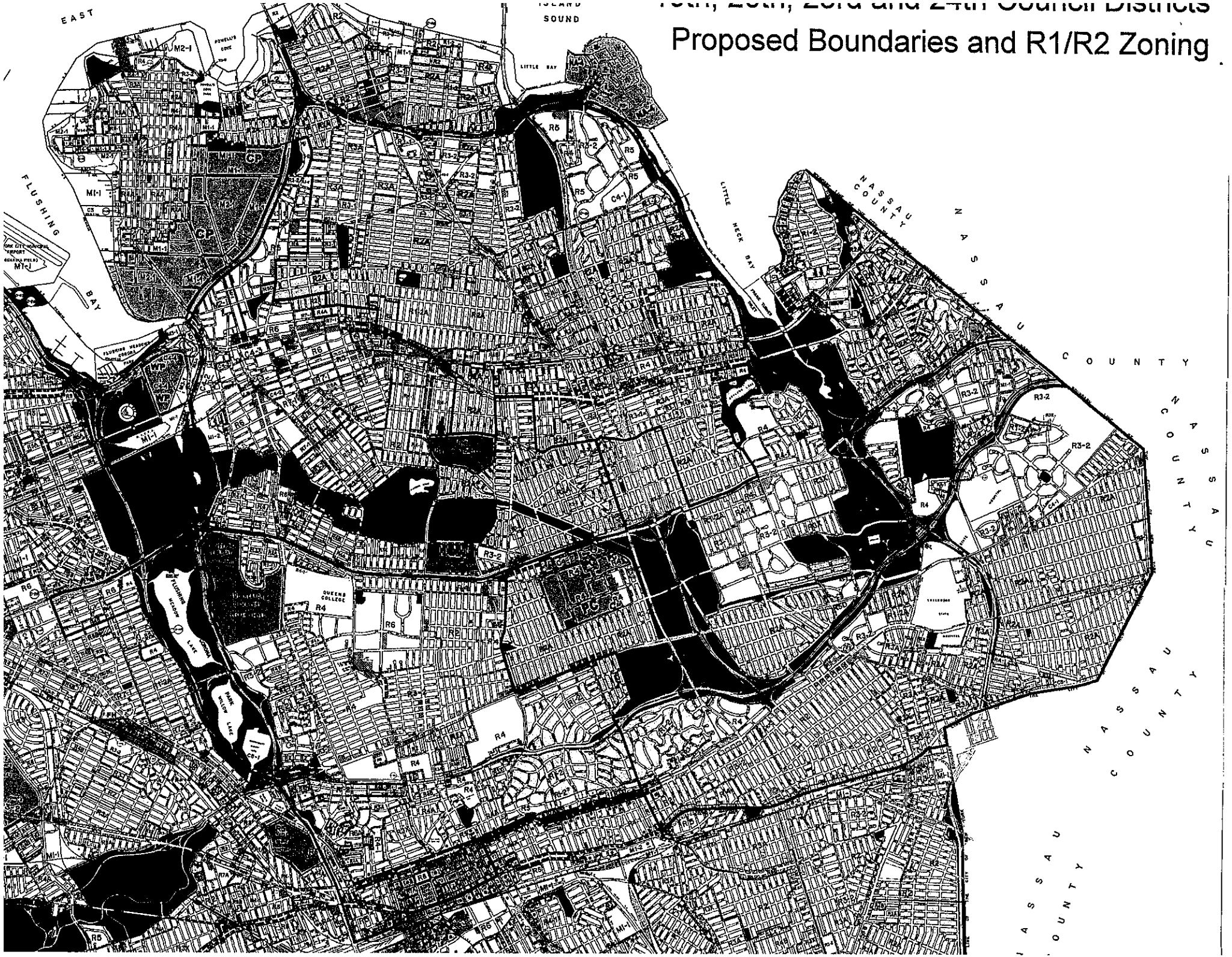


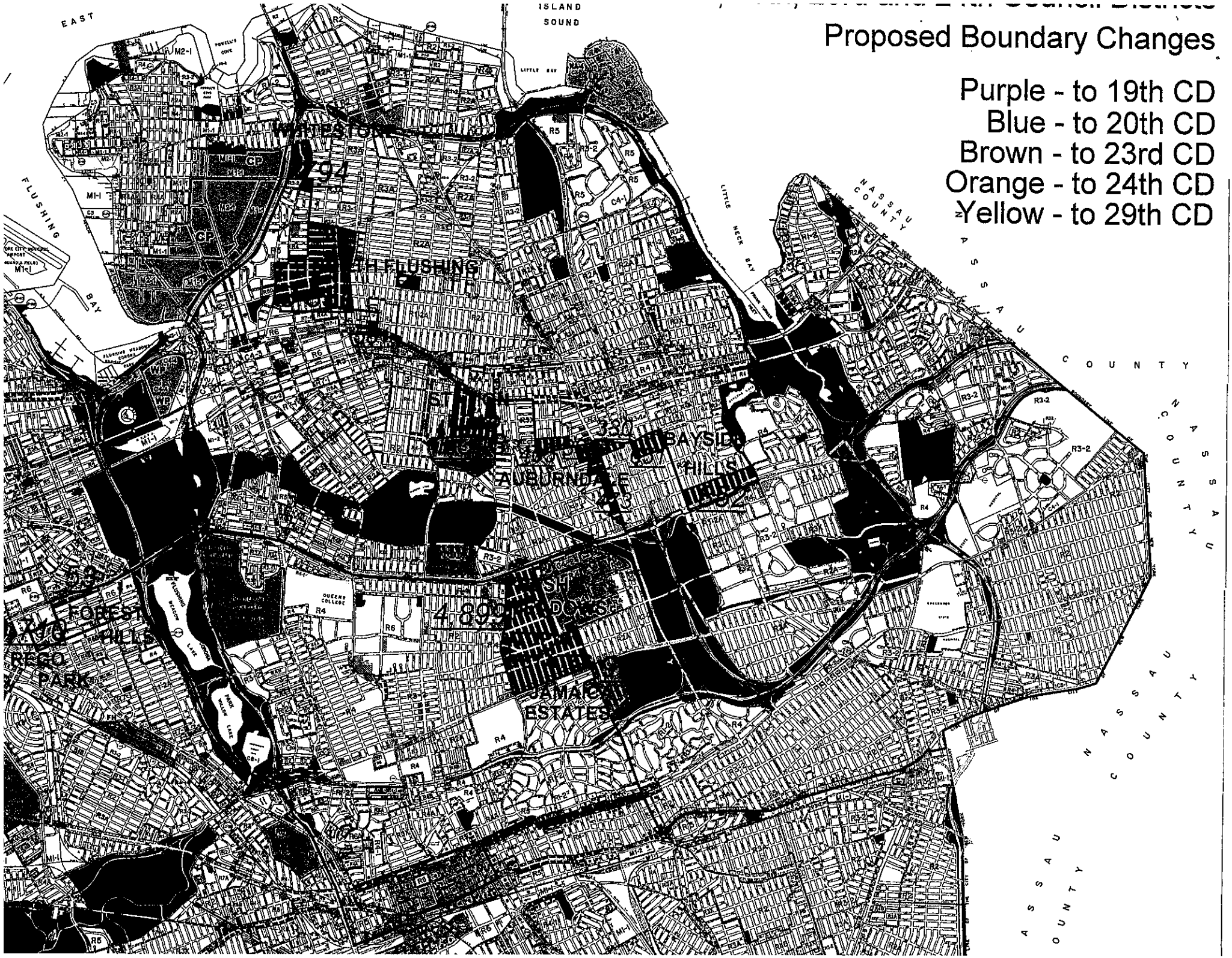
19th, 20th, 23rd and 24th Council Districts

Existing Boundaries and Population



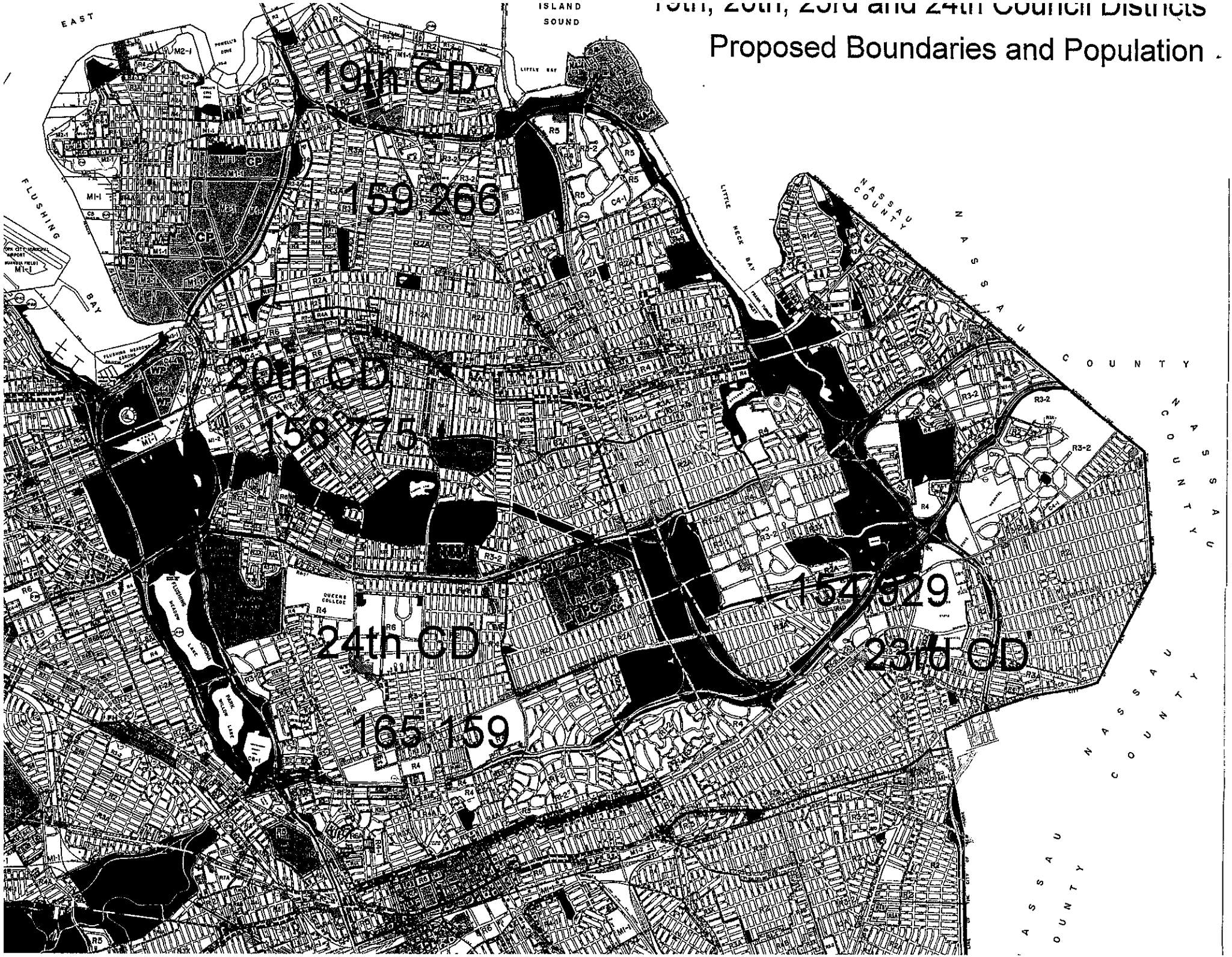
16th, 20th, 23rd and 24th Council Districts
Proposed Boundaries and R1/R2 Zoning




Proposed Boundary Changes
Purple - to 19th CD
Blue - to 20th CD
Brown - to 23rd CD
Orange - to 24th CD
Yellow - to 29th CD
ISLAND
SOUND
EAST
FLUSHING
BAY
LITTLE NECK BAY
NASSAU COUNTY
WHITESTONE
FLUSHING
BAYSIDE
HILLS
AUBURNDALE
FOREST
HILLS
REGO
PARK
JAMAICA
ESTATES
294
330
392
4,892

19th, 20th, 23rd and 24th Council Districts

Proposed Boundaries and Population



Queensboro Houses Association
Twelve Cooperative Communities
37-39 84th Street, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Chateaus
Elm Court
Greystones
Hawthorne Court
Linden Court
Plymouth Court

Colonials
Greenbrier
Hampton Court
Hicks-Stryker
Laurel Court
Willow

August 16, 2012

NYC Districting Commission
253 Broadway 7th Fl.
New York, New York 10007
Attn: Jonathan Ettricks

Members of the Commission:

As president of a group of approximately 85 original co-op buildings in Jackson Heights, which date back to the 1920's, it is my duty to inform you of our concern regarding redistricting.

We believe that the most important decision you can make regarding redistricting is to assure that neighborhoods, as defined by the residents and grassroots community organizations, remain intact. When a neighborhood is divided into two or more council districts, the residents' impact on community issues is severely handicapped.

At present, Jackson Heights is divided into two council districts – District 21 and District 25. Not only does this divide our group, it divides the neighborhood, the Jackson Heights Historic District and the National Register Historic District

The Jackson Heights Beautification Group, our primary neighborhood organization, has as its boundaries: the BQE on the west, Northern Blvd. on the north, Junction Blvd. on the east and Roosevelt Avenue on the south. The Queensboro Houses Association, the Jackson Heights Historic District and the National Register Historic District are all within these boundaries, which clearly define a cohesive neighborhood. The value of neighborhood pride, spirit, concern and joint effort should be enhanced, not diminished, by political decisions.

Therefore, however the district lines are drawn, we urge you to consider our concerns and keep our neighborhood intact. The residents of Jackson Heights, should be enabled, not hindered, by district lines. Thank you for your serious consideration of our request.

Respectfully,

Gloria Daini

Gloria Daini, President

25th Council District

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NYCityMap

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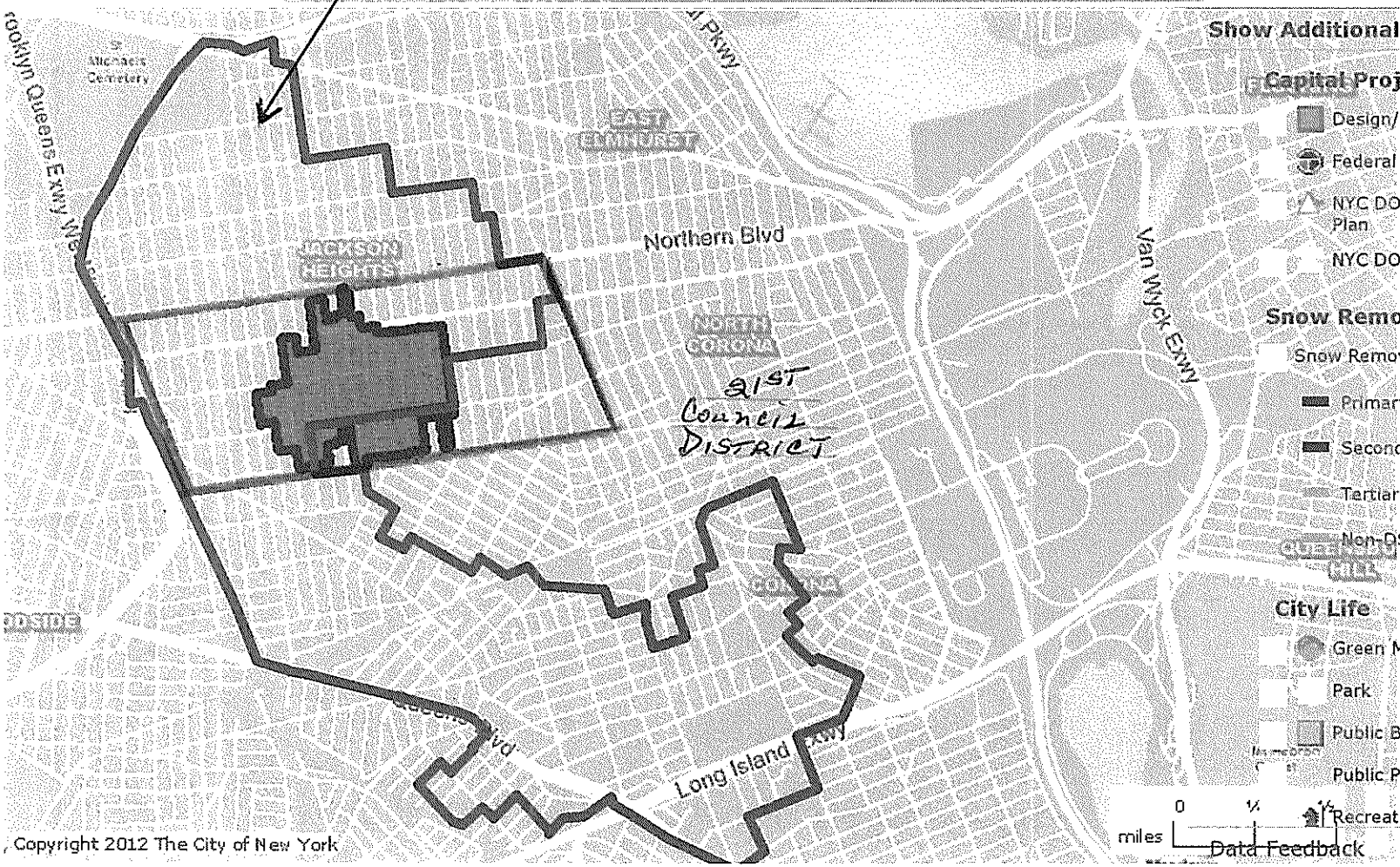
Search for a location: *Enter an address, intersection, community district, ZIP code, etc...*

Advanced Search
Search
Searched Locations



Show Additional Data on Map

Capital Projects
- Design/Construction
- Federal Stimulus
- NYC DOT 10 year Capital Plan
- NYC DOT Protected Streets

Snow Removal
- Snow Removal Designation
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Non-DSNY

City Life
- Green Market
- Park
- Public Beach
- Public Pool
- Recreation Center

0 ¼ ½ miles

Data Feedback

Historic District

J.H. Beautification Group

New York City

Districting Commission

Tuesday, August 21, 2012

Testimony of Vishnu Mahadeo

Richmond Hill Economic Development Council

Good afternoon honorable panel:

My name is Vishnu Mahadeo and I am the president of the Richmond Hill Economic Development Council – Richmond Hill EDC which is the defacto Indo Caribbean Chamber of Commerce and Social umbrella. The RICHMOND HILL EDC is a not-for-profit organization of merchants, business people, service providers, elected officials and other community members working together to advance the business, cultural, social, educational and civic welfare of the South East Neighborhood of Queens; Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park.

Who is an Indo Caribbean? Indo Caribbeans are a community of about 500,000 people in the USA (see attachment) who have come from India to the Caribbean since 1838, and made a second migration to the USA starting about 50 years ago. Although we come mainly from Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago and Suriname, we have a distinct mixture of Indian-Caribbean culture and heritage with a distinctive and pronounced Indian influence. There are over 150000 in queens alone and approximately 50,000 in the Richmond Hill / South Ozone Park / Ozone Park area. Despite these numbers, there is no Indo Caribbean in the City Council or in the New York State Assembly or in the NYS Senate or in the US Congress. The reason is simple, Gerrymandering.

The Indo Caribbean people have been split into 6 NYS Assembly Districts (AD 23,24, 27,31,32 & 38) and 4 City Council Districts (CO 28,29,30 & 32). This has diluted the Indo Caribbean vote and prevented any Indo Caribbean candidate from winning a seat. This willful splitting of communities of common interest has created a system of disenfranchisement for the Indo Caribbean community as their votes are less effective or ineffective. Gerrymandering for the purpose of insuring minority representation has been upheld by the United States Supreme Court. The present form of Gerrymandering is in violation of the Supreme Court ruling as it is depriving a minority from representation. Due to our lack of any political power we are a community paying the highest per square foot taxes in Queens. We have the worst High Schools in Queens (Richmond Hill High School and John Adams High School) not on behavior issues but on poor academic performance with its over-crowding a major contributor. We are significant

contributors to all the local Political Leaders yet a small or negligible fraction of discretionary funds comes to the Indo Caribbean community. At present both the city, state and federal government are in violation of the Voting Act, as the Indo Caribbean community has purposely been deprived of any representation.

I call upon this august body to correct this injustice, or we will be forced to bring this matter to the courts.

Recommendation:

I am also calling on this **New York City Council Redistricting Commission** to use the boundaries of on the East - Van Wyck Expressway, on the West – Woodhaven Blvd., on the South – Belt Parkway and on the North – Hillside/Jamaica Avenues. This will allow our community a true voice in the New York City Council.

I thank you for this opportunity to present to the Senate Legislative Task Force on behalf of the Indo Caribbean community. I am happy to answer your questions.

Thank you

Vishnu Mahadeo

Dear Commission Members:

My name is Frank Toner, I am President of the Rocky Hill Civic Association which represents an area of Eastern Queens known as Bellerose Manor. Our Association is also a member of a Coalition of organizations know as Eastern Queens United. We formed this association last year in part to advocate for sensible drawing of electoral lines that would keep communities together. Our communities are similar in make-up, we are all very nicely diversified. We have the same police district and Community Board. We are composed mostly of one and two family homes and cooperatives. We have similar goals on area development and community issues.

The entirety of my association and the Associations that are members of Eastern Queens United are located in the 23rd district. My request is simple. Please keep us all in the same district—do not break up our areas.

I understand that the new districts may be bigger than our present district. If it does need to be expanded I ask that you try to add one community as best you can without breaking it up. I believe that all efforts should be made to keep our communities together. It is in communities that our demamcracy begin and they should be respected.

Thank you,

Frank Toner

rhca@verizon.net

SEVA nyc

89-40 115TH STREET, RICHMOND HILL, NY 11418
INFO@SEVANY.ORG

August 21, 2012

NYC Districting Commission
253 Broadway, 7th Fl.
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Ali Najmi, I'm an attorney and community organizer with SEVA. SEVA is a community based non-profit organization founded and located in Queens. We engage in grass roots organizing to increase civic engagement in immigrant enclaves such as Richmond Hill.

I am here today to urge you to adhere to your duties under the Charter of the City of New York to preserve communities of interest, and rectify the gerrymandering of the Richmond Hill and S. Ozone Park community.

The Richmond Hill and S. Ozone Park community of interest is located between Woodhaven Blvd. to the west, the Van Wyck Expressway to the east, Jamaica Avenue to the north and Conduit Avenue to the south. It is a community comprised mostly of immigrants and racial minorities. It boasts one of the largest concentrations of South Asian and Indo-Caribbean Americans in the country. This community shares a common immigration history, family structure, rates of homeownership, school districts and has the same social and economic interests.

Unfortunately, this community is gerrymandered into four Council districts; districts 28, 29, 30 and 32. This is completely unacceptable, and must change. Gerrymandering of this magnitude has consequences on the effective representation of this community. The signs of institutional neglect are too obvious; the demise of Richmond Hill High School, the decay in transportation infrastructure, the absence of local programs for our senior citizens, and the lack of capital investment by the city and state are just some of the struggles of this community. Much of this neglect is the result of gerrymandering. Not even one single district office exists in this community. It's time that this community is united and has a champion for its causes in the City Council.

The creation of a compact and contiguous district that unites the Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park community of interest is all too easy. The boundaries described above are neat boundaries that respect major thoroughfares and natural boundaries. The total population of this area substantially complies with the 160,000 people threshold for a district.

I urge you to make history and unite the Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park community of interest.

Sincerely,

Ali Najmi
Community Organizer, SEVA

TAKING OUR SEAT

The South Asian Voice in Redistricting

New York City Districting Commission

Redistricting Hearing for Queens County

Testimony of
Mohammed Sadiq, Taking Our Seat

August 21, 2012

Good evening, my name is Mohammed Sadiq and I am with Taking Our Seat, a Queens-based non-partisan, civic organization. Taking Our Seat was founded to empower South Asian-Americans (SAA) in the electoral process by eliminating South Asian voter dilution through the redistricting process. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present my testimony.

I testified 10 years ago before the 2002 Districting Commission and I am back here 10 years later asking for the same thing – to keep our neighborhoods together. The difference between 2002 and 2012 is that the neighborhoods I spoke about have grown in size and in population The institutions that serve them have grown as well creating an undeniable presence in Queens and in New York.

I hope though that there is difference in the outcome in 2012 – that you stop SAA voter dilution.

Background on Taking Our Seat

Taking Our Seat defines a South Asian American as anyone who can trace their ancestry back to the countries of South Asia or to a South Asian diaspora, for example, the Caribbean or Africa. Countries include Bhutan, Bangladesh, Fuji, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Trinidad &Tobago, Guyana and Surinam among others.

Taking Our Seat was formed because the SAA community's growth in population and over the past decade has not translated to electoral influence. SAA voters do not have viable choices at the polls and for SAA candidates seeking elected office the door has been closed.

Taking Our Seat seeks to level the playing field for SAA voters by analyzing data from the 2010 Census to help inform the redistricting process. Data collection, research and analysis are the basis of our community organizing, legislative and legal advocacy efforts.

The South Asian American Community

There is not a single SAA representing New York in Congress, in either house of the State legislature or in the New York City Council. These facts do not reflect the strength of the number of SAAs from the 2010 Census data.

According to the 2010 Census, there are 351,000 SAAs in New York City. This represents an increase of 61% over the past decade. Of these, nearly 60% reside in Queens County. The largest communities of SAAs are found in the following cluster of neighborhoods:

- Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park
- Briarwood and Jamaica Hills
- Jackson Heights and Elmhurst
- Bellerose and Floral Park

These neighborhoods and the SAAs living in them are the victims of cracking, where multiple district lines dilute the residents' voting power. For example, Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park are broken into 4 different Council districts; Briarwood and Jamaica Hills are broking into 3 Council districts.

South Asian American Voter Dilution in New York City

The district lines drawn as a result of the redistricting process following the 2000 Census disenfranchised SAA communities. Due to these lines, SAA voters do not have an equal opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice. For SAA candidates, a fractured base of SAA voters spread over many districts has cost SAA candidates endorsements, fundraising opportunities and has forced SAA candidates to reach far into non-neighboring communities at great expense and with little success. With the community spread over many districts due to voter dilution the only way for meaningful political participation for SAA voters has been through political contributions where much of the contributions have left the community.

In those Queens neighborhoods where SAAs are most concentrated, existing electoral district lines serve to dilute SAA voter strength. Below is the current political representation of the four highest concentration SAA cluster of neighborhoods.

Richmond Hill Cluster: Council Districts 32, 30, 28 & 29
Jackson Heights Cluster: Council Districts 24, 25, 26 & 29
Briarwood Cluster: Council Districts 23, 24 & 27
Bellerose Cluster: Council District 23

The Solution: Mosaic Districts

To address the dilution of the South Asian American vote, Taking Our Seat proposes drawing diverse, multi-ethnic districts. This would stop SAA voter dilution while taking into account the close proximity in which SAAs live to other races.

In Queens County's top 100 concentrated SAA census tracts, SAAs tend to live in proximity to other **minorities** in the following prevalence: 56% Latinos, 28% Black and 16% Non-South-Asian Asians. Only 7% of the top 100 SAA concentrated census tracts have a White majority.[1]

We can conclude that SAAs live in multi-cultural census tracts and neighborhoods where a community of interest includes multiple races. Using 2010 Census data, Taking Our Seat identified "Melting Pot" census tracts which have at least 15% South Asians, but where no other racial group exceeds 40% of the total. Melting Pot census tracts anchored clusters of neighborhoods based on existing neighborhood boundaries to base multi-ethnic or Mosaic Districts.

Keeping these clusters of neighborhoods whole in the redistricting process will stop the dilution of SAA votes as well as respect neighboring communities and preserve neighborhood lines.

When drawing legislative district lines, Taking Our Seat requests that the following cluster of neighborhoods be kept whole:

- Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park
- Briarwood and Jamaica Hills
- Jackson Heights and Elmhurst
- Bellerose, Queens Village, Floral Park and Glen Oaks

By keeping them whole in larger districts or combining them in whole to form complete districts, SAA voter dilution will be eliminated while maintaining the multi-cultural aspect of these vibrant neighborhoods.

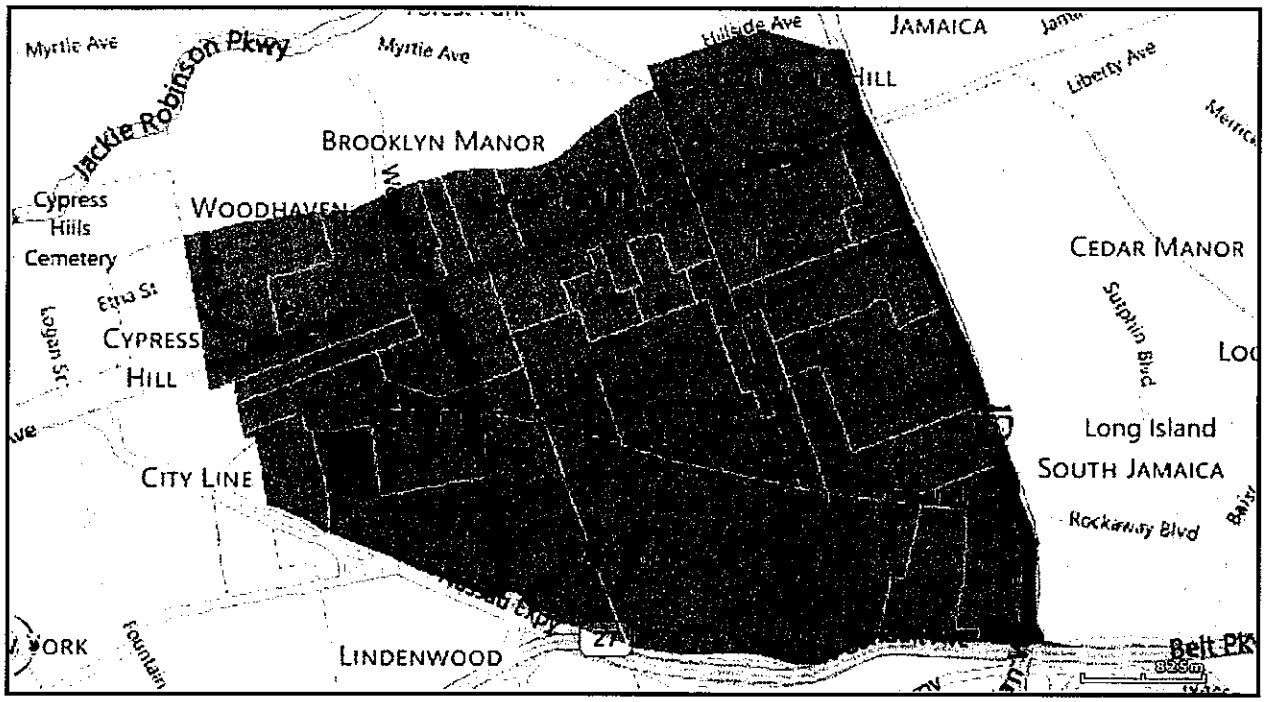
A good example of this is when the State's redistricting commission drew the 24th Assembly district. Although it did not capture entire neighborhoods the new district's make up is: Asian: 33%; White: 26%; Hispanic 18%; and Black: 13%. The newly drawn 24th Assembly district proves that it is possible to draw multi-ethnic districts that don't dilute SAA votes.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and I welcome any questions you may have.

[1] See Appendix 2: New York City map with co-residence trends of South Asian Americans

Appendix 1: *South Asian Neighborhood Clusters*

Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, South Ozone Park Community of Interest



Boundaries: North: Jamaica Avenue to Hillside Avenue
East: Van Wyck Expressway
South: Belt Parkway
West: Brooklyn-Queens County Line

Cluster Profile: The SAAs in this cluster are primarily Asian-Indian and Indo-Caribbean.

Total Population	192,000
White	11.9%
Black	15.3%
Hispanic	33.8%
Asian	23.6%
Other	14.5%

Compact: Yes, approximately 6 square miles; smooth boundary; rectangular in shape.

Contiguous: Yes.

Community of Interest:

1) *Political Subdivisions:* Queens Community Boards 9 and 10.
2) *Local High Schools:*

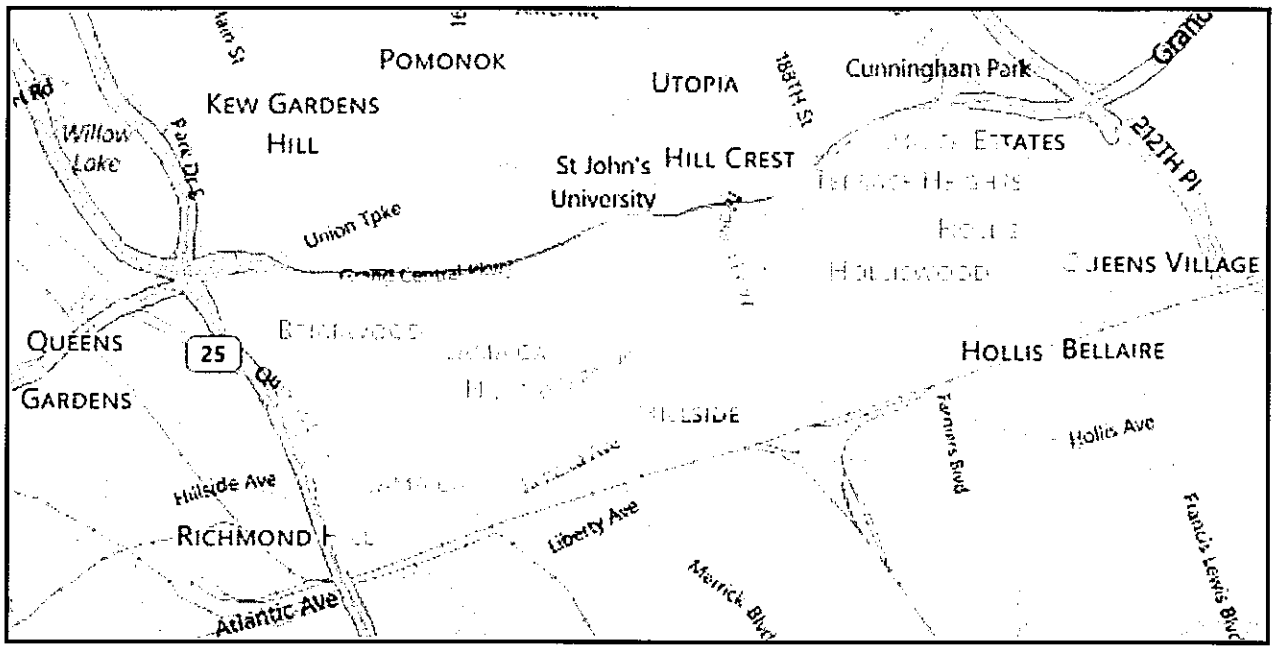
Richmond Hill High School	Data for 2010-2011 School Year
Asian	34.1%
Black	16.0%
Hispanic	47.1%
White	2.4%

John Adams High School	Data for 2010-2011 School Year
Asian	28.2%
Black	29.3%
Hispanic	36.6%
White	4.4%

3) *Common Transportation Characteristics:*
   a. Subway: J,Z line and A line;
   b. Buses: Q7, Q8, Q10, Q11, Q21, Q24, Q37, Q41, Q53, Q56, Q110, QM15, QM 18, BM5.
   c. Main Thoroughfares: Atlantic Avenue, Jamaica Avenue, Liberty Avenue, Woodhaven Boulevard.
   d. Average Commute Time: 45 minutes[2]

[2] 2000 Census Data for Richmond Hill; information for other neighborhoods in this cluster not available.

Briarwood, Jamaica Hills, Jamaica Estates Community of Interest



Boundaries: North: Grand Central Parkway
East: Francis Lewis Boulevard
South: Jamaica Avenue & Long Island Railroad
West: Van Wyck Expressway

Cluster Profile: The SAAs in this cluster are primarily are Asian-Indian, Bangladeshi-American and Indo-Caribbean.

Total Population	107,000
White	13.3%
Black	18.8%
Hispanic	28.1%
Asian	30.9%
Other	8.4%

Compact: Yes; approximately 3 square miles; smooth boundary; rectangular in shape.

Contiguous: Yes.

Community of Interest:

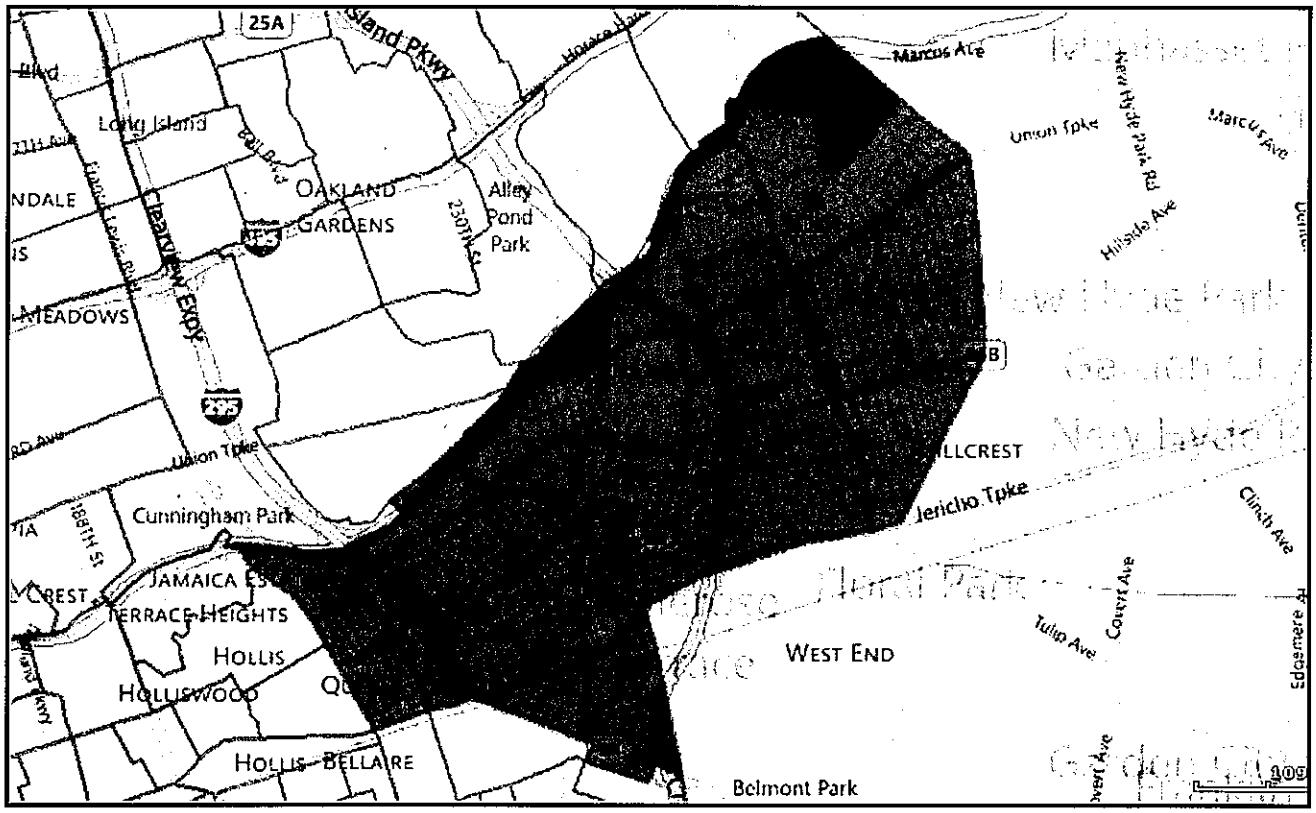
1) *Political Subdivisions:* Queens Community Boards 8 and 12.
2) *Local High Schools:*

Hillcrest High School	Data for 2010-2011 School Year
Asian	34.1%
Black	40.1%
Hispanic	22.3%
White	2.6%

Jamaica High School	Data for 2010-2011 School Year
Asian	29.6%
Black	48.6%
Hispanic	20.7%
White	0.8%

3) *Common Transportation Characteristics:*
   a. Subway: E and F Train
   b. Buses: Q20a, Q20b, Q25, Q30, Q31, Q34, Q44, Q65. This cluster abuts the Jamaica-Archer Avenue Transportation Hub where a majority of Queens bus routes begin/terminate.
   c. Main Thoroughfares: Grand Central Parkway, Hillside Avenue, Jamaica Avenue, Parsons Boulevard, Sutphin Boulevard.

Bellrose, Queens Village, Floral Park, Glen Oaks



Boundaries: North: Grand Central Parkway
East: Queens-Nassau County Line
South: Jamaica Avenue – Hempstead Avenue
West: Francis Lewis Boulevard

The Cluster Profile: The SAAs in this cluster are primarily Asian-Indian.

Total Population	79,000
White	27.5%
Black	14.5%
Hispanic	16.9%
Asian	32.8%
Other	7.9%

Compact: Yes, approximately 5 square miles; smooth boundary; trapezoidal in shape.

Contiguous: Yes.

Community of Interest:

1) *Political Subdivisions*: Queens Community Board 13.
2) *Local High Schools*

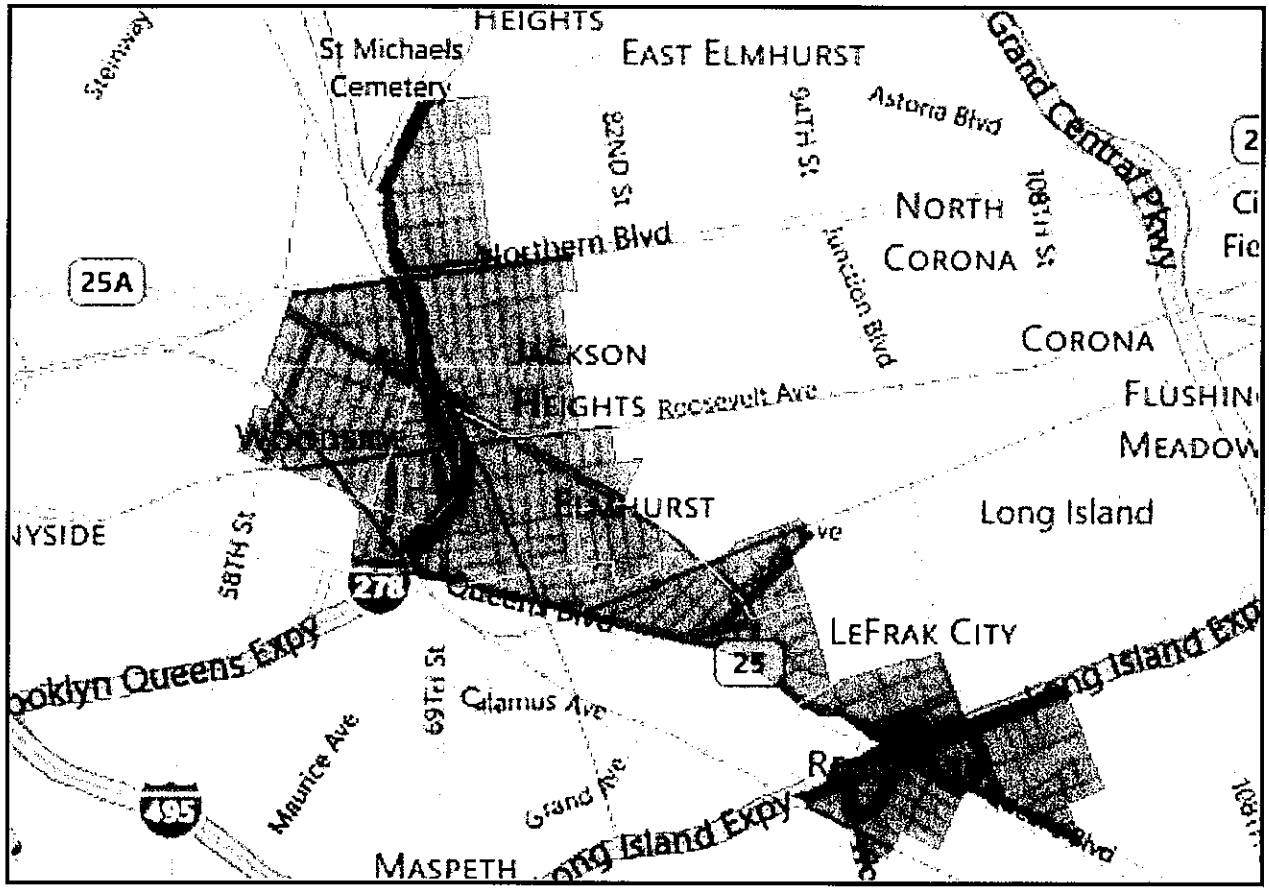
Martin Van Buren High School	Data for 2010-2011 School Year
Asian	22.7%
Black	59.2%
Hispanic	14.9%
White	2.4%

Queens High School of Teaching	Data for 2010-2011 School Year
Asian	23.7%
Black	47.1%
Hispanic	15.7%
White	12.8%

3) *Common Transportation Characteristics:*

a. Subway: None, bus routes connect commuters to E and F trains or Long Island Rail Road Queens Village Station.
b. Buses: Q1, Q27, Q43, Q46, Q76, Q88, X86, QM6, QM5, QM8, N1, N6, N24
c. Main Thoroughfares: Grand Central Parkway, Hillside Avenue, Jamaica Avenue, Francis Lewis Boulevard, Braddock Avenue, Springfield Boulevard.

Jackson Heights, Elmhurst, Woodside and Rego Park



Boundaries: North: Irregular
East: Irregular
South: Primarily Queens Boulevard
West: Irregular

Since the boundaries are irregular, this cluster can be identified by the following census tracts: 247, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 289, 287, 291, 293, 309.02, 483, 481, 471, 473, 485, 687, 683, 717.

The Cluster Profile: The SAAs in this cluster are primarily Asian-Indian and Bangladeshi-American. There is an equally large East Asian population as well.

Total Population	81,500
White	15.7%
Black	1.4%
Hispanic	29.7%
Asian	50.3%
Other	2.8%

Compact: Yes, approximately 2 square miles; jagged boundaries; irregular in shape.

Contiguous: Yes.

Community of Interest

1) *Political Subdivisions*: Queens Community Boards 2, 3, 4 and 6.
2) *Local High Schools*

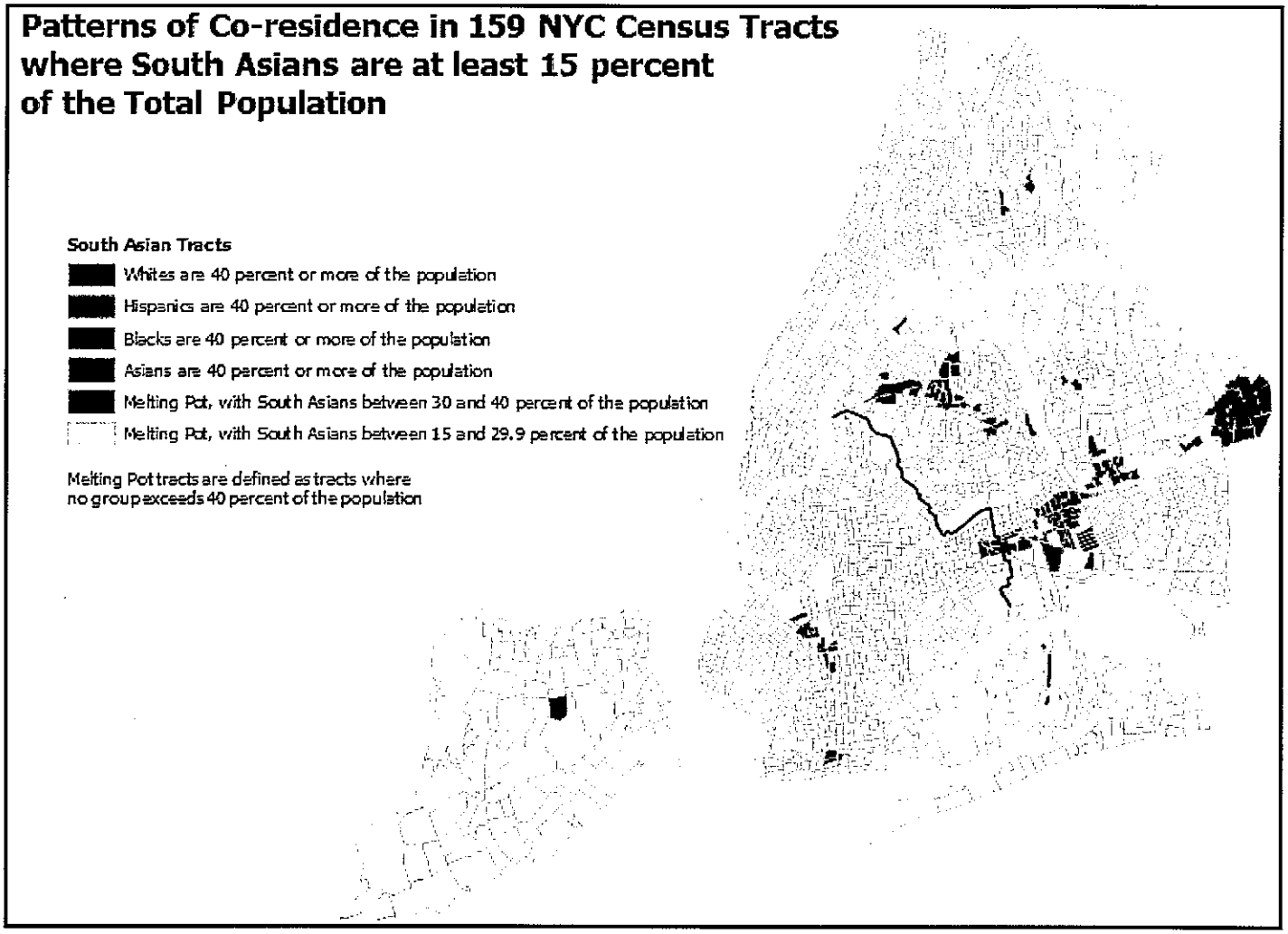
Newtown High School	Data for 2010-2011 School Year
Asian	23.9%
Black	9.1%
Hispanic	61.4%
White	5.3%

High School for Arts and Business	Data for 2010-2011 School Year
Asian	9.3%
Black	8.3%
Hispanic	79.1%
White	2.9%

3) *Transportation:*

a. Subway: 7, E, F, M, R.
b. Buses: Q29, Q32, Q47, Q49, Q53, QM2, QM2a, QM3.
c. Main Thoroughfares: Queens Boulevard, Roosevelt Avenue, Broadway, Northern Boulevard.

Appendix 2


Patterns of Co-residence in 159 NYC Census Tracts where South Asians are at least 15 percent of the Total Population
South Asian Tracts
Whites are 40 percent or more of the population
Hispanics are 40 percent or more of the population
Blacks are 40 percent or more of the population
Asians are 40 percent or more of the population
Melting Pot, with South Asians between 30 and 40 percent of the population
Melting Pot, with South Asians between 15 and 29.9 percent of the population
Melting Pot tracts are defined as tracts where no group exceeds 40 percent of the population

UNITED COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

106-11 Liberty Avenue, Suite 202
Ozone Park, NY 11417
(718) 323-0791

STATEMENT OF ALBERT BALDEO, DISTRICT LEADER

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE
TO THE NYC DISTRICTING COMMISSION FOR NEW CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS

August 21, 2012
Queens Library at Flushing, New York City

I am an elected Democratic District Leader of the 38th Assembly District, a Community Advocate and an Attorney-at-Law. I am also the President of the United Communities Alliance, an organization that empowers and improves the quality of life of all residents-regardless of race, religion or national origin living in Queens, the place that best defines us all as a nation of immigrants.

Our goals are to consolidate residents of the district into active participation for the betterment of the district, to fight for fair redistricting and social justice, to develop coalitions of neighborhood organizations and groups, to foster a greater civic voice for the community, and to solve the common issues and problems confronting the neighborhoods of Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park, which should constitute one City Council District: Exhibit "A."

In addition to running for public office several times before, my interaction with residents in these communities compared to others as an attorney, grass roots organizer and community leader, has given me a deep understanding of the common issues, problems, concerns and solutions that impact these residents collectively.

Gerrymandering has cracked these natural "communities of interest" into unrecognizable portions, with concomitant suppression from participation in even the most basic structures of government. The issues, problems, solutions and allocation of resources confronting them are overpowered and overlooked in preference to those confronting communities like Rochdale Village, and the Jamaica Housing Projects over the Van Wyck Expressway-a natural divide. These communities should not be lumped together. They all deserve separate attention. We ask you, "How can you lump these Mitchell Lama, Co-ops and Housing Projects together, with Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park, which consists of only one and two family homes?"

Consequently, the present divisions fundamentally prohibit "fair and effective representation to these communities of interest," contrary to both the NY City Charter and the Voting Rights Act: Exhibit "B." Council Districts 28 and 32 emasculate what the Federal Courts have articulated as factors which establish a community of interest.

Common problems abound, common issues are ignored, and common solutions are impossible to achieve. Rampant home foreclosures, closure of hospitals, medical centers and schools, kids being subjected to filthy, overcrowded trailer parks and locker rooms for classrooms, spiraling unemployment, increased taxes and the cost of living have marginalized these communities of interest from government services and funding. Their need for representation at all levels of government has never been more compelling.

Our plight is best understood with the threatened closings of our area hospitals, our high schools like Richmond Hill High and John Adams, 10% rate of unemployment, high home foreclosures and small business closures in our district. We do not even have health clinics, community centers, day care centers, senior centers, social services centers, or job training centers. The press recently exposed the fact that we have only one (1) cooling center in the area! MTA has been shutting down our bus routes, and procrastinating on their promise to install what will be the only subway escalator in our community-right now a pie in the sky! No other community comes close to this paradigm of utter despair: Exhibit "C."

Currently, Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park are cracked into numerous City Council Districts, State Senate Districts, Assembly and Congressional Districts. Consequently, there is reduced effectiveness in problem solving, shared bonds are destroyed, and constituents are reduced to mere statistics.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this august body must fully comply with all of the factors the Federal Courts, Supreme Court and the NY City Charter have recognized in the drawing of district lines: (1) Compactness and contiguity (2) Respecting political subdivisions (3) Preserving communities of interest and race (4) Meeting political goals. They have recognized cultural background, economic status, common media markets, shared community services and organizations (including health clinics, stores, public transportation, and workplaces), voting patterns, common language and dialects, and common country of origin as factors and shared community concerns in drawing district lines. See e.g. *Diaz v. Silver.* The continued separation and fragmentation of Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park will fundamentally breach these mandates, short change these vibrant communities of interest and cannot withstand legal muster/scrutiny.

It is imperative that you unite Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park together, utilizing the Van Wyck Expressway to the East, Queens/Brooklyn County line to the West, Hillside/Jamaica Avenue to the North and the South Conduit/Belt Parkway to the South as a City Council District, which has an aggregate of 192,000 constituents: Exhibit "A." (If Howard Beach, Woodhaven and Glendale must be connected, we can adjust the Queens/Brooklyn County line nearer to Woodhaven Boulevard).

That is where the critical mass of this community of interest is, and I challenge this esteemed panel to produce a more compact and contiguous district, which also adheres to the NYC Charter-natural boundaries, and established ties of common interest and association-historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other. The NYC Charter mandates that these communities must be kept together as described, not only for their continued economic and cultural survival and growth, but also with the practical goal of having laws tabled and passed in the City Council.

The needs of all Americans must be met in terms of education, housing, health, social, economic and human services, as well as representation in the City Council. Health care providers in this community also advise of the problems patients face when they cannot relate their symptoms to strangers who are insensitive to their medical needs. Likewise, citizens complain of law enforcement profiling and prejudices, all being evil consequences of the scourge of gerrymandering.

Moreover, this lack of representation has resulted in jobs being denied to constituents at JFK Airport and environs, the Resorts World/Aqueduct Development, area hospitals, schools, and other businesses right here in our back yard. This area does not get any meaningful member item funds from any elected official. It is a crying shame, resulting in a cycle of poverty!

These constituents pay all the taxes-income tax, city, federal, state, real estate, sales, et cetera. Over 4,000 houses have been bought and sold in these two- and three-jobs neighborhoods over the past decades, yielding billions of dollars. They have revitalized these once depressed neighborhoods, giving impetus to the American economy, and are ranked among the largest growing groups in New York City: Exhibit "D." With the hope and promise of the America Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, and other great visionaries have died for, they have come to cash that check.

If you still harbor pause, just attend the Phagwah Parade which ushers in the spring, and you will see the hundreds of thousands of these ignored minorities who participate in one of the largest parades in the entire USA. Or visit JFK Airport Arrivals or Resorts World and you will be convinced as to who constitute the critical mass.

Residents living in this district cannot help but feel that this is a deliberate, institutional attempt to disenfranchise them. This status quo threatens the life of their growing communities and causes new generations to grow up without representation, identity and commitment to the destiny of family, home, community, city, state and, ultimately, their country, the United States. It is a vicious and unnecessary cycle of poverty, humiliation and exploitation, leaving life and democracy better off in the Third World by comparison.

You must not precipitate this American tragedy any longer. We urge you, therefore, to redraw boundaries that will preserve their community of interests, their traditions, needs and solutions, and their common history. Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park, must not be divided into different voting districts. We urge you to consolidate them now!

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's guidance is instructive when he said that you should not make others exiles in their own land, and that you should judge each person by their content and character. Our Constitution still speaks to us all collectively, as "We the People." So we ask you to uphold the Constitution, reminding you of the fierce urgency of now, and the sins and omissions of the past. It will be an unforgivable travesty for you to give us back our deserving check back again, like previous redistricting committees did, marked "Insufficient Funds." Our children and families proudly fight and die for our great country, and, collectively, we continue to build America, with our blood, sweat and tears.

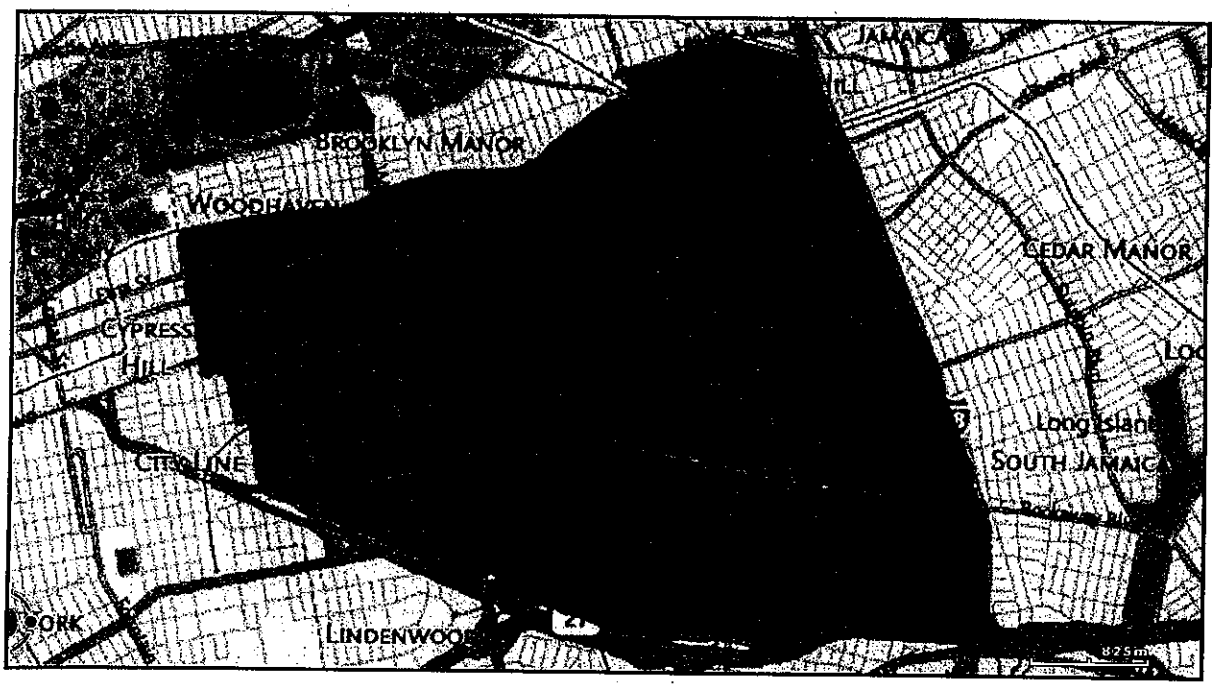
Right thinking Americans, like Abraham Lincoln, Emma Lazarus and others, will surely be turning in their graves. This Commission must do what you are mandated to do! Inasmuch we have been advised that these arguments constitute a valid legal claim for redress, we urge you to approve this district.

Respectfully submitted.

EXHIBIT A

Mosaic Districts

Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, South Ozone Park Community of Interest



Boundaries: North: Jamaica Avenue to Hillside Avenue
East: Van Wyck Expressway
South: Belt Parkway
West: Brooklyn-Queens County Line

Cluster Profile: The SAAs in this cluster are primarily Asian-Indian and Indo-Caribbean.

Total Population	192,000
White	11.9%
Black	15.3%
Hispanic	33.8%
Asian	23.6%
Other	14.5%

Compact: Yes, approximately 6 square miles; smooth boundary; rectangular in shape.

Contiguous: Yes.

Community of Interest:

1) *Political Subdivisions:* Queens Community Boards 9 and 10.
2) *Local High Schools:*

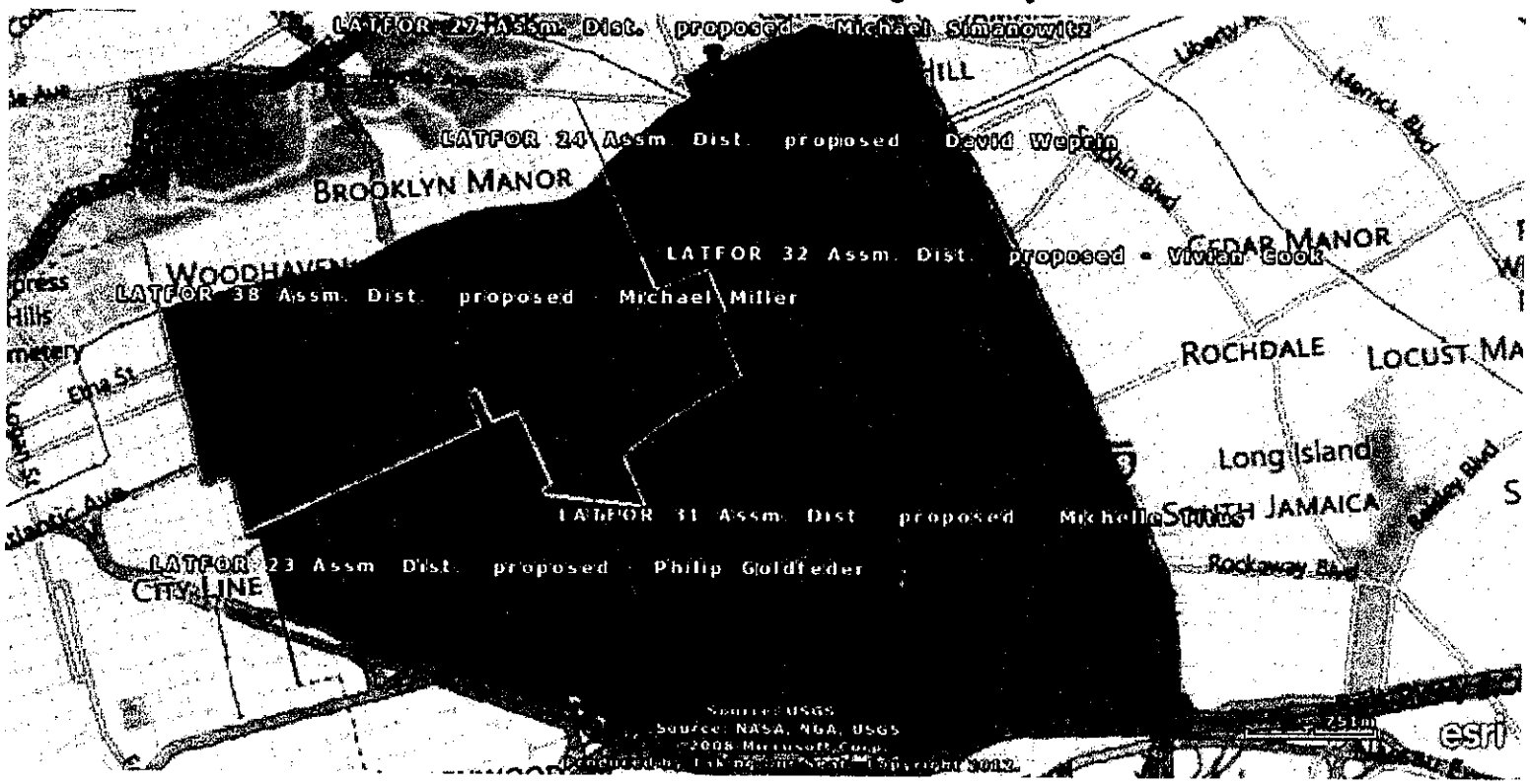
Richmond Hill High School	Data for 2010-2011 School Year
Asian	34.1%
Black	16.0%
Hispanic	47.1%
White	2.4%

John Adams High School	Data for 2010-2011 School Year
Asian	28.2%
Black	29.3%
Hispanic	36.6%
White	4.4%

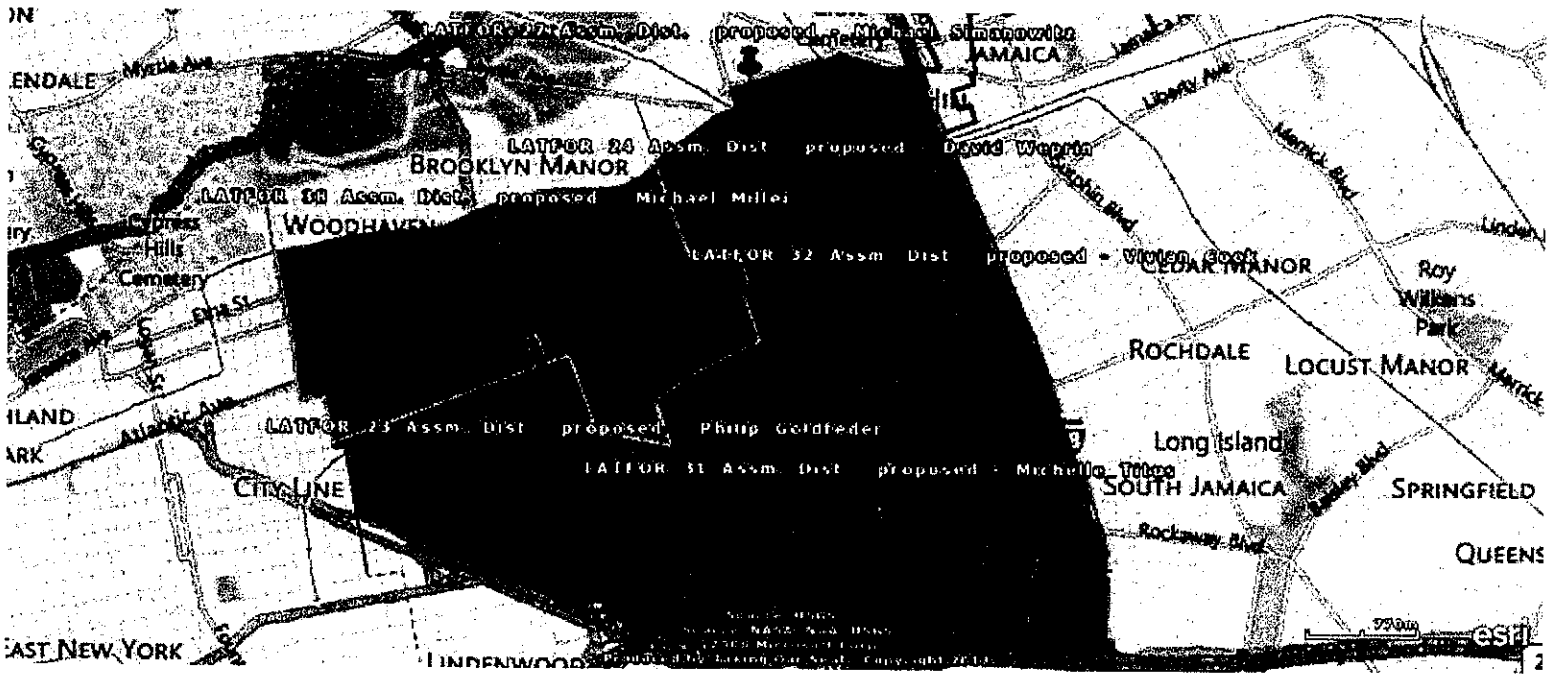
3) *Common Transportation Characteristics:*
   a. Subway: J,Z line and A line;
   b. Buses: Q7, Q8, Q10, Q11, Q21, Q24, Q37, Q41, Q53, Q56, Q110, QM15, QM 18, BM5.
   c. Main Thoroughfares: Atlantic Avenue, Jamaica Avenue, Liberty Avenue, Woodhaven Boulevard.
   d. Average Commute Time: 45 minutes[6]

[6] 2000 Census Data for Richmond Hill; information for other neighborhoods in this cluster not available.

Richmond Hill under LATFOR with High Density SA CTAs



Richmond Hill; South Ozone Park Cluster Under LATFOR



ASIAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND
99 HUDSON STREET, 12th FL • NEW YORK, NY 10013 • TEL 212.966.5932
www.aaldef.org • info@aaldef.org

ASIAN AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES

LATFOR Public Hearing

September 7, 2011

Queens, New York

Asian American
Legal Defense
and Education Fund

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
Asian American Communities of Interest Survey in New York City
submitted to LATFOR
at the Public Hearing, September 21, 2011
250 Broadway, New York City

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, founded in 1974, has defended the voting rights of Asian Americans through litigation, legal advocacy and community education.

AALDEF submits this Asian American Communities of Interest Survey in connection with the redistricting hearings conducted by LATFOR in New York City. This survey, utilized in combination with the Asian American Neighborhood Boundaries, submitted to LATFOR at the September 7, 2011 public hearing in Queens, supplies LATFOR with the necessary tools to ensure that Asian American communities of interest will not be unfairly divided.

Asian Americans in New York City

Asian Americans are the fastest growing racial group in New York City. In New York City, the Asian American population has increased 32% over the past decade and now constitutes almost 13% of the city's population, numbering 1,028,119[1]. Seven out of ten Asian New Yorkers reside in three New York City boroughs: Queens, Manhattan and Brooklyn.

CENSUS 2010	Total Population	Asian Population	Asian Percent of Total	Total Growth Since 2000	Asian Growth Since 2000
New York State	19,378,102	1,406,194	7.3%	2.1%	35.7%
New York City	8,175,133	1,028,119	12.6%	2.1%	31.8%
- Queens	2,230,722	508,334	22.8%	0.1 %	30.6%
- Manhattan	1,585,873	177,624	11.2%	3.2%	24.0%
- Brooklyn	2,504,700	260,129	10.4%	1.6%	41.2%

* Only includes those who checked "Asian" and no other race[2].

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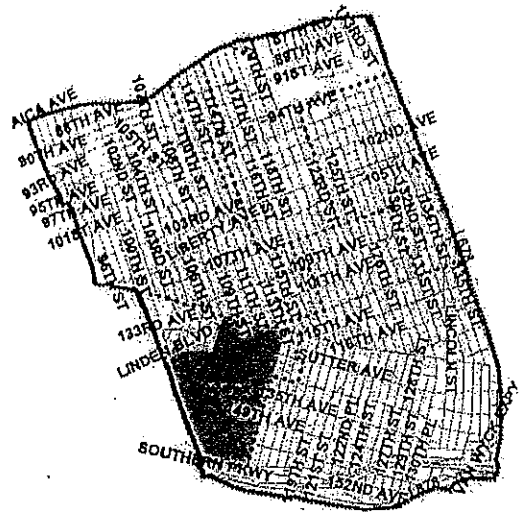
[1] U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2000 Census.

[2] This "Not Hispanic Asian alone" number should be taken as the bare minimum number of Asian Americans. In the 2000 and 2010 censuses, respondents were allowed to mark more than one race, yielding a race concept known as "alone or in combination," which includes people who reported a single race alone (e.g., Asian) and people who reported that race in combination with one or more of the other race groups (i.e., White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race). In addition, race and ethnicity are considered separate and distinct identities, with Hispanic or Latino origin asked as a separate question. This means that all respondents are also categorized as either "Hispanic or Latino" and "Not Hispanic or Latino." Therefore, a more accurate and inclusive estimate of Asian Americans would be to aggregate both the Hispanic and Not Hispanic Asian alone or in combination populations (e.g., the maximum number of Asian

Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park (Attachment p. 9)



Current Legislative Districts: The community-defined area of Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park is currently divided among 6 assembly districts (AD27, AD25, AD32, AD31, AD23 and AD38); SD15 and SD10; and CD9 and CD6.

Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park comprise a single community of mainly Bangladeshis, Indians, Sikhs and Indo-Caribbeans.

There are no community centers for the youth and no senior centers. After-school programs are located in Howard Beach and Maspeth.

Richmond Hill

Housing: The residents are homeowners, and the neighborhood is zoned for single and multi-family homes. There are many extended families living together, reflecting their communities "back home" in South Asia and the South Asian Indo-Caribbean communities.

Employment: Many of the residents work in either Brooklyn or Manhattan as unskilled laborers. There is a demand for adult basic education and trade/vocational schools. Some of the residents are also self-employed entrepreneurs.

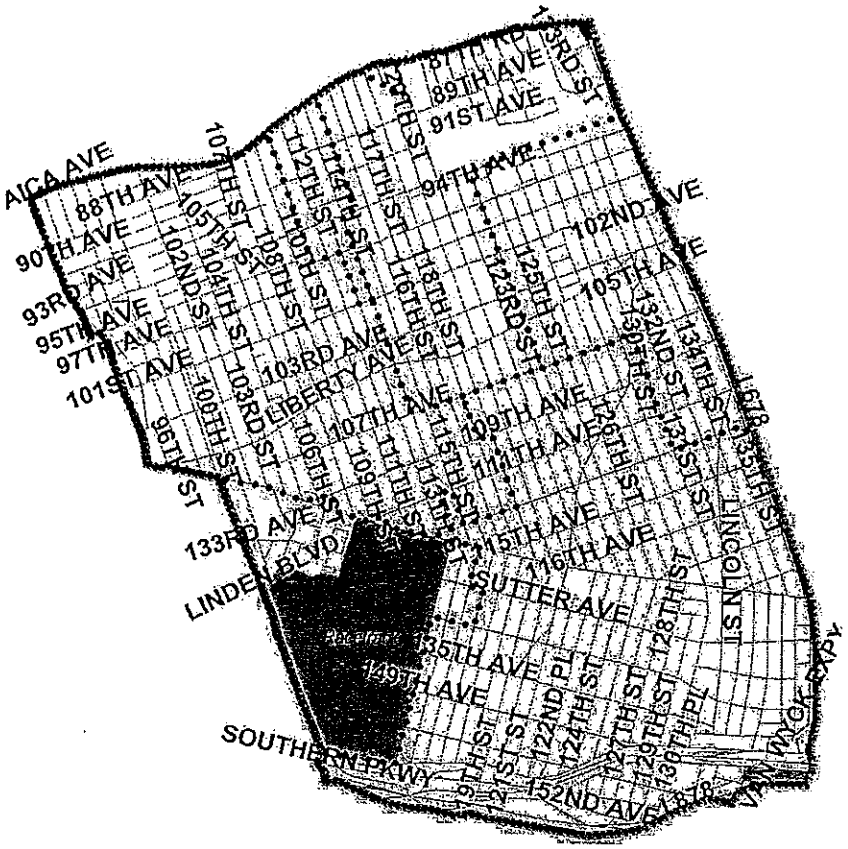
Transportation: Most residents are dependent upon public transportation and utilize the A train and J train subway lines for transportation services. Residents also use the Q112, Q8, Q10 and Q41 bus lines.

Education: The two high schools in the neighborhood are John Adams High School and Richmond Hill High School. All of the junior high schools that provide students to these two high schools are from Richmond Hill.

Concerns/Needs: A high number of senior citizens reside in Richmond Hill, but the only senior center is in Ozone Park on Sutter Avenue. There is only one park in Richmond Hill, Phil Rizzuto "Scooter Park" (formerly Smokey Oval Park). South Asian residents contend that their neighborhood does not receive its equitable share of resources; instead, they believe more resources go to Jamaica and Howard Beach.

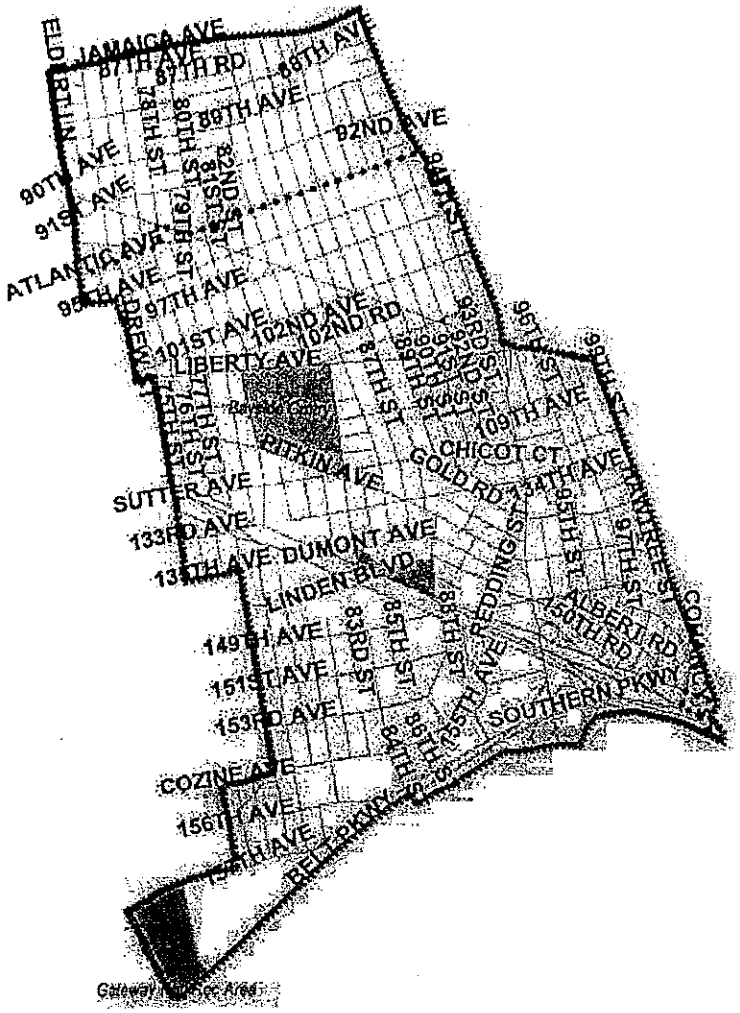
Many cultural and religious institutions reflect the collective South Asian and Indo-Caribbean culture, including Sikh temples (101 Avenue and 114th Street), Hindu Temples (101 Avenue and Liberty Avenue), ethnic Christian churches (101 Avenue, Lefferts Boulevard and Rockaway Boulevard) and mosques (126th Street and Lefferts Boulevard).

Richmond Hill-South Ozone Park



POPULATION	133,260
DEVIATION FROM IDEAL ASSEMBLY SIZE	14,073 (+3.2%)
% HISPANIC	27.6%
% NH WHITE	7.9%
% NH BLACK	19.4%
% NH ASIAN	25.5%

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund



Ozone Park

POPULATION	68,070
DEVIATION FROM IDEAL ASSEMBLY SIZE	-61,117 (-47.3%)
% HISPANIC	45.1%
% NH WHITE	26.9%
% NH BLACK	5.9%
% NH ASIAN	16.3%

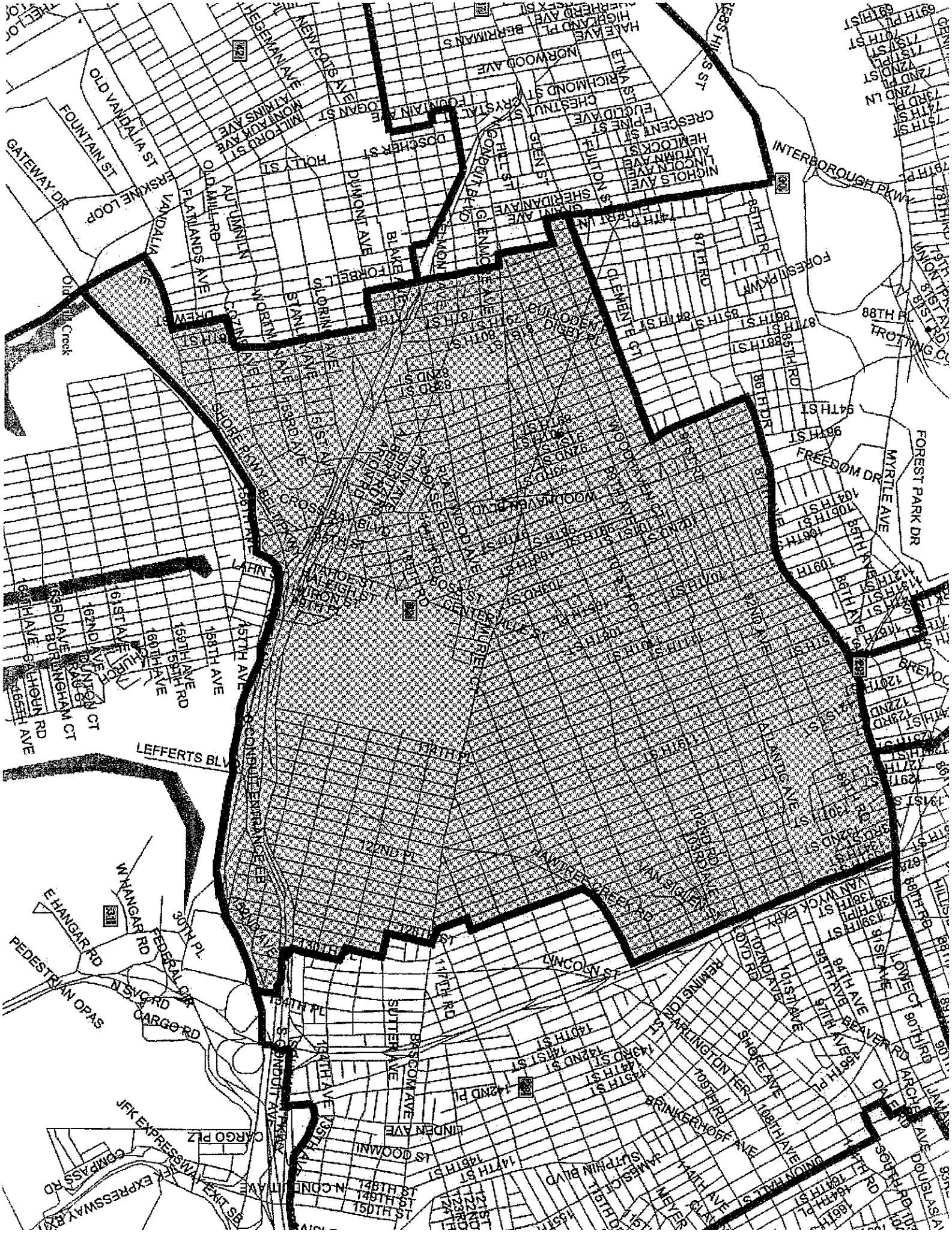
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

South Ozone Park

Housing: South Ozone Park has fewer shops and is more residential than Richmond Hill. Many of the residents do their shopping in Richmond Hill and live in South Ozone Park. The residents of Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park also share many characteristics.

Employment: Many of the residents work at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), the Aqueduct Racetrack or work as local or livery cab drivers. Many residents also run day care centers out of their homes or work as nannies. In a typical family, the husband works at JFK Airport and the wife works as a nanny.

Concerns/Needs: Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park share many commonalities and should be grouped together into the same legislative district if possible. The neighborhood of South Jamaica, east of the Van Wyck Expressway, should not be grouped with Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park for several reasons. First, home property values are significantly less. Second, the high school population does not include middle school students from Richmond Hill or South Ozone Park. Third, the population in South Jamaica is not comprised of many immigrants like Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park. Instead, the population of South Jamaica is comprised of mostly African Americans who have settled in that neighborhood for a long time and rely on different public transportation lines, such as the E train subway line to Jamaica Center.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OLD VANDALIA ST
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VANDALIA
OLD MILL RD
FLATLANDS AVE
AUTUMN LN
MILFORD ST
MONTAUK AVE
PATTINS AVE
NEW LOTS AVE
HEGEMAN AVE
DOSCHER ST
HOLLY ST
DUMONT AVE
BLAKE AVE
WITTOREL ST
SLORIN
STANLEY AVE
WORTH
COZINE AVE
DREW ST
SHORE PKWY
CROSS BAY BLVD
153RD AVE
151ST AVE
LAHN ST
158TH AVE
159TH AVE
159TH RD
160TH AVE
161ST AVE
162ND AVE
163RD AVE
BURLINGHAM CT
DUNTON CT
CRAIG CT
CALHOUN RD
165TH AVE
LEFFERTS BLVD
W HANGAR RD
E HANGAR RD
FEDERAL CIR
30TH PL
PEDESTRIAN OPAS
N SVC RD
CARGO RD
JFK EXPRESSWAY
CARGO PLZ
COMPASS RD
EXPRESSWAY
N CONDUIT AVE
CONDUIT AVENUE
SOUTH CONDUIT AVE
LINDEN AVE
WOODHAVEN BLVD
SUTTER AVE
BASS COMM AVE
SUTPHIN BLVD
JAMAICA AVE
LIBERTY AVE
ATLANTIC AVE
ROCKAWAY BLVD
ROCKAWAY PKWY
ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD
CROSS BAY BLVD
LAKEWOOD AVE
CENTERVILLE ST
MURIEL CT
ROSEDALE AVE
BRINKERHOFF AVE
ARLINGTON PL
REMINGTON ST
OYD RD
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EXHIBIT B

Criteria for the districts - applied and given priority in the order in which they are listed (N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, §52(1) (2004)):

1) **Population**. The difference between the most populous and the least populous council district must not exceed 10% of the average population for all council districts. Any such differences in population must be justified by one or more of the other criteria stated in the City Charter. N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, §52(a) (2004).

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2) **Fair and effective representation**. The districting plan must be established in a manner that ensures the fair and effective representation of the racial and language minority groups in New York City which are protected by the Voting Rights Act. N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, §52(1)(b) (2004).

3) **Communities of Interest**. District lines should keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other. N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, §52(1)(c) (2004).

4) **Compactness**. Each district must be compact and cannot be more than twice as long as it is wide. The districting plan must be established in a manner that minimizes the sum of the length of the boundaries of all of the districts included in the plan. N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, §52(1)(d)(g) (2004).

5) **Contiguity**. Each district must be contiguous, and whenever a part of a district is separated from the rest of the district by a body of water, there must be a connection by a bridge, a tunnel, a tramway or by regular ferry service. N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, §52(2) (2004).

6) **Political boundaries**. A district cannot cross borough or county boundaries. If any district includes territory in two boroughs, then no other district may also include territory from the same two boroughs. N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, §52(3) (2004).

EXHIBIT C

Queens Tribune Online
July 19, 2012
NEWS CURREN

Richmond Hill Feeling The Heat

By ROSS BARKAN

Richmond Hill and Woodhaven residents are hoping, for once, that the City keeps them out in the cold.

If a heat wave scorches Queens again on a Saturday, like it did on a sultry July 7, there will be no cooling centers in Woodhaven and Richmond Hill to handle exasperated residents who lack access to air-conditioning. Richmond Hill residents have despaired over the absence of cooling centers open on the weekend. Residents without air-conditioning can stay at the Richmond Hill library on weekdays or trek to the Lefferts Library, open only on Saturdays, to avoid temperatures nearing 100 degrees.

"Richmond Hill is the orphan child of Queens," said Albert Baldeo, a Democratic district leader. "There has always been a paucity of social services, job centers, health centers. We have been reduced to a neglected neighborhood, forgotten."

Cooling centers, established by the City to provide a free air-conditioned place where people can stay during a heat wave, are typically situated in either libraries or senior centers. Weekend library hours have been slashed across the City; Richmond Hill library is not open on Saturdays or Sundays and the neighborhood does not have a senior center.

Richmond Hill, bounded by the Van Wyck Expressway and neighboring Ozone Park, is teeming with Guyanese, Caribbean and Punjabi immigrants. Storefronts adorned with Indian saris share blocks with restaurants cooking Trinidadian delicacies like doubles, though the once Irish and Italian neighborhood does not have a central community center that neighborhood advocates believe it desperately needs.

Tribune Photo by Ira Cohen.

The Richmond Hill Library serves as a cooling center during hot weather.

Civic leaders have lamented that seniors looking for a place to gather are forced to cluster in a local Burger King. The Woodhaven-Richmond Hill Senior Center, despite its name, is located on Jamaica Avenue in Woodhaven. Vishnu Amadeo, executive director of the Richmond Hill Economic Development Council, has argued that since Richmond Hill possesses no single elected representative on the State or City level, funding is scarce for any social services. Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica) and Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village) each represent portions of Richmond Hill and will fund the community far less than before for very different reasons: Wills, under investigation for the alleged misappropriation of $33,000, cannot allocate any money himself because Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) suspended his Council powers. Quinn allocated Wills' money and drastically reduced Crowley's discretionary budget, believed by political observers to be retaliation for defying Queens Democratic Chair U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) by making a run for Congress against his chosen candidate, Assemblywoman Grace Meng (D-Flushing).

The Office of Emergency Management said that there should be a cooling center "within walking distance" but did not comment specifically on the availability of weekend centers. In Woodhaven, there are several nearby cooling centers, including the Woodhaven library, Woodhaven-Richmond Hill Senior Center and Glendale library, but on weekends, the closest cooling center is the Cypress Hills-Fulton Street Senior Center in Cypress Hills, Brooklyn.

"It is a problem, they have cooling centers in libraries but they could have made arrangements with churches and synagogues for people to go there," said Mary Ann Carey, district manager for Community Board 9, which represents Richmond Hill, Woodhaven, Ozone Park and Kew Gardens. Carey wrote a letter to Mayor Mike Bloomberg after a man complained to her that on July 7, he was shut out of the Richmond Hill and Woodhaven cooling centers, each located in a closed library. "There are other alternatives."

Ed Wendell, president of the Woodhaven Residents' Block Association, did not agree that a lack of cooling centers was a pressing issue for the Woodhaven community. He expressed concern that Carey did not speak with him about the letter.

"Our office fields a lot of complaints but we've rarely heard complaints about cooling centers," Wendell said. "I'm not saying it's not a problem, I don't want to minimize it, but there are a lot of other issues."

Reach Reporter Ross Barkan at (718) 357-7400, Ext. 127 or rbarkan@queenstribune.com..

EXHIBIT D

YWCA of QUEENS

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

42-07 Parsons Blvd., Flushing, NY 11355 Tel: 718.353.4553 Fax: 718.353.4044 www.ywcaqueens.org

Statement by John Park, YWCA of Queens

August 21, Queens Redistricting Hearing
Queens Library at Flushing
41-17 Main St.
Flushing, NY 11355

Good afternoon, members of the Commission. I'm the Director of Operations & Community Development at the YWCA of Queens, a nonprofit organization that serves thousands of residents in the Flushing and greater Queens area.

Started in 1978 by 9 immigrant women, the YWCA of Queens has become a service provider of choice in the Flushing area. We are a multi-generational, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, and multi-tiered organization with a focus on putting individuals and families on a path towards personal and economic success. Our Center for children, Center for Youth, Center for Adults, Y Evergreen Care, and Center for Arts and Culture provide comprehensive services for every critical stage of life.

For district lines in Queens, there are a few neighborhoods in that require adjustments and should be corrected with new lines.

Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park is largely considered a single community but is currently split into 4 districts. These should be included in one city council district.

Oakland Gardens near the top of district 23 should be included in district 19.

Some current lines are good and should remain intact, including Flushing where the YWCA of Queens is located. The natural borders of the Van Wyck and Long Island Expressway largely keep the communities whole and should remain this way.

According to the 2010 census, the Asian American population in Queens grew exponentially faster than any other group, which is also true for the entire City and all of NY State. The communities also share very similar needs as immigrants, including things like culturally sensitive and language appropriate support for everything from domestic violence to health care to voting, to bullying in schools.

Back in 1996 when City Council member Julia Harrison represented District 20, which includes this library and is currently represented by Peter Koo, she remarked that the Asian Immigrants in this district was, "an invasion, not assimilation."

We must be cognizant that misperceptions and tensions still exist, that we are in a post 9/11 world, and the issue of how to treat immigrants still divides many parts of our nation.

The community members in Flushing deserve to maintain an undiluted voice to elect someone who doesn't see them as people who are invading, or needing to assimilate, but as constituents who can be the diverse people they are, making Flushing the very unique place in the world that it is.

I hope that you will seriously consider these statements, and also the statements of the other members of the Asian American Community Coalition on Redistricting and Democracy (ACCORD), including our forthcoming recommended maps.

Thank you,

John Park