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October 4, 2012

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Lisa Tucker, Secretary
Carmen Tomlinson, Treasurer
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Barbara Askins, President and CEO, 125th Street Business Improvement District
October 4, 2012 Districting Commission Meeting

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President/CEO

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Henrietta Lyle
Jonelle Procope
James Simmons
Mukaram Taherally
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Bernard Warren
Matthew Washington
Steve Williams
Maurice Winley

Hon. Michael Bloomberg
Hon. John Liu
Hon. Scott Stringer
Hon. Inez Dickens

**Testimony
in support of the
Upper Manhattan Empowerment Districting Plan (UMED Plan)**

I support the UMED plan and believe the district boundaries should be as follows:

1. The district boundaries of the 9th Councilmanic district should be Amsterdam and Morningside Avenues to the west, 110th Street to the south, 155th Street and the Polo Grounds and Rangel Houses to the north, and Lexington and Madison Avenues to the east.
2. The district boundaries of the 7th Councilmanic District should have a contiguous border along the Hudson River to the west, rest at 97th Street to the south, Morningside and Amsterdam Avenues to the west, and follow Fort Washington Avenue to Interstate 95 (I-95)/the George Washington Bridge entrance. I-95 is a common sense boundary and the district lines should not go further north than I-95. Also to follow historic district lines and maintain the connections of communities of interest the district should also include the Jumel Mansion neighborhood.
3. The district boundaries for the 10th Councilmanic should include the total area north of I-95 including the wholly contained neighborhoods of Cabrini Heights and Inwood. For population purposes the district has to extend south of the common sense I-95 boundary. That extension should not crack in half the heart of Washington Heights' Dominican community at the I-95 boundary as the commission's plan suggests. Instead the area east of Fort Washington Avenue and west of Amsterdam Avenue down to 155th Street should be included in the 10th Councilmanic district.

I believe the districts should follow these boundaries because:

1. THE UMED PLAN IS SIMPLE

- This plan avoids gerrymandering by using the community districts as its base. These lines were established in 1975 and are universally recognized as community boundaries. Deviations from those boundaries were to adjust for population and were simple changes.
- The deviations either followed existing district lines as in the case of the Jumel Mansion Neighborhood or the Fort Washington Avenue extension or used very simple, long avenue boundaries. Examples would be the lengthy Madison and Lexington Avenues at to the east of the 9th and Amsterdam Avenue and Morningside Aves. between the 7th and 9th.

- Amsterdam Avenue is a simple, but important boundary between the 7th and 9th districts. Several transportation routes run along Amsterdam and it is the western demarcation of several neighborhoods like Hamilton Heights and Sugar Hill.
- Residents of the Upper West side between 96th and 110th Streets which had previously been split between three councilmanic districts would now be in one district, a significant concern raised in previous hearings.

2. THE UMED PLAN IS FAIR

- The plan doesn't just adhere to the provisions of the Voting Rights Act, but goes further to protect the ethnicities and nationalities that constitute the Upper Manhattan political mosaic.
- This plan recognizes the important nationality characteristic of Washington Heights. Looking beyond the Hispanic/Latino designation, its Dominican community was "cracked" in half by the Commission's first redistricting proposal. This plan summarily rejects that approach and reunites the Dominican community to the north and south of I-95 as it currently exists in Council District 10. This protects the voting strength of the Dominican Community in Council District 10 instead of diluting it.
- The plan recognizes the historic African American Community in Central Harlem and the Dominican Community in Washington Heights. Districts 9 and 10 reflect those historic communities, but the plan also recognizes the demographic changes of the community and its proposed district 7 evenly balances traditional ethnic communities with new resident ethnic communities for a district that is more evenly split than the Commission's plan which appeared to favor one ethnic minority over others.

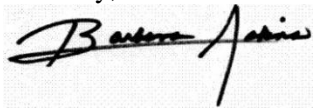
3. THE UMED PLAN IS BALANCED

- Many significant institutions remain wholly contained in single districts in this plan.
- The City College of New York maintains the Amsterdam Avenue boundary and is to its east. It would lie totally within the 9th Councilmanic District.
- One of the Upper Manhattan's largest institutions, Columbia University, with the exception of its athletic facilities, is wholly contained within one district. The current district has the university split across three districts.
- La Marqueta which would be split in the Commission's first proposal would now rest solely in the 8th Councilmanic district.
- The UMED Plan is good for 125th Street. There will be certain retail categories that fit in with 125th Street that can be successful. Those that complement arts, entertainment, and culture are of significant interest. It will further the work of the BID to bring a blend of neighborhood serving convenience goods and services combined with regional draw businesses that draw residents (national chains and local independents).
- The UMED Plan will have a positive impact for consumer demand. It has broad geographic appeal. It will not disrupt the high visitation rate from City residents and tourists from around the world, and it will enhance the expansion and opening of educational and cultural facilities. The UMED plan takes into

consideration the changing demographics in the market, increased wealth in the neighborhood, and acknowledges the increase diversity in the Harlem Community.

- The UMED Plan adequately addresses the Cultural Aspects of Harlem which has rich cultural assets including African American and Hispanic/Latino, Arts and entertainment facilities, and growing complementary retail businesses including eating and drinking as well as leisure retailers. It allows the community's economic goal of driving the commerce with cultural clusters to continue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Askins", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Barbara Askins,
President & CEO
125th Street Business Improvement District

Carol Conway
35 Bond Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10012

Date: October 24, 2012

To: NYC Districting Commission
253 Broadway, 7th Floor, NY, NY 10007

From Carol Conway

Re: Opposition to proposal to change NoHo's City Council District

As president of 35 Bond Street Corp., an AIR co-op, and as a resident of NoHo for 38 years, I am opposed to the proposal to move the core area of NoHo from City Council District 1 to District 2.

NoHo should not be severed from SoHo. The two neighborhoods are "communities of interest" as defined by the NYC Charter, Section 52 (c). NoHo and SoHo are the same neighborhood as defined by zoning put in place forty years ago. The unique zoning is the M1-5B Zoning District and permits Joint Living Work Quarters for Artists (JLWQA) under State legislation.

Furthermore both are historic landmark districts with a similar history and architectural heritage, including cast-iron architecture. Both have a predominance of loft buildings occupied by artists. Residents of NoHo and SoHo share the same concerns and have a similar demographic. This community of interests does not exist between NoHo and any neighborhood in District 2.

I respectfully request that the commission maintain NoHo's place in District 1 with its sister community of SoHo.

Sincerely,



Carol Conway,
President
35 Bond Street Corp.

cc: Hon. Margaret Chin, City Council District 1
Hon. Rosie Mendez, City Council District 2
Sean Sweeney, Director, SoHo Alliance

Testimony on Redistricting El Barrio

Submitted by Marta Moreno Vega
President and Founder
Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute
October 11, 2012

The Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute (CCCADI) is a 36 year old not for profit organization that has moved from midtown intentionally to El Barrio to provide cultural and educational programs to a historically underserved community. El Barrio is a landmark community that is culturally rich with a history of migrant and immigrant communities that have been integral to the cultural life of this city. The proposed redistricting would destroy this historically important community.

With the infusion of cultural anchor institutions like CCCADI, El Barrio now has the potential to develop educational, employment and urban renewal economic opportunities for residents that have not been previously available. Our institution will be hiring community residents that see themselves reflected in the international programs of the CCCADI.

The proposed redistricting will destroy the landmarking of El Barrio as well as the new opportunities that are and will be available through the presence of CCCADI and other organizations. Further, the removal of La Marqueta and CCCADI as an integral part of El Barrio will remove two crucial anchor institutions that will be part of the renaissance of El Barrio and destroy the economic potential of El Barrio grounded in its history and ethnic community.

The proposed redistricting will be destructive to the community of El Barrio and CCCADI that has moved to El Barrio to serve this community. CCCADI is adamantly opposed to the proposed redistricting plans.



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The proposed redistricting will be destructive to the community of El Barrio and CCCADI that has moved to El Barrio to serve this community. CCCADI is adamantly opposed to the proposed redistricting plans.



CENTER FOR LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

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TESTIMONY OF
THE CENTER FOR LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
BEFORE
THE NEW YORK CITY DISTRICTING COMMISSION

October 4, 2012

at

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
Harlem, New York



Prepared by:
Esmeralda Simmons, Esq.
Executive Director
Joan P. Gibbs, Esq.
General Counsel

My name is Esmeralda Simmons and I am the Executive Director of the Center for Law and Social Justice. The Center for Law and Social Justice (CLSJ) is a unit of Medgar Evers College of The City University of New York. Founded in 1985, the mission of CLSJ is to promote civil and human rights, and national and international understanding by providing quality advocacy, research, and advocacy training services to people of African descent, especially those in Central Brooklyn and New York City, and New Yorkers who have been marginalized or disenfranchised. CLSJ works with community organizations and groups of people of African descent and disenfranchised New Yorkers. Because of its unique combination of advocacy services from a community-based perspective, CLSJ is a focal point for progressive activity.

CENTER FOR LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE – A Major NYC Voting Rights Advocate

From its initial days, CLSJ has worked to defend the voting rights of Black New Yorkers and other New Yorkers of color who are protected by the federal Voting Rights Act. To this end, CLSJ has led or co-led the following historic voting rights advocacy initiatives in New York City: the **New Majority for Charter Change** (1987-1989) which successfully advocated for voting rights provisions and other equitable initiatives to be included in the new NYC Charter; the **Majority Coalition for Fair Redistricting** (1991-1992) which worked to ensure fair redistricting for people of color in NYC. CLSJ is also a founding member of the **New York Voting Rights Consortium** (1993-present) a coalition of leading local and national voting rights organizations advocating for the protection of voters of color in the New York metropolitan area. The voting rights litigation that CLSJ has been involved in include: *Ashe v. Board of Elections*; *Chin v. Bd. of Election*; *Reid v. Bruno*; *Rodriquez v. Pataki*; *Hayden v. Pataki*. Recently, CLSJ successfully represented petitioners-interveners in the *Little v. LATFOR and the NYS*

Dept. of Corrections case; and, currently, we represent petitioners-interveners in the *Favors v. Cuomo* case -- the ongoing federal litigation challenging the 2012 New York State Senate and Assembly redistricting plans.

Through our current “Racial Justice Redistricting Project,” CLSJ has conducted a series of community trainings on the use of the census data during the redistricting process. In addition, we have spearheaded a coalition, **Black New Yorkers for Fair Redistricting** that seeks to protect the voting rights of Black New Yorkers during the New York redistricting process. CLSJ has also been a very active member of the **Unity Map Group** that produced the **City Council UNITY MAP** that has been submitted to the Commission. The Unity Map Coalition also produced the heralded **UNITY Maps** during the state redistricting process. The federal court, when charged with creating a Congressional plan for New York State, relied heavily on the Unity Plan in its creation on the new congressional districts. Clearly, the Unity Maps demonstrated how the voting rights of all VRA protected groups in NYC can simultaneously be respected and protected.

The Center for Law and Social Justice is closely following the Districting Commission’s activities. At this point we urge the Commission to do the following:

- **Adopt the Unity Map as its final plan.** The Commission has a historic accomplishment before it for consideration at this time: the UNITY MAP for the NY City Council. This map which lays out an entire 51 member City Council districting plan and thereby provides clear direction on how the Commission can handle the its two major tasks and priorities:
 1. Create equally sized districts within 10% deviation in compliance with the “One Person - One Vote” requirement of the US Constitution;

2. Protect the voting rights of the three protected groups in NYC: Blacks, Hispanics and Asians, in compliance with Section 5 and Section 2 of the federal Voting Rights Act.
- Further, the Commission should complete its task within a **timeframe that allows for public comment TO THE COMMISSION on its Final Plan** before it is submitted to the City Council. Anything less would be making a mockery of the Commission's pledge to have an open and transparent process which allows for real public comment. The Final Plan is the most important document that the Commission will be releasing during its tenure save for any Amended Final Plan. The Final Plan is the document that the public is waiting for and seeks to comment on. The Commission's current plan is to fail to provide for public comment of the Draft Final Plan. That is simply unacceptable, notwithstanding the tightness of your quite arduous schedule.

Comments on the First Draft Plan Released by the Commission

The Center for Law and Social Justice had anxiously awaited the release of the Commission's Draft Plan in September. We congratulate the Commission on its timely production, but, the Center was quite disappointed in the product, specifically, because the Draft Plan failed to recognize numerous communities of interest, nor did there appear to be a major effort to protect the voting rights of the VRA protected groups within NYC.

For example, in Brooklyn the Unity Map created a new District 46 which took into account the major migration of Caribbean families into the Canarsie area over the past decade. That area is now one of the most densely populated geographic communities of Caribbean families within New York City. The Commission, in contrast, failed to recognize the potential to draw a district which would protect the voting rights of this emerging community. Instead it cracked Canarsie,

thereby dispersing its electoral potential. To emphasize this missed opportunity, CLSJ has conducted a preliminary Racial Block Voting Analysis on the Districting Commission's District 46 using the three citywide elections involving Ferrer, Thompson, and Lui.

The Commission's District 46 is 45.6% NHWhite, 41.2% NHBlack, 6.5% Hispanic, and 5% NHAsian on a VAP level.

District 46 Racial Block Voting Estimates

	White	Black
Bloomberg	80.8% - 82.8%	55.8% - 57.1%
Ferrer	14.7% - 15.8%	41.4% - 43.0%
Bloomberg	70.3% - 74.1%	21.1% - 25.2%
Thompson	22.0% - 25.1%	73.5% - 78.2%
Yassky	66.1% - 73.9%	31.0% - 31.5%
Lui	26.1% - 33.7%	68.3% - 69.0%

Below is a comparison of Election Results for the NYC Districting Commission District 46 to the UNITY Plan's District 46

District 46 Results	
<i>NYC Districting Commission</i>	
FERRERO	BLOOMBERG
26.3%	<u>71.1%</u>

District 46 Results	
<i>UNITY Plan</i>	
FERRERO	BLOOMBERG
32.5%	<u>65.6%</u>

THOMPSON	BLOOMBERG
45.2%	<u>51.9%</u>

THOMPSON	BLOOMBERG
<u>57.0%</u>	40.9%

LIU	YASSKY
48.8%	<u>51.2%</u>

LIU	YASSKY
<u>55.7%</u>	44.3%

Obviously, based on these preliminary results, the Unity Plan's District 46 provides a better opportunity for that community of interest to elect that candidate of its choice.

Similarly, in Harlem, the Commission's Draft District 9 splits Central Harlem from West Harlem from East Harlem. Further, it removes East Harlem, including El Barrio, from a Manhattan district, and makes it as an appendage to the South Bronx.

PROTECTION OF THE VOTING RIGHTS OF BLACK NEW YORKERS

As the Commission is well aware, the federal Voting Rights Act specifically protects the voting rights of Black New Yorkers, as well as Hispanic and Asian New Yorkers and some language minorities. Due to New York City's long history of voting discrimination, three counties in New York City: Kings, The Bronx, and Manhattan are "covered counties" under Section 5 of the Rights Act (VRA).

We call on the NYC Districting Commission to undertake its duties with a heightened respect for Black communities throughout the city and the voting rights of Black New Yorkers. The Center for Law and Social Justice will continue to be actively engaged in the City Council redistricting process. Needless to say, we and our colleagues will serve as watchdogs during the process on behalf of Black New Yorkers.

In closing, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. The Center for Law and Social Justice looks forward to a cooperative relationship with the Commission and most importantly to a Final Plan that will show respect for the voting rights of Black, Asians and Hispanic New Yorkers.



**CITIZENS UNION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
TESTIMONY TO THE CITY DISTRICTING COMMISSION
ON THE PROPOSED COUNCIL DISTRICTS
October 4, 2012**

Good evening, Chair Romano and other members of the City Districting Commission (the Commission). My name is Rachael Fauss, and I am the Policy and Research Manager of Citizens Union of the City of New York, a nonpartisan good government group dedicated to making democracy work for all New Yorkers. Thank you for the opportunity to provide Citizens Union's feedback regarding the proposed district maps for the City Council.

I wanted to first thank you and the staff for your work to increase transparency and public access to the work of the Commission, as was recommended by Citizens Union to you in a letter and testimony this summer. We commend you for taking the initiative to provide additional information on your website, in particular allowing the public access to online mapping software. We are pleased that you have easily linked to demographic information available from the Department of City Planning, and have provided information related to your past public meetings such as transcripts, submitted written testimony and video. Lastly, we appreciate that you have streamed many of your previous meetings and hearings live on the web, and encourage you to ensure that all future meetings and hearings are webcast.

I would now like to turn to our analysis of the districts, which focuses on the size of the districts, and the demographics of districts as they relate to their population in the city and borough as a whole. We will be providing additional analysis at next week's hearing in Brooklyn with regard to the partisan makeup of the districts.

I. Recommendations and Supporting Information

Given limited time to present our testimony, I would like to provide a summary of our recommendations and supporting information with regard to the proposed districts. Our full analysis is presented in the written testimony following these recommendations.

1. Districts should be corrected to ensure proper representation and the opportunity for minority groups to elect candidates of their choice where the population and consideration other important redistricting criteria such as protecting communities of interest would support the creation of majority, near-majority or coalition districts.

- Citywide, as in 2003, Latinos and Asians would continue to be underrepresented under the proposed maps when looking at the 2010 Census citywide demographic information. It should be noted, however, that the citywide figures may not yield such seats on a neighborhood level due to population distribution.
- From 2000 to 2010, the number of seats that could be expected given the citywide Asian population grew from 5 to 6 seats, and for Latinos from 14 to 15 seats.

Specifically for each borough, we recommend the following:

- a. **Manhattan**: The Commission should examine the possibility of **increasing Asian Representation in District 1 by looking to these neighboring areas in lower Manhattan.**
 - **Asian Americans have fewer seats than expected when looking at the borough population, with no majority or near majority districts**, though it should be noted that District 1 is proposed to be 36.6 percent Asian, and is represented currently by Margaret Chin.
 - The Asian population grew in Districts 2 and 3 from 2000 to 2010, at 35 and 70 percent respectively. The proposed Districts 2 and 3 have proposed Asian populations of 16 and 11 percent, respectively.
 - **It should be noted, however, that District 3 was originally created as an “opportunity to elect”¹ district for the LGBT community, and the Commission should continue to ensure representation for this important community of interest.**
- b. **Brooklyn**: The commission should examine whether it is possible to **create more cohesive districts for Latinos and Asian Americans in Brooklyn, looking at the population centers in Bensonhurst and Sunset Park** to ensure adequate representation of both groups.
 - **Asian Americans have fewer seats than expected, with two 2 expected seats**, yet none have been proposed with a majority or near-majority of the population.
 - Proposed Districts 38, 43 and 47 have the highest Asian populations, between 20 and 35 percent of the population of the districts, which all neighbor each other in Sunset Park, Dyker Heights and Bensonhurst. District 38, however, should be noted as having a near majority of Latinos in the proposed map.
- c. **Queens**: The commission should look to **increase the ability of Latinos and Asian Americans to elect candidates of their choice, specifically looking at the neighborhoods of Elmhurst and Jackson Heights.**
 - **Latinos have fewer seats than expected, having only two seats that are majority Hispanic**, when four would be expected given the population (though when looking at the 40 percent threshold, there would be three seats).
 - **Asian Americans also have fewer seats than expected**, with only one seat proposed to be majority Asian, District 20, and three expected when looking at the borough population.
 - **It should be noted, however, that an “opportunity to elect” district for the LGBT community was created previously in Queens, and the Commission should continue to ensure representation for this important community of interest.**

¹ An “opportunity to elect” district is a term referring to districts that provide a minority group or community of interest to elect a candidate of its choice.

- d. **Bronx: District 8 as currently drawn results in the underrepresentation of Manhattan, and also does not properly unite communities of interest in East Harlem or the South Bronx.** While the goal of adding additional Latino representation to the Bronx may be worthy, we believe that **the Commission should examine alternate means of achieving the goal of increased Latino representation in the Bronx, possibly looking at coalition districts.** We encourage the commission to examine creating coalition districts to maximize Latino and Black representation, particularly in the areas covered by districts 11, 12 and 13.
 - **Latinos have the number of seats expected given the population when District 8 (which shares parts of Upper Manhattan and the South Bronx) is added,** bringing the number of proposed seats that are majority Hispanic to five for the Bronx.
 - African Americans also have fewer seats than expected, with 3 expected, and only one district proposed, District 12.
 - e. **Staten Island: District 49 should be more compact and better align with existing neighborhood boundaries,** while preserving Latino and African American representation.
 - **Latinos have fewer seats than expected in Staten Island, though proposed district 49 has a Latino population of 30 percent.** The other two districts in Staten Island have small Latino populations at 12 and 8 percent each, however. District 49 is currently represented by Debi Rose, who is African American.
2. **The districts in Manhattan should be altered to be closer to the ideal district size so that there is more equal representation compared to the other boroughs.** This could be accomplished by placing more of the proposed Council District 8 into Manhattan, as it is currently drawn. District 8 also currently fails to adhere to the principles of compactness and protecting communities of interest, as it splits neighborhoods in East Harlem and the South Bronx.
 - **Manhattan is underrepresented due to the large size of the districts.** The average size of districts in Manhattan is 4.3 percent above the ideal district size, which results in the borough having fewer representatives than would be expected given its population. **This underrepresentation is the result of Council District 8 containing more of the Bronx than it does currently under the 2003 district lines.**
3. While Citizens Union recognizes that there are competing principles and guidelines in the City Charter that dictate how districts must be drawn, **we urge the Commission to seek to narrow the deviation of districts so that more of them are closer to the ideal district size, at 1 percent or less from the mean.**
 - While Staten Island, Queens, and Brooklyn have districts that are on average smaller, they are closer to the ideal district size than Manhattan, all at under a three percent deviation from the ideal district size.
 - **Staten Island's inclusion of three full districts as opposed to having one district that connected from Staten Island into Brooklyn is a positive development which would lead to more cohesion and better representation.**

- ## II. Demographics of Proposed Districts

This analysis compares the proposed maps with the current demographics of the city, as well as the current representation in the City Council. The analysis both considers the overall city population, as well as separate representation in each borough. It should be noted that on a neighborhood level, it may not be possible to create majority districts for every group, given population distributions, though it may be more possible to create districts that contain a larger percentage of a particular group to ensure that their voice is as unified as possible. Citizens Union has examined the proposed Unity Map, which has helped to inform our analysis below with regard to our recommendations and their feasibility.

Please note that Citizens Union used general population figures, both looking at the thresholds of majority (50 percent or more) and plurality (40 percent or more). Citizens Voting Age Population numbers would be slightly lower, and would be considered by the Department of Justice when looking at the pre-clearance standards of the Voting Rights Act. It should be noted, however, that members of the City Council represent all residents of their district, regardless of citizenship status and age, and therefore the comparison to the overall population numbers is relevant and important for representation.

Citywide

CITYWIDE DEMOGRAPHICS AND PROPOSED 2013 COUNCIL DISTRICTS						
	2010 Population	2010 Voting Age Population	Current City Council Representation	2010 Number of Seats Expected	2013 Proposed 50%+	2013 Proposed 40%+
White, Non-Hispanic	2,722,904	2,284,419	24	17	16	20
Black, Non-Hispanic	1,861,295	1,420,058	14	12	11	12
Asian, Non-Hispanic	1,030,914	834,547	2	6	1	1
Hispanic	2,336,076	1,709,204	11	15	11	13
Total Pop	8,175,133	6,407,022	51	N/A	N/A	N/A
Average Population of Districts 160,297						

As in 2003, Latinos and Asians would continue to be underrepresented under the proposed maps, both with the makeup of the current City Council and when looking at the 2010 Census citywide demographic information. From 2000 to 2010, the number of seats that could be expected given the citywide Asian population grew from 5 to 6 seats, and for Latinos from 14 to 15 seats. It should be noted, however, that the citywide figures may not yield such seats on a neighborhood level due to population distribution.

Borough Representation

BRONX DEMOGRAPHICS AND PROPOSED 2013 COUNCIL DISTRICTS					
	2010 Population	2010 Voting Age Population	2010 Number of Seats Expected	2013 Proposed 50%+	2013 Proposed 40%+
White, Non-Hispanic	151,209	130,205	1	0	1
Black, Non-Hispanic	416,695	309,709	3	1	1
Asian, Non-Hispanic	47,733	36,840	0	0	0
Hispanic	741,413	520,397	5	4*	4*
<i>TOTAL BOROUGH POPULATION</i>	<i>1,385,108</i>	<i>1,016,912</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>

*Note: this analysis does not include Council District 8, which contains portions of Manhattan.

In the Bronx, Latinos have the number of seats expected when District 8 (which shares parts of Upper Manhattan and the South Bronx) is added, bringing the number of seats that are majority Hispanic to five for the Bronx. While the goal of adding additional Latino representation to the Bronx may be worthy, we believe that District 8 as currently drawn results in the underrepresentation of Manhattan, and also does not properly unite communities of interest in East Harlem.

We encourage the Commission to examine alternate means of achieving the goal of increased Latino representation in the Bronx, possibly looking at coalition districts as a means to achieve this goal.

African Americans have fewer seats than expected, with 3 expected, and only one district proposed, District 12 (which encompasses Woodlawn and Williamsbridge) which as proposed has a population that is 68 percent Black and 22.7 percent Hispanic. This may be in part due to population distribution, but it should be noted that it is bordered by two districts, 11 and 13, which have growing Latino populations and have Black populations under 20 percent.

We encourage the commission to examine creating coalition districts to maximize Latino and Black representation in the Bronx, particularly in the areas covered by districts 11, 12 and 13.

BROOKLYN DEMOGRAPHICS AND PROPOSED 2013 COUNCIL DISTRICTS					
	2010 Population	2010 Voting Age Population	2010 Number of Seats Expected	2013 Proposed 50%+	2013 Proposed 40%+
White, Non-Hispanic	893,306	702,033	6	6	7
Black, Non-Hispanic	799,066	606,643	5	6	7
Asian, Non-Hispanic	260,762	203,193	2	0	0
Hispanic	496,285	359,871	3	2	3
TOTAL BOROUGH POPULATION	2,504,700	1,910,322	16	N/A	N/A

In Brooklyn, Asian Americans have fewer seats than expected when looking at borough-level population counts, with 2 expected seats, yet none have been proposed with a majority or near-majority of the population. Proposed Districts 38, 43 and 47 have the highest Asian populations, between 20 and 35 percent of the population of the districts, which all neighbor each other in Sunset Park, Dyker Heights and Bensonhurst. District 38, however, should be noted as having a near majority of Latinos in the proposed map.

The commission should examine whether it is possible to create a more cohesive districts for Latinos and Asian Americans in Brooklyn, looking at the population centers in Bensonhurst and Sunset Park to ensure adequate representation of both groups.

MANHATTAN DEMOGRAPHICS AND PROPOSED 2013 COUNCIL DISTRICTS					
	2010 Population	2010 Voting Age Population	2010 Number of Seats Expected	2013 Proposed 50%+	2013 Proposed 40%+
White, Non-Hispanic	761,493	683,937	5	5	6
Black, Non-Hispanic	205,340	167,141	1	1	1
Asian, Non-Hispanic	178,157	158,575	1	0	0
Hispanic	403,577	315,139	3	3	3
TOTAL BOROUGH POPULATION	1,585,873	1,351,438	10*	N/A	N/A

*Note: this analysis includes Council District 8, which contains portions of the Bronx.

In Manhattan, Asian Americans have fewer seats than expected, with no majority or near majority districts, though it should be noted that District 1 is proposed to be 36.6 percent Asian, and is represented currently by Margaret Chin. The district in 2003 was 42 percent Asian; however, the district saw a decrease in the Asian population of 3.2 percent from 2000 to 2010. The Asian population grew in neighboring districts, however. Districts 2 and 3 saw increases in the Asian population from 2000 to 2010, at 35 and 70 percent respectively. The proposed Districts 2 and 3 have proposed Asian populations of 16 and 11 percent, respectively.

The commission should examine the possibility of increasing Asian Representation in District 1 by looking to these neighboring districts in lower Manhattan. It should be noted, however, that District 3 was originally created as an “opportunity to elect” district for the LGBT community, and the Commission should continue to ensure representation for this important community of interest.

QUEENS DEMOGRAPHICS AND PROPOSED 2013 COUNCIL DISTRICTS					
	2010 Population	2010 Voting Age Population	2010 Number of Seats Expected	2013 Proposed 50%+	2013 Proposed 40%+
White, Non-Hispanic	616,727	527,091	4	3	4
Black, Non-Hispanic	395,881	305,075	2	3	3
Asian, Non-Hispanic	509,428	408,780	3	1	1
Hispanic	613,750	459,179	4	2	3
TOTAL BOROUGH POPULATION	2,230,722	1,768,821	14	N/A	N/A

Latinos are underrepresented in Queens, having only two seats that are majority Hispanic, when four would be expected given the population (though when looking at the 40 percent threshold, there would be three seats).

Asian Americans also have fewer seats than expected in Queens when looking at borough-wide demographic information, with only one seat proposed to be majority Asian, District 20. District 20 in 2003 had an Asian population of 47.8 percent, and now is 64.8 percent, which is consistent with the increase in population. Neighboring districts, however, 19 is proposed to have a 28 percent Asian population, and district 23 is proposed to have an Asian population of 35 percent. Districts 25, 26 and 29 also border each other and have Asian populations at about 30 percent each.

The commission should look to increase the ability of Latinos and Asian Americans to elect candidates of their choice, specifically looking at the neighborhoods of Elmhurst and Jackson Heights. It should be noted, however, that an “opportunity to elect” district for the LGBT community was created previously in Queens, and the Commission should continue to ensure representation for this important community of interest.

STATEN ISLAND DEMOGRAPHICS AND PROPOSED 2013 COUNCIL DISTRICTS					
	2010 Population	2010 Voting Age Population	2010 Number of Seats Expected	2013 Proposed 50%+	2013 Proposed 40%+
White, Non-Hispanic	300,169	241,153	2	2	2
Black, Non-Hispanic	44,313	31,490	0	0	0
Asian, Non-Hispanic	34,834	27,159	0	0	0
Hispanic	81,051	54,618	1	0	0
TOTAL BOROUGH POPULATION	468,730	359,529	3	N/A	N/A

Latinos have fewer seats than expected in Staten Island, with district 49 having a Latino population of 30 percent. It should be noted, however, that the other two districts in Staten Island have small Latino populations at 12 and 8 percent each. District 49 is currently represented by Debi Rose, who is African American; the African American population of District 49 is proposed to be 24.5 percent, while the Latino population is 30.4 percent. The district could be considered a coalition district, as it provides for the opportunity for minorities to elect candidates of their choice, though it could

drawn to be more compact and align with existing neighborhood boundaries while also preserving Latino and African American representation.

Current Representation in the City Council Versus 2000 Population and Districts

Citizens Union thought it might also be of interest to the Commission to compare the current City Council to 2000 Demographics, as current districts are often used as a starting point when drawing new districts. Latinos and Asians were also underrepresented when looking at citywide demographic information, as seen below.

	Current Members, City Council*	2000 Population, Expected Number of Seats (Citywide)	2003 Districts (2000 Census) 50%+ population	2003 Districts (2000 Census) 40%+ population
White	24	18	18	22
Black	14	12	11	12
Asian	2	5	0	2
Hispanic	11	14	12	13

*Please note that for vacant seats, the prior member's ethnicity was considered.

Proposed Maps Compared to 2003 Districts

This analysis reflects the changes from the previous districts, looking at the changes in representation from the 2003 maps to the proposed 2013 maps.

Hispanic Districts

- There is one less majority Hispanic District (District 38) in the proposed maps from the previous districts. It should be noted, however, that the district lost some Hispanic population from 2000 to 2010 (it dropped by 9.2 percent, a total of about 7,000 people). Conversely, the Asian population in District 38 grew by more than 50 percent, or about 17,600 people).

Asian Districts

- Under the proposed maps, there would now be a Majority Asian District – District 20. Its Asian Population totals 64.8 percent, while it previously was 47.8 percent.
- If looking at a smaller threshold (population totaling 40 percent or more), however, there is one less district that is 40 percent or more Asian. Two districts in 2003 were 40 percent or more Asian – District 1 and District 20. Now, there is only one such district (District 20). It should be noted, however, that the Asian population in District 20 decreased by about 3 percent, by about 2,000 residents. The white population grew by nearly 38 percent in the district, about 21,000 residents.

White Districts

- There were 18 districts that were majority white in 2003, and the proposed maps have 16 such districts.
- District 29 in Queens (Karen Koslowitz) and 46 in Brooklyn (Lew Fidler), which were once majority white, are now majority non-white.

- District 46 is now 42.4 percent Black (up from 33.0 percent), and 43.7 percent white. This is consistent with growth in the Black population – nearly 30 percent growth of almost 16,000 people.
- District 29 is now 44.2 percent white, and 31.7 percent Asian (up from 21.7 percent in 2003). This is slightly more than the growth of the Asian population in the previous district, which grew by about 8,500 people, or 26 percent.

III. Variation in District Size

By looking at the size of districts, Citizens Union sought to determine whether districts or boroughs were close to the ideal district size to ensure proper representation. Underpopulating or overpopulating districts can lead to districts in which there are too many constituents per representative, diluting their relative voice compared to other districts, or conversely where too few constituents for each Councilmember, meaning that they relative voice is larger than for other districts. This is why Citizens Union supports criteria for drawing lines that ensures that districts are as close to the average district size as possible, ideally one percent.

Citywide Variance

When examining the size of the districts and their difference from the average (median) size of districts, it appears that the districts are closer to the average under the proposed maps than under the current maps 2003. The ideal district size in 2003 was about 157,000 and in 2013 is now nearly 161,000. The tables below show the spread of district deviations in the 2003 current and 2013 proposed maps, looking at intervals of 1 percent from the average, between 1 and 3 percent from the average, and then 3 percent and over.

Proposed 2013 District Deviations from the Ideal District Size (2010 Census Data)			
Variation from Median	<1%	1%-3%	>3%
Total	7	20	24
As percentage of total districts	13.73%	39.22%	47.06%

Current District Deviations from the Ideal District Size (2003 Districts using 2000 Census Data)			
Variation from Median	<1%	1%-3%	>3%
Total	4	17	30
As percentage of total districts	7.8%	33.3%	58.8%

As seen above, a plurality of districts continue to be more than three percent above the ideal district size, though the number dropped from 30 to 24 districts under the proposed maps. While this trend is positive, too few districts continue to be within one percent of the ideal district size – only 7 districts or 14 percent reach this threshold.

While Citizens Union recognizes that there are competing principles and guidelines in the City Charter that dictate how districts must be draw, we urge the Commission to seek to narrow the deviation of districts so that even more are closer to the ideal district size.

Variances By Borough

Borough	Population (2010 Census)	Average District Size	Average Deviation	Average Deviation %	Proportional # of districts	Actual # of Districts
Manhattan	1,673,468	167,347	6,637	4.13%	10.4	9.5*
Bronx	1,294,582	161,823	1,113	0.69%	8.1	8.5*
Queens	2,211,993	158,000	-2,711	-1.69%	13.8	14**
Brooklyn	2,547,596	159,225	-1,485	-0.92%	15.9	16**
Staten Island	468,576	156,192	-4,518	-2.81%	2.9	3

*Proposed District 8 is in both Manhattan and the Bronx

**Proposed District 34 is nearly entirely in Brooklyn, with a small portion of Queens. It is considered to be in Brooklyn for the purposes of this analysis.

When looking at the relative populations of each borough compared to the number of districts expected and allotted to them under the proposed maps, each borough has roughly what would be expected given their population sizes, with the notable exception of Manhattan. The average size of districts in Manhattan is 4.3 percent above the ideal district size, which results in the borough having fewer representatives than would be expected given its population. Proposed Council District 8 shares roughly equal portions of the Bronx and Manhattan, which is a change from the previous district, which previously had more of its area in Manhattan. The growth in Bronx and Manhattan, however, has been roughly equal, at 3.9 and 3.2 percent, respectively. This imbalance between the Bronx and Manhattan should be corrected, possibly by placing more of the proposed City Council District 8 into Manhattan, as it is currently drawn.

While Staten Island, Queens, and Brooklyn have districts that are on average smaller, they are closer to the ideal district size. Staten Island's inclusion of three full districts as opposed to having one district that connected from Staten Island across the largest suspension bridge in the U.S. (the Verrazano-Narrows) into Brooklyn is a positive development which would provide more cohesion and better representation, and balances the slightly larger deviation.

Thank you for the opportunity to present Citizens Union's recommendations regarding the proposed Council district lines. We plan to provide further thoughts on the districts next week, though I am available to answer any questions you have about our analysis of the districts presented this evening.

**TESTIMONY OF BRIAN PAUL,
RESEARCH AND POLICY COORDINATOR, COMMON CAUSE/NY
BEFORE THE NYC DISTRICTING COMMISSION
OCTOBER 4, 2012, MANHATTAN**

My name is Brian Paul and I'm the Research and Policy Coordinator at Common Cause/NY, a nonpartisan citizens' lobby and a leading force in the battle for honest and accountable government. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on City Council redistricting.

Before discussing issues specific to Manhattan and the draft plan, we would like to take this opportunity to applaud the Districting Commission's efforts to engage the public by setting up an interactive online mapping tool. The web version of the Maptitude software empowers regular citizens and small organizations to fully engage in the redistricting process by removing the financial and technological barriers. We encourage all New Yorkers to take advantage of this tool and make their voices heard.

Now to move on to discussion of the draft plan. The Districting Commission has repeatedly described the draft plan released on September 4th as a "baseline...which merely adjusts the council lines for population so that they remain within the narrow band permitted by law." According to Chairman Romano's comments at the September 4th meeting, the mapping staff was "instructed wherever possible to respect the natural boundaries created by our five boroughs, bodies of water, and so forth" and to follow the other criteria listed in the City Charter.

For most of the City it appears that these instructions were followed, producing an accurate "least change" map that adjusts the populations while following the Voting Rights Act and Charter criteria. However, one area that seems to deviate from this "least change" methodology is District 8 in East Harlem and the Bronx.

There is no question that District 8 must move further into the Bronx in this redistricting cycle. This is due to a chain reaction caused by the Census' observed population decline of over 20,000 in Washington Heights. Since the City Charter prohibits two districts from crossing the same two boroughs, District 10 cannot extend into the Bronx to pick up the additional

population and must instead pick up additional population within Manhattan, causing a chain reaction of changes to District 7, 8, and 9.

But there is no reason that District 8 must move as far into the Bronx as the Commission's draft plan draws it. As drawn in this draft, District 8 would not only drop its section of the Upper West Side but also lose portions of East Harlem along Park and Madison Avenues, as well as all of Randalls Island. This draft District 8 would have a majority Bronx population, with 84,872 residents in the Bronx (50.5%) and 83,086 residents in Manhattan (49.5%).

The extent to which District 8 is pushed into the Bronx in this draft appears to be a result of the packing of many Manhattan districts all the way to the legal limit at nearly +5.0%. The ten Manhattan districts in this draft have an average deviation of +4.1%, while the eight Bronx districts have an average deviation of +0.7%. There appears to be no rational explanation for this imbalance.

While these proposed changes to District 8 in East Harlem might look minor on paper, these blocks are home to important cultural and economic institutions like the La Marqueta community marketplace, as you've heard local residents testify. By any definition, they are part of the East Harlem community of interest. If one is attempting to draw a "least change" map that keeps "intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other," as the City Charter clearly states, these blocks would not be removed from the East Harlem district.

It is also very puzzling that a "least change" map would remove Randalls Island from District 8. The Charter is very clear that districts should not cross borough borders unless absolutely necessary and the Commission staff were specifically instructed to respect natural boundaries. Yet Randalls Island, part of Manhattan, is for some reason moved to the Astoria Queens-based District 22 in this plan. In addition to this violation of the City Charter, Randalls Island also has closer association with the community of East Harlem than with Astoria, as part of the same Community Board and current council district.

In response to these proposed radical changes to District 8, Common Cause/NY was approached by Community Voices Heard to examine how restoring the current district boundaries in East Harlem and Randalls Island would affect this draft plan. We found that this can be accomplished with only minor changes to the draft plan.

To pick up the extra population in Manhattan, District 8 has to lose population in the Bronx, which must be redistributed throughout the other districts. This can be done while restoring neighboring districts closer to the way they look under the current plan – District 15 shifts south, District 17 picks up the Yankee Stadium area and no major changes are needed to any

other districts. Populations then have to be rebalanced in Manhattan but this can be done with very minimal changes, with nothing that adversely impacts the Voting Rights Act.

Making these changes would actually restore balance to the distribution of districts in Manhattan and the Bronx – the average deviation for the ten Manhattan districts would be +2.5% and the average deviation of the eight Bronx districts would be +2.9%.

In the attached plan, District 8 would have a total population of 159,829 with 102,709 (64.3%) in Manhattan and 57,120 (35.7%) in the Bronx. This plan demonstrates that there is no demographic or legal reason preventing District 8 from maintaining its current boundaries in East Harlem and Randalls Island. To be clear, we are not proposing a “Common Cause Plan” here. We produced this plan in response to requests by local community organizations to demonstrate how East Harlem could be kept whole in the context of this draft.

We also encourage the Commission to take a close look at the recommendations of the UNITY Plan produced by a coalition of civil rights groups in a collaborative process. The UNITY Plan represents an admirable collaborative balance between different perspectives and offers another alternative for addressing these issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today.

Manhattan City Council Redistricting East Harlem District 8 Restored

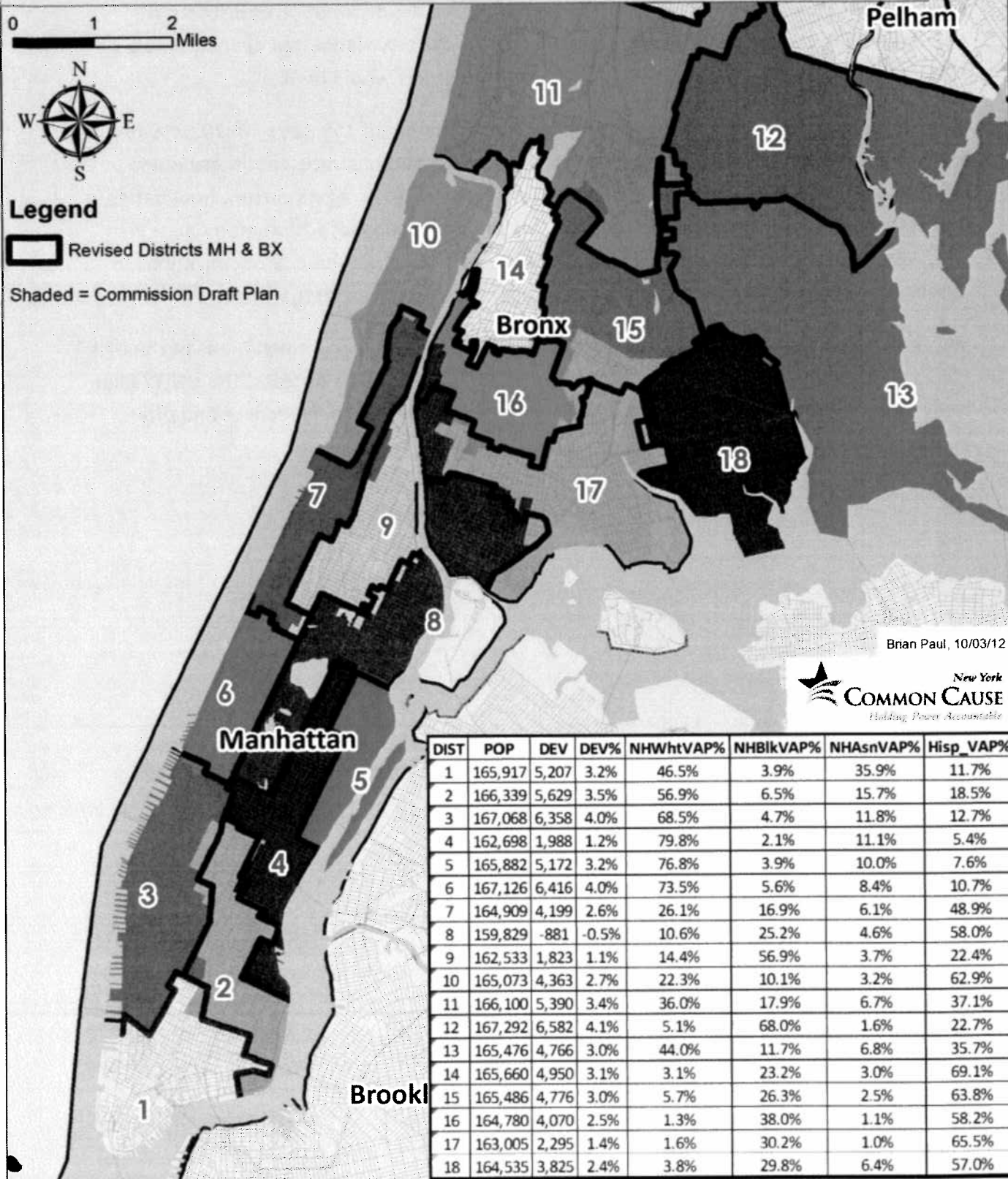
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Legend

Revised Districts MH & BX

Shaded = Commission Draft Plan

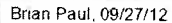


Brian Paul, 10/03/12

New York COMMON CAUSE
Holding Power Accountable

DIST	POP	DEV	DEV%	NHWhtVAP%	NHBikVAP%	NHAsnVAP%	Hisp_VAP%
1	165,917	5,207	3.2%	46.5%	3.9%	35.9%	11.7%
2	166,339	5,629	3.5%	56.9%	6.5%	15.7%	18.5%
3	167,068	6,358	4.0%	68.5%	4.7%	11.8%	12.7%
4	162,698	1,988	1.2%	79.8%	2.1%	11.1%	5.4%
5	165,882	5,172	3.2%	76.8%	3.9%	10.0%	7.6%
6	167,126	6,416	4.0%	73.5%	5.6%	8.4%	10.7%
7	164,909	4,199	2.6%	26.1%	16.9%	6.1%	48.9%
8	159,829	-881	-0.5%	10.6%	25.2%	4.6%	58.0%
9	162,533	1,823	1.1%	14.4%	56.9%	3.7%	22.4%
10	165,073	4,363	2.7%	22.3%	10.1%	3.2%	62.9%
11	166,100	5,390	3.4%	36.0%	17.9%	6.7%	37.1%
12	167,292	6,582	4.1%	5.1%	68.0%	1.6%	22.7%
13	165,476	4,766	3.0%	44.0%	11.7%	6.8%	35.7%
14	165,660	4,950	3.1%	3.1%	23.2%	3.0%	69.1%
15	165,486	4,776	3.0%	5.7%	26.3%	2.5%	63.8%
16	164,780	4,070	2.5%	1.3%	38.0%	1.1%	58.2%
17	163,005	2,295	1.4%	1.6%	30.2%	1.0%	65.5%
18	164,535	3,825	2.4%	3.8%	29.8%	6.4%	57.0%

15



COMMUNITY BOARD #1 – MANHATTAN
RESOLUTION

DATE: OCTOBER 23, 2012

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: QUALITY OF LIFE

COMMITTEE VOTE:	8 In Favor	0 Opposed	0 Abstained	0 Recused
PUBLIC MEMBERS:	3 In Favor	0 Opposed	0 Abstained	0 Recused
BOARD VOTE:	30 In Favor	0 Opposed	0 Abstained	0 Recused

RE: Redistricting in New York City

WHEREAS: City Council district lines are redrawn every decade to conform to demographic changes and adhere to the constitutional requirement of “one-person, one-vote”; and

WHEREAS: The Districting Commission, appointed by the Mayor, is currently conducting public hearings prior to their first district plan submission to the Council on November 5th; and

WHEREAS: Several special interest groups have submitted an alternate district plan titled: *Unity Map*; and

WHEREAS: The *Unity Map* would severely alter District 1, severing Battery Park City and Tribeca from District 1 and placing these two neighborhoods in District 3; and

WHEREAS: Battery Park City and Tribeca share economic, cultural and communal ties with Lower Manhattan; and

WHEREAS: 9/11 left an indelible mark on Lower Manhattan that continues to pervade all civic affairs; and

WHEREAS: CB1 is completely encompassed within District 1 and believes this arrangement produces a single, unified voice for the myriad of quality of life issues and communal amenities needed to keep pace with the revitalization of Lower Manhattan; now

THEREFORE

BE IT

RESOLVED

THAT: CB #1 strongly urges the District Commission and local politicians to keep CB1 completely intact within District 1 and to modify District 1 along the already established district lines.



Matthew S. Washington
Chairman

George Sarkissian
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
1664 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10035
TEL: (212) 831-8929/30
FAX: (212) 369-3571
www.cb11m.org

Community Board 11 Testimony for the NYC Districting Commission October 4, 2012

Community Board 11 represents the Manhattan neighborhood of East Harlem. The community of East Harlem has historically had a distinct identity, which has been created through generations of cultural development and preservation. With a predominantly Latino and African-American constituency, Community Board 11 residents share many of the same hopes and concerns.

Still a relatively low-income community, households in Community Board 11 have a median income of \$30,759. 52% of working age residents are either unemployed or not in the labor force and 32% of residents are living below the Federal poverty level.¹

Affordable housing is essential to almost all our residents, with 93.7% of all rental units rent-stabilized.² While East Harlem has a large housing stock of affordable housing, much of it is in danger of being deregulated due to the rapid gentrification of our community. The Regional Plan Association conducted a study in 2011 of expiring rent-regulated buildings and found 12,500 units may become deregulated within the next 30 years (or 31.7% of the entire housing stock).

Our children struggle to succeed in our public schools with only 38.8% of students performing at grade level in Reading and 50.9% performing at grade level in Math.³ A disproportionate amount of youth in East Harlem live in poverty, with 42.5% of residents under the age of 18 years having lived below the poverty level within the last 12 months.⁴

Residents of East Harlem share many of the same burdens and have similar needs. Thus we require distinct representation at City Council. Many of our residents have expressed concern that our community will be split between two City Council districts and constitute a minority of the population of both Council District 8 and 9 in the preliminary draft City Council map. To appropriately represent the common needs of our community, it is vital that East Harlem constitute the majority of at least one Council District, as it currently does and has in the past.

¹ 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates, PUMA 03804, New York

² "New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods", Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy – NYU, 2011, p. 100

³ Ibid, p. 100

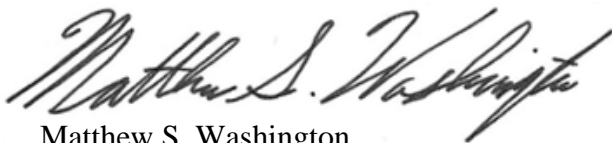
⁴ 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates, PUMA 03804, New York

This is also important for those Bronx residents that will find themselves incorporated into the proposed 8th Council District, as they have unique needs that must be represented at City Council, which often differ from the needs of East Harlem. While both communities have lower income populations, East Harlem is experiencing rapid development and gentrification and needs council representation that can balance growth and ensure it benefits all community residents.

Community residents have also expressed concern regarding the exclusion of Randall's Island from the 8th Council District. The residents of East Harlem are among the most active users of the parkland and facilities located on Randall's Island, including much of the programming offered by the Randall's Island Parks Alliance. Students from several East Harlem public schools utilize Randall's Island regularly. Randall's Island is also a part of Community Board 11. Our Community Board reviews and comments on new proposals or improvements to public parkland on Randall's Island and provides East Harlem residents an opportunity to participate in the review process. Randall's Island also has two pedestrian footbridges that physically connect to East Harlem, allowing local resident easy access to the public spaces found there. The connection between East Harlem and Randall's Island is the strongest of any adjacent community and therefore it must remain in the Council District that represents East Harlem.

Finally, La Marqueta, which is found underneath the Metro North Railroad on Park Avenue between East 116th Street and East 113th Street, has been placed in the 9th Council District in the preliminary draft City Council map. La Marqueta has always been associated with the historic neighborhood of Spanish Harlem/El Barrio, now represented through the 8th Council District. The cultural connection between this historic market and the Puerto Rican community found in East Harlem dates back many decades. Recent work to revive La Marqueta has brought hope to many local residents that the old glory of the market can be recaptured. Community residents have expressed a desire to have the market remain a part of the 8th Council District to maintain its connection to the Puerto Rican community in East Harlem.

We look forward to reviewing the Districting Commission's updated maps that will hopefully include our community situated in the majority of at least one council district, and include both Randall's Island and La Marqueta in the 8th Council District.



Matthew S. Washington
Chairman
Community Board 11

**CB9M**

16-18 Old Broadway
New York, New York 10027
(212) 864-6200/Fax # 662-7396

COMMUNITY BOARD #9, MANHATTAN

October 31, 2012

Scott Stringer
President, Borough of Manhattan

Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas
Chair

Carolyn R. Thompson
First Vice-Chair

Judith L. Insell
Second Vice-Chair

Barbara Marshall
Treasurer

Anthony Q. Fletcher
Assistant Treasurer

Carole L. Singleton
Secretary

Theodore Kovaleff
Assistant Secretary

•

Eutha Prince
District Manager

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

Dear Sir:

We the members of Community Board 9 Manhattan submit this letter to express concerns that we have regarding the preliminary maps drawn by the Districting Commission and urge you to strongly consider the following in your deliberation concerning the new lines.

Configuration of CD 7

We realize that the current configuration of CD7 must be changed because of the shifts in population in Upper Manhattan, however, we do not think that the preliminary map of CD 7 as drawn reflects lines with which community members would be satisfied.

The preliminary map proposed by the Commission unnaturally severs a portion of Hamilton Heights right through a residential brownstone neighborhood (142nd St). Additionally, this map cuts right through Trinity Cemetery and the buildings of The Church of the Intercession, historically associated with each other. The members of the Community Board and residents have expressed their desire to have the entire Community Board area included in one Council District without chopping Morningside Heights or Hamilton Heights into pieces.

Community Testimony/Requests for Additional Public Hearing


Given the fact that many CB9 members and residents (as well as residents of other Community Board Districts) took issue with the preliminary lines drawn by the Commission, we request that you schedule an additional round of hearings prior to submitting the maps to the City Council for a vote.

We greatly appreciate the time and effort the Commissioners and staff have devoted to this very important process, but we feel strongly that there must be additional and continued community input into the lines that once finalized will impact our future representation and access to resources for the next decade.

NYC Districting Commission
October 31, 2012
Page 2

Thank You

Sincerely,



Rev. Georgiette Morgan Thomas
Chair

Carol Conway
35 Bond Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10012

Date: October 24, 2012

To: NYC Districting Commission
253 Broadway, 7th Floor, NY, NY 10007

From Carol Conway

Re: Opposition to proposal to change NoHo's City Council District

As president of 35 Bond Street Corp., an AIR co-op, and as a resident of Noho for 38 years, I am opposed to the proposal to move the core area of NoHo from City Council District 1 to District 2.

NoHo should not be severed from SoHo. The two neighborhoods are "communities of interest" as defined by the NYC Charter, Section 52 (c). NoHo and SoHo are the same neighborhood as defined by zoning put in place forty years ago. The unique zoning is the M1-5B Zoning District and permits Joint Living Work Quarters for Artists (JLWQA) under State legislation.

Furthermore both are historic landmark districts with a similar history and architectural heritage, including cast-iron architecture. Both have a predominance of loft buildings occupied by artists. Residents of Noho and Soho share the same concerns and have a similar demographic. This community of interests does not exist between NoHo and any neighborhood in District 2.

I respectfully request that the commission maintain NoHo's place in District 1 with its sister community of SoHo.

Sincerely,



Carol Conway,
President
35 Bond Street Corp.

cc: Hon. Margaret Chin, City Council District 1
Hon. Rosie Mendez, City Council District 2
Sean Sweeney, Director, SoHo Alliance

October 3, 2012

REGARDING: REDRAWING THE DISTRICTS - DISTRICT #1

In support of keeping the District 1 communities together.

Dear Redistricting Commission members:

With my upmost sincerity, I would like to submit the following as testimony for our Tribeca community to remain in the district it is currently part of. We support NO CHANGE.

My name is Diane Lapson. I am a member of Community Board #1 on the Housing and Planning and Quality of Life committees. Most importantly, I am the President of the Independence Plaza Tenants Association, a large building complex opened in 1975 in a neighborhood now known as Tribeca. Independence Plaza (IP) has approximately 3,500 residents. The majority of these tenants constitute the ONLY affordable housing in Tribeca. But our numbers show that WE ARE TRIBECA. The area has recently been associated with wealth. IP is comprised mostly by folks fighting to keep affordable housing downtown.

Our key point is that the majority of our IP residents were present on September 11, 2001 when the terrible attack on America took place. We witnessed the entire attack, which included the planes hitting the buildings, the explosion and fires, the people jumping, the terrible aftermath, the original ten days when we had to care for all of our residents and neighbors who didn't have food; and the years that followed. Those years included hard work on having our downtown and local community environment cleaned properly, creating health care clinics for all of those who have been negatively impacted by the environmental disaster, helping to deal with all of those suffering from trauma and post traumatic stress, rebuilding, re-populating, and all of the numerous issues stemming from such an attack. I personally helped the Department of Health implement and manifest a Health Registry to track symptoms of 9/11 related illnesses, was appointed by the Mayor to serve on the DOH's Community Advisory Committee, was secretary of the World Trade Center Residents Coalition, to mention a few activities. These are all related to the World Trade Center – 9/11 attacks. There were endless other issues that involved the downtown area that I and my neighbors have also participated in since we moved in. That includes developing what is now known as Tribeca, when it was originally named Washington Market. We helped build schools, obtain supermarkets, have the roads paved and participated in everything you can imagine to create the viable neighborhood it is today.

First, I would like to say that issues affecting the downtown area are very different than the Soho or Greenwich Village area. This is especially true because of the already mentioned 9/11/2001 attacks. The entire downtown community has worked together to accomplish a great deal. Issues that affect our residents are unique and frankly most communities on the other side of Canal Street cannot truly relate to what we have been through and what we have done to try and remedy much of the damage. I would add that many residents on the East Side, cut off by Houston Street also shared in our experience. We all need each other.

As I said when we were told that parts of our community were going to be separated out from our State Senator Daniel Squadron's district this past year, we are even more than a "community of interest." We are actually *a special needs community and will remain so until all of us who experienced 9/11 and our children who remain here are dead and gone.* All of our

neighborhoods have at least had each other to support and work together to accomplish much. As ***a special needs community of interest***, removing a piece of it is counter productive and frankly, unacceptable to all of us and doesn't make good sense. It doesn't feel right, it doesn't feel logical. Though you may say that 9/11/01 was 11 years ago, to those of us who live downtown, below Canal Street and parts of China Town (where the neighborhoods were literally cut off from everyone else) it was as if it happened yesterday. Not a day goes by where all of us, in one way or another, aren't reminded of that experience. It could be just a few moments – but I would venture to say the great majority of us will relive part of it each day. To us downtown, though moving on does not mean staying stuck in the past, we have brought the past along with our growth and it's a part of us.

Our community and Community Board #1 knows how to work with each other to be effective. We know what the issues are and we know how to help. Our elected officials have already been part of this process and have been instrumental in helping us fix a lot of what was broken during 9/11 or never fixed when a big population boom took place. They already know our issues and as exhausting as the chores have been, to start from scratch with a new elected official is a bit ludicrous.

I have spoken to many of our residents at Independence Plaza and they are stunned to hear that our part of the neighborhood could be moved out politically, to be part of a community we are so different than.

I urge the committee researching and making this decision to reconsider Tribeca. We may now have a high real estate reputation, but we our citizens are not units of real estate. Tucked into Tribeca are downtowners who have stuck together through an experience that was beyond any of our imaginations; who have put blood, sweat and tears into all of the issues that have affected the entire downtown community and are committed to continue. Tucked into Tribeca is one of the ONLY affordable housing communities in lower Manhattan, representing, in New Yorkers who keep the town running. The teachers, the firemen, the police, the secretaries, the construction workers – the middle income residents of Independence Plaza. We often need the support of our outlying community and we have lent our support to them and their issues as well.

I deeply appreciate your consideration in this serious manner, and hope you will agree that lower Manhattan should remain part of the Community Board #1 area, where we can be most effective and have the most assistance; and to continue sharing our elected official, in this case, Margaret Chin (District 1) - who has committed herself to helping us accomplish so much that remains to be done. At the very most and least, we oppose the Unity Map and would consider the current proposal by the Districting Commission to be acceptable to us.

Thank you so much for your attention to this critical matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Lapson

(917) [REDACTED]

40 [REDACTED]

New York, NY [REDACTED]

Dlapson@[REDACTED]

Hearings

From: linda gerstman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 12:15 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: 1st Council District

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend this evening's redistricting meeting, so I am writing to put my opposition to the redistricting plan on record. I own (and reside in) a condominium in the Financial District. Our community has endured more than any other neighborhood in this city and is uniquely bonded as we work together to rebuild. Not only are we united by the aftermath of 9/11 and the rebuilding of the WTC, but also by the fact that this is the fastest growing residential neighborhood and we need to continue to work together to combat the issues that impact all of us – such as school overcrowding, traffic, vending and construction. Dividing our district and removing Battery Park City and Tribeca would be a disservice to those of us who answered the call to help rebuild lower Manhattan. Now is NOT the time to divide our community.

Regards,

Linda Gerstman

[REDACTED]
NY, NY [REDACTED]
212 [REDACTED]

New York City Districting Commission
253 Broadway 7th floor
New York, NY 10007

7/24/12

We are requesting that you do not remove the core area of NOHO from City Council District 1 to District 2 as we do not want to be separate from SOHO. Both NOHO and SOHO have common interests. We have the same zoning, joint living and working for artists and similar cultural concerns. Most of the buildings in NOHO are occupied by artists. Our Co Op is solely occupied by artists and we request that we remain in District 1.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy English, president 46 Great Jones Reality Corp.
46 Great Jones Street
New York, New York 10012



Gmail - Re: Thursday, October 4th 2012 Hearing

Re: Thursday, October 4th 2012 Hearing

PatrickYYau [REDACTED]

Thu, Oct 4, 2012 at 2:34 PM

To: hearings@districting.nyc.gov

Cc: [REDACTED]

To the Chair of this Hearing,

I would like to write to you to be presented at the Manhattan districting hearing on Thursday, October 4th, 2012.

I am a Community Development Director of a locally owned and operated community bank in Chinatown Manhattan which has been since 2002 certified by the US Dept. of the Treasury as a *Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI)*.

The idea of creating minority districts is hazardous. The "Unity Map" as advocated by several organizations, including Asian American Legal Defense Fund, have taken aim at several council districts, including the 1st Council District where we do business.

In their effort to increase minority representation through their "Unity Map," this coalition of advocacy groups has done just the opposite. Instead of having two minority representatives and hence two pots of resources and funding, the "Unity Map" runs the risk that only one minority candidate could be elected in the future. This means fewer resources for both the Lower East Side and Chinatown.

We strongly opposed such Unity Map.

Patrick Yau
Executive Director
First American International Bank
恆通銀行
游應鴻執行總監

Chinatown Office
79 Bayard Street, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10013
Tel. 212-619-8338 (X22)
Fax 212-619-8017

Lumping people together in a district does not guarantee a minority candidate will be elected. Only registering people to vote can increase voter participation and make a difference in electing minority candidates.

Testimony for NYC Districting Commission

October 4, 2012

Submitted by:

Peter Cheng
Renaissance EDC*
1 Pike Street
New York, NY 10002
Ph: 347-489-6965
Pcheng128@aol.com

Hello, my name is Peter Cheng and I have been working in Chinatown for close to 30 years. When I first arrived in New York City back in the '70s, the number of Asians in Chinatown was much fewer and occupied a correspondingly smaller area. Through subsequent decades, Chinatown's population has increased dramatically and the community has expanded to cover its present boundaries.

As so often happens in New York City, when one ethnic group expands and moves onto other neighborhoods, ethnic tensions crop up. To be candid, there was friction between Hispanics and Asians in the Lower East Side. Both groups were predominantly low-income and language-disadvantaged. With similar needs, they competed for space, funding, and other resources. I know this from my personal experience of working in the community for almost thirty years. Fortunately, these conflicts have largely subsided. However, if we are to combine Chinatown with the Lower East Side, I am afraid lingering tensions may flare up again when both will fight for the same representation. This will be tragic as we shall pit one low-income group against another. In my opinion, the present situation with both communities having their own spokeswomen is ideal.

Looking forward, the rebuilding of the World Trade Center gives great anticipation to Chinatown. After 9/11, Chinatown's economy was devastated. Barely 10 blocks away from the WTC, Chinatown felt the full impact of the collapse of the twin towers. It was estimated one-tenth of the job loss in NYC came from Chinatown. As the former Chair of the Chinatown Partnership LDC and board member of the Chinatown BID, I believe the expected millions of tourists visiting the new WTC and the thousands of returning workers to the site will bring economic benefits to our community. To this end, it would be preferable for Chinatown and Downtown to be represented within the same district.

In conclusion, I urge you to keep City Council District 1 largely intact. Like so many Asian Americans, I used to long for an Asian American to represent Chinatown. This has become a reality. I say, "If it ain't broke, why fix it?"

Thank you for giving me a chance to testify and listening to my concerns.

*For identification only.

October 4th, 2012

NOTE: I am submitting this testimony via the NYC Districting Commission's website on 10/9/12 so that it appears online for the constituents of CD7 & CD10, and any others that are interested in reading testimony concerning these districts. I was present to testify the following on the 4th, however the Districting Commission cut off many people that were pre-registered and signed in to testify. Many of us had patiently waited hours to testify, only to be told we could not because the Commission made an agreement to vacate the venue by 9pm. Throughout the evening the Commission allowed speakers that exceeded their two minute allotted time to continue speaking, in many cases for several minutes, robbing many other Manhattanites the ability to testify. The following is what I would have presented to the Commission, had the testimonies been allowed to continue:

Good evening. My name is Alex Luis Castex-Porter. I am 29, and a lifelong resident of Washington Heights in what is currently the 10th City Council District. I work in residential real estate sales and primarily work in the 7th and 10th Council Districts.

The current proposed maps for the 7th and 10th districts are enormously troubling for several reasons.

First, the connections in these neighborhoods that I am going to describe tend to run in a north/south direction along the avenues, as do the geographical features of the land. These two points are extremely important when confronting the redistricting process in northern Manhattan.

The 7th district has been obviously dismantled and skewed, throwing out the window ties that have bound these neighborhoods for my entire life. Furthermore, as a Latino, I am upset that the 10th district's proposed map has diluted the power of my vote, and the chance that I will be represented by a Latino in the City Council.

Washington Heights and Inwood, under the proposed maps would also only have one councilmember north of 182nd Street which will limit funding in the four or five distinct sub-neighborhoods that are north of 181st Street from river to river.

These maps also pose a problem because they've put 5% more residents in each district when compared to other districts city wide.

Council District 7 has a wide range of common concerns and interests including:

- Bus and subway lines: M4, M5, M98, A-Train, C-Train and 1-Train.
- Many condos and cooperatives, meaning many home owners.
- The Greenway linking northern Manhattan to Battery Park.
- Waterfront Parks including Riverbank, which is a state park, and Fort Tryon Park, Fort Washington Park, Riverside Park, and Inwood Hill Park & Nature Center, which are city parks.
- Shared automobile transportation concerns in regards to the Henry Hudson Highway, George Washington Bridge, Trans-Manhattan Expressway and access points to these roads.
- Shared Columbia University facilities including the main campus, which lies just outside of District 7, The New York Presbyterian Hospital and Baker Field.

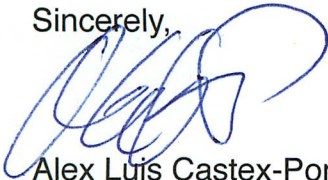
Council District 10 also has a wide range of common concerns and interests that include:

- Bus and subway lines: BX7, M3, M100, M101 and the 1-Train (north of 168th Street).
- Highbridge Park and the Sherman Creek Waterfront Esplanade.
- Immigrant rights advocacy and CBOs that do outreach to immigrant families, and children who are recent immigrants to the United States.
- Affordable housing, and tenants rights advocacy for those that are having rights violated by landlords.
- And of great importance council District 10 has one, if not the largest, Dominican populations in the world outside of the Dominican Republic.

These commonalities are obvious to anyone who has spent an afternoon walking through these neighborhoods. I would encourage you all to take a walking tour this weekend and become acclimated with the area, as the maps that have been proposed seem to have been drawn without a hint of knowledge about Washington Heights and Inwood.

I wish you well in this difficult process, and hope that the next maps reflect the neighborhoods more accurately.

Sincerely,



Alex Luis Castex-Porter

Testimony before
The New York City Districting Commission

October 4, 2012

by Mark D. Levine

Thank you. My name is Mark Levine, and I am a Democratic District Leader from the 71st Assembly District in Washington Heights. I am here to provide feedback on the drawing of the 7th and 10th Councilmanic districts uptown.

In short, the commission's first proposal for these districts was simply terrible. There are a few principles that most New Yorkers expect the Commission to be mindful of in drawing our new maps: 1) there should be an effort to keep together communities of common interest, 2) minority voting power should be protected, and 3) the basic notion of fairness should be adhered to.

Unfortunately, when it comes to Northern Manhattan, the Commission's preliminary plan failed on each of these counts.

First, the plan rips apart Northern Manhattan neighborhoods along the Hudson--namely Hamilton Heights, Washington Heights, and Inwood--areas with deep ties and a decades-long history of common representation in the 7th Council district, areas that remain connected today in the Assembly and Senate districts. I and many other testified about the nature of these deep ties in the August hearing so I won't repeat myself on this today, but suffice to say that these waterfront neighborhoods are connected by common parks and transit lines, a common school district, the presence of Columbia University campuses, similarly high rates of homeownership, and much more. That's why every effort should be made to keep these waterfront neighborhoods together in a common district.

Second, the Commission's preliminary plan dramatically dilutes Latino voting power in the 10th District, which traditionally has been overwhelmingly Latino. Under the new plan the portion of Latinos among regular votes in a Democratic primary would drop to 51%. I am talking about the so-called "prime Dems" number, which is far more relevant to the outcome of elections than raw census numbers. And if current demographic trends continue uptown than your proposal would ensure that Latinos would cease to be a majority of primary voters in the 10th district in just a few short years.

And lest you think that there were compensating gains for Latino voting power in the newly

drawn 7th, the numbers there are even weaker, with Latinos making us just 30% of regular primary voters.

And finally there is the issue of fairness. As many have already pointed out, the Commission's proposal packs in 5% more voters to almost every Manhattan District as compared to the city-wide average. This is exactly the same tactic employed by State Senate Republicans, who pack in more voters downstate to dilute our voting power--and we downstaters have rightly been highly critical of this. That fact is that Manhattan's population has *grown* relative to the rest of the city and we should see a corresponding increase in representation here. Instead we are losing one Council seat to the Bronx.

And this practice of over-packing directly affects the Washington Heights area, where the extra growth has made the contortions in the 7th and 10th districts even worse.

None of this has to happen. The commission has received multiple proposed maps that comply with every legal obligation, avoid the weaknesses of the current proposal, and leave the uptown districts largely intact. I urge you take these suggestions and jettison your preliminary draft plan.

Thank you

Hearings

From: Beth Servetar [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 3:58 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: council district 6

I believe that my district, Council District 6, should extend northward to include Manhattan Valley. It should run from the Hudson River to CPW up through 110th St. I do not see the logic of splitting the neighborhood between W 97th & 110th Streets between two council members (by splitting this area along Broadway).

Beth Servetar
[REDACTED]

Marc Landis

Democrat for City Council

**TESTIMONY OF MARC A. LANDIS
PRESENTED TO THE MANHATTAN PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE
NEW YORK CITY DISTRICTING COMMISSION
OCTOBER 4, 2012**

My name is Marc Landis, and I am an elected Democratic District Leader on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. I serve as the chairperson of the New York County Democratic County Committee and the co-chair of its Campaigns and Elections Committee. I am also a candidate for City Council, residing in what is currently District 6. I testified at your last Manhattan Public Hearing on August 16, 2012 and thank you for the opportunity to appear before you again today.

At the August 16 hearing, I called upon you to shift the current District 6 a few blocks further north, so as to establish a compact, concise Upper West Side district that runs from West 57th Street or West 59th Street up to West 100th Street. In fact, you moved the northern boundary to West 97th Street east of Amsterdam Avenue, properly integrating the residents of Central Park Gardens, Tower West, and the Westgate complex now known as Stonehenge into a district with the rest of the Upper West Side neighbors, and with nearby access to constituent services.

However, your proposal only reaches West 97th Street east of Amsterdam Avenue, thereby omitting the residents of the two “superblocks” located between West 97th and West 100th Streets, Amsterdam Avenue to Central Park West – instead, they were divided between two other districts. Park West Village is a singular community, encompassing a classic Upper West Side mix of rent-stabilized tenants, condominium owners and luxury rentals, senior citizen and young families. By any reasonable logic, the residents of Park West Village and Columbus Square should be included in District 6. I have attached a proposed map which shows how this can be done.

(over)

Marc Landis, Democrat for City Council
(212) 724-8300 voice
landisforny@gmail.com
<http://www.VoteLandis.com>
Twitter: Landis4NewYork

Marc Landis

Democrat for City Council

**TESTIMONY OF MARC A. LANDIS
PRESENTED TO THE MANHATTAN PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE
NEW YORK CITY DISTRICTING COMMISSION
OCTOBER 4, 2012**

In the hopefully unlikely event that this Commission does not see fit to include the two Park West Village “superblocks” in District 6, then I call upon you to keep Park West Village in a single district, rather than splitting it between two districts.

This evening, I am accompanied by a number of residents of Park West Village, led by Maggi Peyton, the president of the Park West Village Tenants Association, who are here representing many of their neighbors in supporting the inclusion of both superblocks into District 6. My colleagues Joan Paylo and Nick Prigo, the Democratic District Leaders who represent this area, are also strong supporters of this effort, and I thank them for spending the time to participate in tonight’s hearing.

I thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony, and urge you to ensure that our Upper West Side neighborhoods will be fairly represented once your work is completed.

-30-

Marc Landis, Democrat for City Council
(212) 724-8300 voice
landisforny@gmail.com
<http://www.VoteLandis.com>
Twitter: Landis4NewYork

Districts	Population	Deviation	% Deviation	NH_Wh	NH_Wh_Blk	% NH_Wh	NH_Blk	Hispanic	% Hispanic	NH_Asn	% NH_Asn	NH_Oth	% NH_Oth	[18+_Pop]	% [18+_Po]	NH18+_W	% NH18+_W	NH18+_B	% NH18+_B
1	167,834	7,124	4.3	76,053	45,31	6,709	4	20,520	12.3	60,229	35.8	4,323	2.58	145,277	86.53	67,791	46.68	5,775	
2	167,452	6,742	4.2	92,117	55,01	12,311	6.71	33,753	20.26	25,924	15.48	4,427	2.64	151,013	90.58	87,064	57.65	9,252	
3	166,091	5,381	3.35	111,488	67.12	8,068	4.86	22,563	13.58	19,241	11.58	4,731	2.85	152,627	91.89	104,455	68.44	7,173	
4	161,266	556	0.35	127,792	79.24	3,734	2.32	9,401	5.83	16,989	10.53	3,500	2.08	142,029	88.07	112,787	69.41	3,429	
5	165,882	5,172	3.22	125,893	75.89	6,438	3.88	13,083	7.89	16,572	9.99	3,896	2.35	145,519	87.72	111,739	76.79	5,648	
6	168,648	7,938	4.94	122,903	72.88	9,586	5.68	18,391	10.9	13,689	8.12	4,079	2.42	144,878	85.91	106,145	73.27	8,479	
7	167,487	6,777	4.2	56,931	33.98	27,073	16.16	68,381	40.83	10,809	6.45	4,313	2.58	139,557	83.32	50,304	36.05	22,610	
8	158,091	-2,619	-1.63	133,091	82.8	40,467	25.71	95,273	60.27	6,497	4.07	6,343	1.67	118,634	75.04	11,768	9.92	30,927	
9	161,048	338	0.21	17,442	10.83	94,992	58.98	39,183	24.33	4,837	3	4,594	2.85	126,670	78.65	15,558	12.36	75,479	
10	163,470	2,760	1.72	18,958	11.6	13,012	7.96	126,092	77.13	3,281	2.01	2,127	1.33	129,699	79.34	17,165	13.23	10,789	

Hearings

From: Agnes Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 21, 2012 10:32 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

The African American citizen voting-age population would be greatly diminished in the 7th Council District under this proposed map and the shift of political influence would be given to a white citizen voting-age population.

The Upper Manhattan Empowerment District's proposed map offered as an alternative is even worse. The latter seems to create a special district for Columbia University whereas Columbia University would be the epicenter. Both plans would put Columbia University under the auspices of a majority white population which on its face would be preferable to Columbia University considering the history between Columbia and the African American Community in Harlem.

It would also leave two public housing developments in the 7th District, Grant Houses and Manhattanville Houses, largely occupied by African Americans, vulnerable to predators. It is a commonly known fact that these two developments have been considered for some sort of privatization plan.

However, African Americans are the majority citizen voting-age population in all of Harlem. There are approximately 60,000 African Americans in West Harlem, 52,000 Dominicans and 33,000 whites. In all of the 7th District the African American population is 37%. The Dominican percentage is 47% and the white population is 15%.

Although the Dominican population in the entire 7th District is the majority population the Dominican citizen voting-age population does not have the majority. Having an African American representing the 7th District in city council for 3 terms, coupled with the total African American population in the 7th District, is evidence that the African American "minority" population is significant in this district if not self determining and is a protected group under the Voting Rights Act.

To reduce the African American population to 17% (both proposed maps) putting such group at the bottom of the top three ethnic groups by drawing into the 7th District a white neighborhood, carving a large percentage of the Black population in West Harlem out of the 7th District and putting them into the 9th District and cutting out African American neighborhoods in Lower Washington Heights is gerrymandering at its best.

Furthermore, these new boundary lines seem to purposely carve out the residences of potential African American candidates for the 7th Council District in the 2013 councilmanic race, which will be open in 2013. Particularly, one of the candidates ran in 2009 and there is a logical inclination that he would run again, especially since the council seat will be opened in 2013.

Therefore we ask that the Commission preserve the majority "minority" voting power that is already in place in the 7th District. Altering other Upper Manhattan Districts to compensate for an unequal district population

because of population shifts at the expense of the "minority" voting power in the 7th District is not fair. Those districts do not lose their actual "minority" voting power.

The 7th District meets all of the criteria to preserve its "minority" voting power population under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and such proposed maps violate both Sections 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

Agnes Johnson
Bronx, New York

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/new-york-city-districting-commission-do-not-change-the-nyc-councilmanic-boundary-lines-for-northern-manhattan>. To respond, [click here](#)

October 4th, 2012

NOTE: I am submitting this testimony via the NYC Districting Commission's website on 10/9/12 so that it appears online for the constituents of CD7 & CD10, and any others that are interested in reading testimony concerning these districts. I was present to testify the following on the 4th, however the Districting Commission cut off many people that were pre-registered and signed in to testify. Many of us had patiently waited hours to testify, only to be told we could not because the Commission made an agreement to vacate the venue by 9pm. Throughout the evening the Commission allowed speakers that exceeded their two minute allotted time to continue speaking, in many cases for several minutes, robbing many other Manhattanites the ability to testify. The following is what I would have presented to the Commission, had the testimonies been allowed to continue:

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First, the connections in these neighborhoods that I am going to describe tend to run in a north/south direction along the avenues, as do the geographical features of the land. These two points are extremely important when confronting the redistricting process in northern Manhattan.

The 7th district has been obviously dismantled and skewed, throwing out the window ties that have bound these neighborhoods for my entire life. Furthermore, as a Latino, I am upset that the 10th district's proposed map has diluted the power of my vote, and the chance that I will be represented by a Latino in the City Council.

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Council District 7 has a wide range of common concerns and interests including:

- Bus and subway lines: M4, M5, M98, A-Train, C-Train and 1-Train.
- Many condos and cooperatives, meaning many home owners.
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- Shared automobile transportation concerns in regards to the Henry Hudson Highway, George Washington Bridge, Trans-Manhattan Expressway and access points to these roads.
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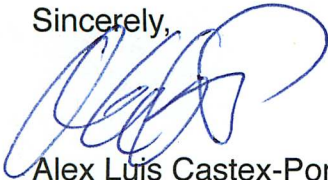
Council District 10 also has a wide range of common concerns and interests that include:

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- Immigrant rights advocacy and CBOs that do outreach to immigrant families, and children who are recent immigrants to the United States.
- Affordable housing, and tenants rights advocacy for those that are having rights violated by landlords.
- And of great importance council District 10 has one, if not the largest, Dominican populations in the world outside of the Dominican Republic.

These commonalities are obvious to anyone who has spent an afternoon walking through these neighborhoods. I would encourage you all to take a walking tour this weekend and become acclimated with the area, as the maps that have been proposed seem to have been drawn without a hint of knowledge about Washington Heights and Inwood.

I wish you well in this difficult process, and hope that the next maps reflect the neighborhoods more accurately.

Sincerely,



Alex Luis Castex-Porter

October 4, 2012

Commissioners of the NYC Redistricting Commission
Schomberg Research Center for Black Culture
515 Malcolm X Boulevard
New York, NY 10031

Commissioners:

I am speaking tonight to address the continuing division of the Upper West Side village sometimes known as Manhattan Valley and specifically the close knit neighborhood of the Upper West Side from Central Park to Riverside Parks and 96th Street to 110th street.

At the preliminary hearings, the commissioners heard about the oddity that the Upper West Side above 96th street, a ethnically diverse but a community of strong common interests, has been divided in the past and projected by the draft council lines to be divided in the future. Our natural community lines bounded by the Hudson River on the west and by Central Park and Morningside Park are recognized and use by nearly every city service district:

24th Precinct 96th to 110th Street
School District 3 57th to 123rd Street
5th Judicial District 59th to 110th Street
Columbus Amsterdam Business Improvement District
Library Catchment area
Health District

Our community, though ethnically and economically diverse, works together, from Riverside to Central Park West on our common local issues. In 2007, the Department of City Planning together with members of our community, and community board rezoned our neighborhood from 96th to 110th Streets CPW to Riverside Park in a two year effort.

Two years later, our community came together to support our locals schools, PS 145 and then PS 163 when the charter schools tried to evict the public schools. Again, this tight knit neighborhood rallied again.

And just last year, our Manhattan Valley neighborhood insisted on extending the Upper West Side retailing rezoning to preserve our local neighborhood stores for our natural retailing and if effect, our

downtown, Amsterdam Avenue and Broadway, between 96th and 110th streets. These business avenues service the neighborhood from CPW to Riverside.

It should be noted, that we have been very fortunate for the past eight years to be represented and supported by two extraordinary community centered council representatives, Melissa Mark Viverito, who has represented Manhattan Valley east of Amsterdam Avenue and Inez Dickens who has represented the area west of Amsterdam. Their strong backing and leadership has enabled us to work together. We are also extremely fortunate to have the UWS Council Member Gale Brewer as our neighboring council member who has both helped and led on several of our initiatives even though it is not her district.

At the last hearing, we requested a single district for our neighborhood and mentioned that most of our service districts run north south between Riverside Park on the west and the Morningside and Central Park on the west. The draft proposal divides are unified neighborhood into strips attached to two districts that run north into the northern borders of Manhattan. This makes even less sense than the previous district.

While we understand that some neighborhood must be at the tail end of a district and because of the maximum packed population of most of the Manhattan council districts, some council district must be that tail end. However it is unfair and unreasonable that not only that our community again be divided but now we will be attached to a council district with which we have no history or relationship – and furthermore matches our ethnic makeup the least. While personally, I think that basing representative district based upon ethnic population divides communities more than it represents them, since the federal guidelines converging NYC districts does mandate drawing districts that increase minority representation, then it should be noted that Manhattan Valley's largest minority is Hispanic in over a two to one ratio over the next largest ethnic group.

Therefore, if our neighborhood must be divided, and again it should not because we are a wonderful multiethnic community that works extremely well together and fights for our common neighborhood interests, but if it must then we should continue to be linked to Council District 8 which has represented us for the last 20 years, and very ably represented us for the last 20 years by Melissa Mark Viverito and Phil Reed, and has whose minority population in the district as a whole is similar to our own.

Finally there is a fairly easy solution for the commission. Simply return the Upper West Side part of that is in the draft portion of Council District 7 to Council District 8 and give the northwest part of the Manhattan portion of Council District 8 to Council District 7 so that the populations remain the same.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Botfeld

Democratic District Leader 69th AD – Part A

Hearings

From: CATHERINE UNSINO [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 1:16 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Speaking at Oct. 4th Hearing on Re-Districting in Manhattan -- For your adoption of the Unity Coalition Recommendations

Dear Re-Districting Commission:

I speak in strong opposition to the re-districting proposed for the upper west side, especially but not exclusively about the plan

1) to split in two the historic 7 building complex located between 97th and 100th Streets (n/s) and Central Park West and Columbus Avenue (e/w) known as Park West Village; and
2) I also object to re-districting that would remove our effective, dedicated and committed Council Member Melissa Mark Viverito. She must continue to represent us as she has diligently on the upper westside.

1) I moved into Park West Village in 1968 because it was a racially and economically diverse, international, inclusive, progressive community -- a model for how we hoped our country would become. In fact at that time this area of the upper westside was renowned nationally as a unique and exemplary community in which people knew and mattered to each other across lines that elsewhere would categorize and compartmentalize us.

Neighbors within Park West Village have a history of sustained civic engagement on a range of issues of social justice. We have organized fund raisers for progressive causes and are politically active. We have formed self-help directories in each building to organize volunteers to help seniors and others. We developed a listserve for residents of our 7 buildings. We have formed book and film clubs, exercise programs, picnics, flea markets and a range of community activities open to all. To split this vibrant community along east/west lines would be a great injustice and would serve to weaken our voices and effective civic engagement. It would serve no constructive purpose for the people affected. One is moved to ask: what prompts this proposed re-districting at this time? Is it a strategy that would benefit individuals maneuvering for political advantage to the detriment of the best interest of citizens? That should be unequivocally rejected.

We read newspaper articles de-crying rampant income segregation across our country and see first hand how our city caters to the super rich while squeezing low and middle income New Yorkers beyond endurance. The district as it is presently constituted encompasses residents that embody the full spectrum of income levels. We use the same library, relax in the same area of Central Park, swim in its pool in the summer, buy produce at the same Farmers' Market, shop in the same stores. We know and matter to each other. If your proposal were to go through, Park West Village's representation would be split, we would be cut off from the Douglass Houses, from our neighbors at 106th St whom we have come to know and value. Often at our Farmers' Market, I see tourists enjoying the scene, led there by guides who volunteer to accompany them to interesting New York City Sites. They aren't only enjoying the fresh produce. Clearly, they are moved by the joyful diversity of our neighbors shopping together, exchanging international and regional recipes while enjoying the lively beat of our local jazz trio. Why would you tear apart such a beautiful fabric? First, do no harm.

2) Councilmember Melissa Mark Viverito has encompassed well the needs of her upper west side constituents, while also addressing concerns of those in East Harlem and the Bronx. I have met many new friends among residents of East Harlem I would otherwise not have had the opportunity to know. She has participated in our community meetings, has come to our homes, schools and community rooms learning first hand what our issues are, lending her expertise to help us grow grass roots initiatives and advocating for fairness and the people's

interest when those are threatened. Council Member Mark Viverito is an exemplary public official whose district must remain intact so she can continue superior representation. We value her effective, dedicated hard work and would find it destructive to all we value to lose her and her services at this critical time in our community. We urge that you embrace the universally valued admonition: First, do no harm.

CONCLUSION

We want our Council Member Melissa Mark Viverito to continue to represent us.

We urge that you retain our current district configuration and adopt recommendations promulgated by the Unity Coalition.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Unsino, LCSW

[REDACTED]
New York, NY [REDACTED]

Hearings

From: Sherrie Teachey <mail@change.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 06, 2012 7:00 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

The African American citizen voting-age population would be greatly diminished in the 7th Council District under this proposed map and the shift of political influence would be given to a white citizen voting-age population.

The Upper Manhattan Empowerment District's proposed map offered as an alternative is even worse. The latter seems to create a special district for Columbia University whereas Columbia University would be the epicenter. Both plans would put Columbia University under the auspices of a majority white population which on its face would be preferable to Columbia University considering the history between Columbia and the African American Community in Harlem.

It would also leave two public housing developments in the 7th District, Grant Houses and Manhattanville Houses, largely occupied by African Americans, vulnerable to predators. It is a commonly known fact that these two developments have been considered for some sort of privatization plan.

However, African Americans are the majority citizen voting-age population in all of Harlem. There are approximately 60,000 African Americans in West Harlem, 52,000 Dominicans and 33,000 whites. In all of the 7th District the African American population is 37%. The Dominican percentage is 47% and the white population is 15%.

Although the Dominican population in the entire 7th District is the majority population the Dominican citizen voting-age population does not have the majority. Having an African American representing the 7th District in city council for 3 terms, coupled with the total African American population in the 7th District, is evidence that the African American "minority" population is significant in this district if not self determining and is a protected group under the Voting Rights Act.

To reduce the African American population to 17% (both proposed maps) putting such group at the bottom of the top three ethnic groups by drawing into the 7th District a white neighborhood, carving a large percentage of the Black population in West Harlem out of the 7th District and putting them into the 9th District and cutting out African American neighborhoods in Lower Washington Heights is gerrymandering at its best.

Furthermore, these new boundary lines seem to purposely carve out the residences of potential African American candidates for the 7th Council District in the 2013 councilmanic race, which will be open in 2013. Particularly, one of the candidates ran in 2009 and there is a logical inclination that he would run again, especially since the council seat will be opened in 2013.

Therefore we ask that the Commission preserve the majority "minority" voting power that is already in place in the 7th District. Altering other Upper Manhattan Districts to compensate for an unequal district population

because of population shifts at the expense of the "minority" voting power in the 7th District is not fair. Those districts do not lose their actual "minority" voting power.

The 7th District meets all of the criteria to preserve its "minority" voting power population under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and such proposed maps violate both Sections 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

I smell a rat that has already rotted in my community.

Sherrie Teachey
New York, New York

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/new-york-city-districting-commission-do-not-change-the-nyc-councilmanic-boundary-lines-for-northern-manhattan>. To respond, [click here](#)

Hearings

From: deborah williams <mail@change.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:35 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

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The historic integrity of Harlem and its people should be preserved

deborah williams
new york, New York

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/new-york-city-districting-commission-do-not-change-the-nyc-councilmanic-boundary-lines-for-northern-manhattan>. To respond, [click here](#)

Hearings

From: Terry Nelson <mail@change.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 4:29 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

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Redrawing has obvious consequences for the people of Harlem. The redistricting is obvious land grab. Wall Street, San Juan Hill, now Harlem. Time to draw a line in the sand.

Terry Nelson
New York, New York

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/new-york-city-districting-commission-do-not-change-the-nyc-councilmanic-boundary-lines-for-northern-manhattan>. To respond, [click here](#)

Hearings

From: Francine Brown <mail@change.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 4:29 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

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Francine Brown
New York, New York

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Hearings

From: Irwin Johnson <mail@change.org>
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2012 12:04 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

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Irwin Johnson
new york, New York

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Hearings

From: Karen Smith-Moore <mail@change.org>
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2012 5:56 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

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Karen Smith-Moore
New York, New York

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Hearings

From: Kim Powell <mail@change.org>
Sent: Sunday, November 04, 2012 8:27 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

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This another form of economic, political, and social genocide!
wake of folks!

Kim Powell
NEW YORK, New York

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Hearings

From: Akua Hope <mail@change.org>
Sent: Sunday, November 04, 2012 7:53 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

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Akua Hope
Manhattan, New York

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Hearings

From: grace torres <mail@change.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:56 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

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The Upper Manhattan Empowerment District's proposed map offered as an alternative is even worse. The latter seems to create a special district for Columbia University whereas Columbia University would be the epicenter. Both plans would put Columbia University under the auspices of a majority white population which on its face would be preferable to Columbia University considering the history between Columbia and the African American Community in Harlem.

It would also leave two public housing developments in the 7th District, Grant Houses and Manhattanville Houses, largely occupied by African Americans, vulnerable to predators. It is a commonly known fact that these two developments have been considered for some sort of privatization plan.

However, African Americans are the majority citizen voting-age population in all of Harlem. There are approximately 60,000 African Americans in West Harlem, 52,000 Dominicans and 33,000 whites. In all of the 7th District the African American population is 37%. The Dominican percentage is 47% and the white population is 15%.

Although the Dominican population in the entire 7th District is the majority population the Dominican citizen voting-age population does not have the majority. Having an African American representing the 7th District in city council for 3 terms, coupled with the total African American population in the 7th District, is evidence that the African American "minority" population is significant in this district if not self determining and is a protected group under the Voting Rights Act.

To reduce the African American population to 17% (both proposed maps) putting such group at the bottom of the top three ethnic groups by drawing into the 7th District a white neighborhood, carving a large percentage of the Black population in West Harlem out of the 7th District and putting them into the 9th District and cutting out African American neighborhoods in Lower Washington Heights is gerrymandering at its best.

Furthermore, these new boundary lines seem to purposely carve out the residences of potential African American candidates for the 7th Council District in the 2013 councilmanic race, which will be open in 2013. Particularly, one of the candidates ran in 2009 and there is a logical inclination that he would run again, especially since the council seat will be opened in 2013.

Therefore we ask that the Commission preserve the majority "minority" voting power that is already in place in the 7th District. Altering other Upper Manhattan Districts to compensate for an unequal district population

because of population shifts at the expense of the "minority" voting power in the 7th District is not fair. Those districts do not lose their actual "minority" voting power.

The 7th District meets all of the criteria to preserve its "minority" voting power population under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and such proposed maps violate both Sections 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

grace torres
bx., New York

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/new-york-city-districting-commission-do-not-change-the-nyc-councilmanic-boundary-lines-for-northern-manhattan>. To respond, [click here](#)

Hearings

From: olaiya deen <mail@change.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:27 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

The African American citizen voting-age population would be greatly diminished in the 7th Council District under this proposed map and the shift of political influence would be given to a white citizen voting-age population.

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The 7th District meets all of the criteria to preserve its "minority" voting power population under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and such proposed maps violate both Sections 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

They are marginalizing us therefore rendering us impotent.
What we must do is hold our elected officials feet to the fire

olaiya deen
New York, New York

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/new-york-city-districting-commission-do-not-change-the-nyc-councilmanic-boundary-lines-for-northern-manhattan>. To respond, [click here](#)

Hearings

From: Carolyn Johnson <mail@change.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:05 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

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The 7th District meets all of the criteria to preserve its "minority" voting power population under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and such proposed maps violate both Sections 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

Carolyn Johnson
new york, New York

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/new-york-city-districting-commission-do-not-change-the-nyc-councilmanic-boundary-lines-for-northern-manhattan>. To respond, [click here](#)

Hearings

From: Russel Shuler <mail@change.org>
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 9:21 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

The African American citizen voting-age population would be greatly diminished in the 7th Council District under this proposed map and the shift of political influence would be given to a white citizen voting-age population.

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The 7th District meets all of the criteria to preserve its "minority" voting power population under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and such proposed maps violate both Sections 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

Russel Shuler
New York, New York

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/new-york-city-districting-commission-do-not-change-the-nyc-councilmanic-boundary-lines-for-northern-manhattan>. To respond, [click here](#)

Hearings

From: Antonia BADON <mail@change.org>
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 12:09 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

The African American citizen voting-age population would be greatly diminished in the 7th Council District under this proposed map and the shift of political influence would be given to a white citizen voting-age population.

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The 7th District meets all of the criteria to preserve its "minority" voting power population under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and such proposed maps violate both Sections 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

Retaining Harlem boundaries preserves Harlem's Historical Legacy, Cultural Diplomacy and Artistic Vibrancy!!! All major components that share the responsibility toward Harlem's economic empowerment.

Antonia BADON
New York, New York

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/new-york-city-districting-commission-do-not-change-the-nyc-councilmanic-boundary-lines-for-northern-manhattan>. To respond, [click here](#)

Hearings

From: Nova Felder <mail@change.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 11:07 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

The African American citizen voting-age population would be greatly diminished in the 7th Council District under this proposed map and the shift of political influence would be given to a white citizen voting-age population.

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Nova Felder
Springfield Gardens, New York

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/new-york-city-districting-commission-do-not-change-the-nyc-councilmanic-boundary-lines-for-northern-manhattan>. To respond, [click here](#)

Hearings

From: Ebony Holder <mail@change.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 8:51 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

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Ebony Holder
New York, New York

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Hearings

From: Chris Asch <mail@change.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:35 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

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Chris Asch
New York, New York

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Hearings

From: R. Pikser <mail@change.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:24 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

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R. Pikser
New York, New York

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Hearings

From: Amanda Rosenblum <mail@change.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:25 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

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Amanda Rosenblum
New York, New York

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Hearings

From: Maria Warren <mail@change.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:56 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

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To reduce the African American population to 17% (both proposed maps) putting such group at the bottom of the top three ethnic groups by drawing into the 7th District a white neighborhood, carving a large percentage of the Black population in West Harlem out of the 7th District and putting them into the 9th District and cutting out African American neighborhoods in Lower Washington Heights is gerrymandering at its best.

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Therefore we ask that the Commission preserve the majority "minority" voting power that is already in place in the 7th District. Altering other Upper Manhattan Districts to compensate for an unequal district population

because of population shifts at the expense of the "minority" voting power in the 7th District is not fair. Those districts do not lose their actual "minority" voting power.

The 7th District meets all of the criteria to preserve its "minority" voting power population under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and such proposed maps violate both Sections 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

This will cause racial tension in our district.

Maria Warren
New York, New York

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/new-york-city-districting-commission-do-not-change-the-nyc-councilmanic-boundary-lines-for-northern-manhattan>. To respond, [click here](#)

Hearings

From: stefanie Siegel <mail@change.org>
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:13 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

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stefanie Siegel
Brooklyn, New York

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Hearings

From: David Dobosz <mail@change.org>
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 5:34 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

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Hearings

From: Zhana Saunders <mail@change.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 2:54 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

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There is too much done in the name of profit and not enough done in the name of people

Zhana Saunders
New York, New York

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Hearings

From: Tiersa Smith <mail@change.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 2:54 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

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The 7th District meets all of the criteria to preserve its "minority" voting power population under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and such proposed maps violate both Sections 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

I am an African American Citizen and I am tired of the government rezoning districts to gain political awareness for the younger white citizen voting-age population.

This is just out right wrong!!!!

Tiersa Smith
New York, New York

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/new-york-city-districting-commission-do-not-change-the-nyc-councilmanic-boundary-lines-for-northern-manhattan>. To respond, [click here](#)

Hearings

From: Natasha Florentino <mail@change.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 12:06 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

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Natasha Florentino
New York, New York

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Hearings

From: Oscar Carter <mail@change.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 10:14 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

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Oscar Carter
New York, New York

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Hearings

From: michelle frances shepard <mail@change.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 3:59 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

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My people are from this area of New York going back to my great-grandmother. My family still resides in the community. That's why.

michelle frances shepard
New York, New York

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/new-york-city-districting-commission-do-not-change-the-nyc-councilmanic-boundary-lines-for-northern-manhattan>. To respond, [click here](#)

Testimony to the NYC Districting Commission
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

October 4, 2012

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

Dear Commissioners:

I am a candidate for City Council in District 7, which is located on the western side of northern Manhattan. My financial and professional prospects are affected by the outcome of redistricting.

New York City's redistricting process is fundamentally undemocratic because it privileges politicians and their allies over the public. The New York City Charter lets politicians decide how to redraw the boundaries of Council Districts and gives them excessive influence in selecting candidates to run in the next elections—long before the public is given the opportunity to voice its concerns and preferences in redistricting.

New York City's redistricting process is deeply flawed and must be reformed through a Charter revision. It is not fair to residents, voters and candidates that redistricting starts so late and ends just before the next municipal primary election. This timing only benefits politicians in office and their associates.

New York City has the resources and the know-how to do better and to treat its residents with more respect by starting much earlier, opening up the process and enabling more meaningful participation by the public. Otherwise, politicians in office will have too much sway in future elections and in the people's choices of candidates.

Knowing that the process is politically charged and time-sensitive, the Commission should have prepared several options for the public to consider—instead of just one citywide proposal. Offering just a single citywide preliminary plan has caused many people to believe that redistricting is finished. Several elected officials and their staff members have remarked to me that I will be drawn out of the District in which I am a candidate, as if the Commission's preliminary map is indeed final.

The Commission has an obligation to help the public understand that there is not one way to redraw the boundaries of the Council Districts. For instance, the Commission could have also offered a plan that kept Council District 7 largely intact.

I am attaching to my testimony a petition signed by northern Manhattan residents and others that asks the Mayor and the Council to revise the City Charter long before 2020 to empower City residents and to enable them to more effectively participate in this process. The petition also asks that the boundaries of District 7 be kept largely intact and for the Commission to provide draft maps with this option.

I am concerned that the Commission's preliminary plan will adversely impact the ability of African Americans in New York County to elect candidates of their choice because it reduces the number of Council Districts in the County where an African American can get elected. In the existing configuration of Council Districts, there are two Council Districts in New York County that have elected African American candidates: 7 and 9.

The Commission's proposed District 7 increases the number of White residents and White voters, and moves District 7 into neighborhoods that could experience increases in high-income White residents due to Columbia University's planned development, rising rents and current home prices that are out-of-reach for most minorities. These trends could make it less likely that African Americans will be able to elect African American candidates in the proposed District 7.

This adverse outcome could be avoided by leaving the existing District 7 intact. As part of its work, the Commission should analyze and make public its assessment of the impact of its preliminary plan and any revised maps on the ability of African Americans and others in New York County that are protected under the Voting Rights Act to elect candidates of their choosing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Pahaham



PETITION
TO THE MAYOR, THE COUNCIL AND THE NYC DISTRICTING COMMISSION:
REDISTRICTING SHOULD FAIR AND TRANSPARENT AND INCLUDE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION RIGHT FROM THE START.
LEAVE COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 INTACT.

We, the undersigned, urge the Council and the NYC Districting Commission to keep Council District 7 in northern Manhattan largely intact. We oppose the proposals to redraw District 7 that have been posted to-date on the Districting Commission's website because they exclude Inwood from the revised District. They are largely the product of negotiations involving little or no public input and they reduce our choice of candidates for City Council. We urge the Commission to discard these proposals and to give the public more options to review, including plans that keep District 7 largely intact.

The New York City Charter does not give City residents enough time to effectively participate in discussions on how to redraw Council District boundaries. Ending the Districting Commission's work just before petitions are due for the next municipal elections doesn't work for residents, voters and candidates. Residents and candidates for municipal office need more time to learn about redistricting and to create, consider or comment on proposals to redraw Council District boundaries.

New Yorkers deserve a fair and transparent redistricting process for 2020 and beyond. To achieve that, the New York City Charter must be revised to conclude redistricting at least one year before the next general municipal election; require the release, analysis, and mapping of Census data when New York City receives the Census data; give the public options by releasing multiple maps of proposed redistricting plans instead of just one; and require public education and awareness-raising efforts regarding redistricting throughout New York City neighborhoods prior to proposing redrawn boundaries.

UNA PETICION
AL ALCALDE, AL CONSEJO MUNICIPAL Y A LA COMISION DE DISTRIBUCION DE DISTRITOS DE NYC:
LA REORDENACION DE DISTRITOS ELECTORALES DEBE SER JUSTA Y TRANSPARENTE Y DEBE INCLUIR LA PARTICIPACION CIUDADANA DESDE EL INICIO.
IDEJE INTACTO AL DISTRITO 71

Nosotros los suscritos exhortamos al Consejo Municipal y a la Comisión de Distribución de Distritos a que mantengan íntegro el Distrito 7 del Consejo, del norte de Manhattan. Nos oponemos a las propuestas para reordenar al Distrito 7 que hasta hoy aparecen en el sitio de Internet de la Comisión de Distribución de Distritos porque excluyen a Inwood del distrito modificado.

Éstas propuestas son en gran parte el resultado de negociaciones carentes de consulta con el público, y nos limitan en la gama de posibles candidatos para representarnos en el Consejo. Recomendamos encarecidamente que la Comisión abandone estas propuestas y que ofrezca al público otras opciones para su revisión. Estas deben incluir planes que conserven íntegro al Distrito 7.

La Carta Municipal de Nueva York no proporciona a los vecinos el tiempo suficiente para participar eficazmente en discusiones sobre la redefinición de los límites de los distritos. La Comisión de Distribución de Distritos concluye sus labores justo antes del límite de tiempo para entregar peticiones, lo que no conviene ni a los vecinos, a los electores ni a los candidatos. Tanto los residentes como los candidatos a cargos públicos municipales requieren más tiempo para informarse sobre la reordenación y para discutir o elaborar propuestas alternativas para la modificación de límites de los distritos.

Los neoyorquinos merecemos un proceso de reordenamiento justo y transparente para el 2020 y más allá. Para lograrlo, será necesario redactar la Carta Municipal para que el proceso de reordenamiento concluya por lo menos un año antes de los próximos comicios municipales generales. Debe además estipular la publicación, análisis y mapeo de los datos del censo poblacional en el momento en que la Ciudad de Nueva York los recibe. Debe ofrecer al público una gama de opciones, en forma de mapas de múltiples posibles esquemas de organización de distritos, y no sólo uno. Por último, debe plantear acciones de educación y creación de conciencia pública sobre el proceso de reordenamiento en todos los distritos de la Ciudad de Nueva York antes de entrar a la fase de propuestas.

① Cheryl Pakhawan

② Luis Verbeke

③ Deirdra Enright

④ Milena Cuellar

⑤ Todd Roseenthal

⑥ Rachel Horvath

⑦ Sandra Norata

⑧ Klara Zikora Engh

⑨ Elizabeth Smolgrass

⑩ Molly Shabica

⑪ DAVID M. KIMMER

⑫ PATRICK LE BETHAN

⑬ Robert M. Johnson

⑭ JEREMY

⑮ Rachel W. Miller

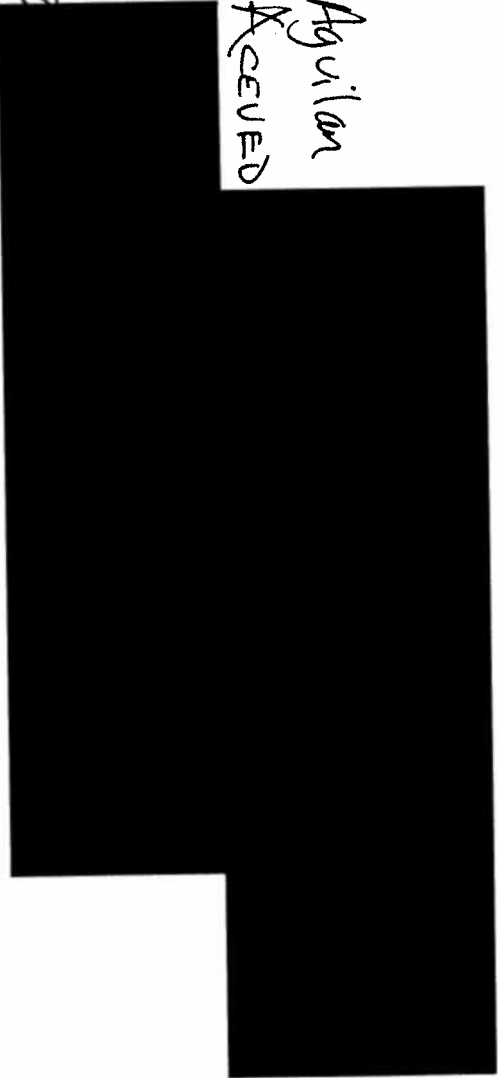
⑯ Philip Ryan

⑰ Molly McLaughlin

⑱ Jane Lindemann

- (19) Jordan Hall
(20) Phil Matrese.
(21) Jack DePitt
(22) Audley U
(23) Joe Williams
(24) Nicki Burgess
(25) Karen Gerhart
(26) Colleen Tesfll
(27) Robin Benjamin
(28) Erin Dosey
(29) PJ Brun
(30) Sheila O Byrne
(31) Mary O'Shaughnessy
(32) Michael Collins
(33) LEV BURNES
(34) Susan Keith
(35) Victoria Charles
(36) Martin Larkin
(37) Mtt Denising
(38) Mike Westcott
(39) Jon Munroe
(40) Max Col
(41) Judy Gibbs

- (42) Kelly Hongland
(43) Sen Little
(44) Tom McNamara
(45) Noah Hongland
(46) William M. Baker
(47) Sean McLain
(48) Jacqueline Rosen
(49) Karin Dando-
Haeinisch
(50) James A. Catford
(51) A. Maslov
(52) Da Haas
(53) Jeff Doud
(54) Del Rotaschile
(55) Paul Guevra
(56) Richard SARR
(57) Gail Steier
(58) Gulkand Aca
(59) Ana Farakas

- (60) ANNETTE A. Aguilar
(61) JACQUELINE RECEIVED
(62) Dana Windsor
(63) Mary Wright
(64) Elizabeth Sofia
- 

City Redistricting Hearing Testimony

October 4, 2012

Daniel Marks Cohen

New York State Democratic Committeeman, 69th A.D.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

My name is Daniel Marks Cohen, and I am the New York State Democratic Committeeman representing the 69th Assembly District of Manhattan's Upper West Side in the New York State Democratic Committee. The Assemblymember for the 69th is Daniel O'Donnell. I am a lifelong resident of the Upper West Side, my parents live in the district, my wife and I live in the district, and we are raising our newborn son – a third generation West Sider – in it as well. The part of the Upper West Side I live in – between 96th Street and 125th Street, is the poorest portion of the 69th Assembly District (<http://zipskinny.com/zipcompare.php>), it is the least served in terms of services and transportation (<http://www.straphangers.org/pokeyaward/10/>), and has more crime (http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/crime_prevention/crime_statistics.shtml).

I believe at least one reason for its consistent and uneven status is that fact that the 69th is cut up into multiple pieces of nine different districts. This was somewhat improved recently by the passage of federal redistricting legislation which redrew the TWO Congressional districts: the 8th by Representative Jerry Nadler, and the 15th by Representative Charlie Rangel; but it was made worse by the THREE State Senate districts: Tom Duane of the 29th, Bill Perkins of the 30th and Adriano Espaillat of the 31st. The latter, the 31st, is particularly egregious, stretching from 184th to 24th Streets along the west coast of Manhattan island, it looks more like the Latin American country of Chile than a proper State Senate district. But sadly, that it not your purview today, and we are stuck with this absurd district for the next ten years.

The recent proposed draft of the council lines is a modest improvement – the northern part of the area I represent is no longer in the 8th district, currently held by councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito from East Harlem, who has served us as well as any person could with a district stretching over such a large geographic area with limited resources. But the area is now split between the 7th and the 9th, councilmembers Robert Jackson and Inez Dickens, respectively. The line to divide the two districts deliberately fractures the community in a way I can only assume was to limit the voting power of the residents in the district so as to not have too much sway in either the 7th, largely seen at a “Washington Heights” seat and the 9th, which is viewed as a “West Harlem” seat.

Plainly put: the northern-most district lines proposed are nonsensical. While I am grateful that residents in my community who lived in the 8th district no longer have to go to 116th Street and Lexington Avenue for help from their councilmember, it is absurd and blatantly disrespectful to divide the area between the 7th and 9th districts along such a random line. The easiest solution is to move the border so that everything west of Central Park and Morningside Park is in the 7th. If this causes the 7th to exceed its capacity, move the line of the 6th district north to pick up some additional voters. I propose that the Commission redraw the lines more naturally, to keep Manhattan Valley's representation on the West Side, where it belongs, rather than as an appendage to another district for incumbency or demographic reasons.

Hearings

From: Dean Dacian [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 9:39 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Keep Park West Village Intact!

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of [REDACTED] for almost 47 years (basically my entire life), I find it ridiculous that some arbitrary redistricting decision would cause our community to be split up.

The powers that be should reconsider.

As a devoted member of the community I think we ought to be aligned in Council District 6, currently under Gale Brewer — as one community, so that Park West Village's needs are properly addressed as a whole Community, not a fractured mess...

Cordially,

Dean Dacian

Hearings

From: Elizabeth Kellner [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 8:26 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to Proposed Lines for 7th, 8th and 9th Districts

My name is Elizabeth Kellner, and I have lived for 36 years at [REDACTED] in the Manhattan Valley neighborhood of the Upper West Side. I testified at the hearing on October 4, and I submit these additional comments for your consideration.

First, I urge the Commission not to divide the Manhattan Valley neighborhood between two City Council districts as is currently proposed, and second, I urge you to include the neighborhood in the Upper West Side Council district where it properly belongs. This has nothing to do with preferring one Councilperson over another as I support and respect all the possible options. The legally mandated objective of the all important redistricting exercise is to ensure fair, adequate and equal representation for communities of interest, especially for historically disenfranchised and under served population groups. It is most emphatically not to accommodate jockeying among candidates for an advantage in seeking future political office, especially when that advantage would be won at the expense of preserving established communities of interest.

I know Manhattan Valley extremely well. Over the 36 years I have lived here our family has been involved with many community groups and active on many issues -- tenants rights, abandonment, zoning and land use, historic preservation, neighborhood schools, block associations and public safety campaigns, to name a few. Manhattan Valley is economically and ethnically diverse. We have a significant number of public housing and subsidized units but also luxury condos and condominiums with everything in between, hostels and hotels, landmarks, historic districts and new construction, a nursing home, senior assisted living facilities, several pre-schools and a head start program, youth programs, a business improvement district, chain stores and mom and pop shops. I could go on and on. We all live, work, play, pray and volunteer side by side, and it works. What the Commission has proposed would slice the community down the middle threatening to undermine those ties that have bound us together. A significant portion of the more affluent and white areas of Manhattan Valley would be peeled off to join the Central Harlem district, while the lower income and predominantly Latino as well as public housing blocks would be sent to the West Harlem/Washington Heights district -- in both cases Manhattan Valley would be a very tiny "tail" the would most certainly not wag the dog. The voices of our diverse and well defined community in city government would be diluted and undermined by the current proposal.

As to my second point, Manhattan Valley is unquestionably part of the Upper West Side historically and geographically - we are 100% within the boundaries of the West Side's CB #7, the 24th Pct and Community School District #3. We are served by the West Side's transportation infrastructure, social service programs, parks and youth athletic leagues. No one, from the real estate developers to the US Postal Service thinks we are anything but part of the Upper West Side.

While I appreciate the challenges facing the Commission and the many constituencies to whom you are accountable, I firmly believe that there is no rational or justifiable basis to support the destructive division of the Manhattan Valley neighborhood. Please keep us in tact. If we cannot join our natural neighbors in the Upper West Side District, please keep us with East Harlem in the 8th district -- we have been joined with that district for several decades now going back to the time when Carolyn Maloney was our City Council representative. We have a successful legacy of representation by the elected officials from that community, including Manhattan Valley's own late, great Phil Reed. I implore you to keep us together as we have been keeping it together. In July 1981 New York Magazine ran a cover story about Manhattan Valley -- it was called Fighting to Save a Neighborhood. We thought we had saved our neighborhood through our joint efforts, so please do not divide us now.

Elizabeth Kellner

Hearings

From: Eula M. Guest [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 5:41 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

The African American citizen voting-age population would be greatly diminished in the 7th Council District under this proposed map and the shift of political influence would be given to a white citizen voting-age population.

The Upper Manhattan Empowerment District's proposed map offered as an alternative is even worse. The latter seems to create a special district for Columbia University whereas Columbia University would be the epicenter. Both plans would put Columbia University under the auspices of a majority white population which on its face would be preferable to Columbia University considering the history between Columbia and the African American Community in Harlem.

It would also leave two public housing developments in the 7th District, Grant Houses and Manhattanville Houses, largely occupied by African Americans, vulnerable to predators. It is a commonly known fact that these two developments have been considered for some sort of privatization plan.

However, African Americans are the majority citizen voting-age population in all of Harlem. There are approximately 60,000 African Americans in West Harlem, 52,000 Dominicans and 33,000 whites. In all of the 7th District the African American population is 37%. The Dominican percentage is 47% and the white population is 15%.

Although the Dominican population in the entire 7th District is the majority population the Dominican citizen voting-age population does not have the majority. Having an African American representing the 7th District in city council for 3 terms, coupled with the total African American population in the 7th District, is evidence that the African American "minority" population is significant in this district if not self determining and is a protected group under the Voting Rights Act.

To reduce the African American population to 17% (both proposed maps) putting such group at the bottom of the top three ethnic groups by drawing into the 7th District a white neighborhood, carving a large percentage of the Black population in West Harlem out of the 7th District and putting them into the 9th District and cutting out African American neighborhoods in Lower Washington Heights is gerrymandering at its best.

Furthermore, these new boundary lines seem to purposely carve out the residences of potential African American candidates for the 7th Council District in the 2013 councilmanic race, which will be open in 2013. Particularly, one of the candidates ran in 2009 and there is a logical inclination that he would run again, especially since the council seat will be opened in 2013.

Therefore we ask that the Commission preserve the majority "minority" voting power that is already in place in the 7th District. Altering other Upper Manhattan Districts to compensate for an unequal district population

because of population shifts at the expense of the "minority" voting power in the 7th District is not fair. Those districts do not lose their actual "minority" voting power.

The 7th District meets all of the criteria to preserve its "minority" voting power population under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and such proposed maps violate both Sections 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

Eula M. Guest
New York, New York

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/new-york-city-districting-commission-do-not-change-the-nyc-councilmanic-boundary-lines-for-northern-manhattan>. To respond, [click here](#)

Hearings

From: Henriettalyle <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 7:59 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: October 4, 2012 - Hearing

Testimony by Henrietta Lyle, Chair, Community Board 10

As the Chair of Community Board 10, I have an intimate knowledge of the districts that make up Central Harlem.

A sensible plan recognizes that Harlem truly begins at 110th Street. A Harlem based district needs to remain above 110th Street.

The natural dividing line of the northern part of the district has historically been 155th Street.

As a Board Chair it is important to me that the lines maintain at least some adherence to the community districts lines which can universally recognized as definitional for community districts.

A district that attempts to flagrantly cross those lines, as does the 7th Councilmanic district proposed in the Commission's initial plan, is totally inappropriate and drafts together to communities that are fundamentally different.

Hearings

From: judith baldwin [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 8:07 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: PWV

Park West Village (PWV) should remain *intact*. We are a community. Keep it that way.

October 31, 2012
(Edited and Revised on November 1, 2012)

TO: THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
And
New York City Districting Commission

Attention: Lindsey Quock, Case manager for New York County Redistricting - DOJ
Jonathan Ettricks, Director of Community Outreach – NYC Districting Commission

OFFICIAL RESPONSE ***OPPOSING*** THE NEW YORK CITY DISTRICTING
COMMISSION'S REDISTRICTING PROPOSAL FOR COUNCILMANIC DISTRICTS
IN NEW YORK CITY. THIS RESPONSE ALSO ***OPPOSES*** THE UPPER
MANHATTAN EMPOWERMENT DISTRICT PROPOSAL
(Legal Points)

BY JULIUS TAJIDDIN
(Resident of West Harlem, New York, USA
Located in Council manic District 7)

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, as amended in 1982, largely controls how council manic district lines can be drawn. It prohibits any procedure that results in the denial or abridgment of anyone's right to vote based on race, color, or minority language status.

It also prohibits laws or practices that deny minority voters an equal opportunity to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice.

A violation of this type is sometimes called "vote dilution."

The Black electorate of West Harlem in New York City Council District 7, as well as other Black neighborhoods in the 7th Council District, is protected under Section 2, as I will further explain below.

According to the **Center of Urban Research**, as of 2010, according to the U.S. Census Report of 2010, West Harlem's main plurality is:

- African American – 60,000/ (42%)
- "Hispanics"/Dominicans – 52,000/ (34%)
- "White" – 33,000/ (22%)

This totals approximately 144,000 residents in West Harlem. Most of that total is located in Council manic District 7. However, District 7's total population is under 170,000. Percentage wise that comes to:

- "Hispanics"/Dominicans – 47%

- African Americans – 37%
- “White” – 15%

The Commission’s redistricting plan, and the Upper Manhattan Empowerment District proposal, do not consider this data, which would make such plans defective and unconstitutional on their face. The data they seem to work with is for the purpose of creating a population of 160,000 – 170,000 people per district. Not only is that not the law, the outcome of plurality arrangement is suspicious. This response deals with Upper Manhattan, particular Council Districts 7, 9, 10 and 8. (> Added)

The UMED plan seeks to dilute the African American population in the 7th District down to 17.60% and raise the white population to 31.20% and the Dominican population to 41.50%. However, in truth when considering these figures such plan actually puts the political power with the white population group because the Dominican population would not have a higher citizen voting-age population than the white population with these percentages. (> Added) Perhaps they could be just a bit higher than the African American population. But based on election results over the last decade the Black population demonstrates that it has the majority in citizen voting-age population in the 7th District. (*Infra*, pages 2-5) (> Added)

The Commission’s redistricting plan puts the Dominican group higher at 51%. However, the same argument as above would still apply because the white population would be set at 34% and the African American population is reduced to 17%.

I will explain further down how both plans intend to dilute the African American population, as well as the group’s political influence in the 7th District and Harlem.

Federal Relief From Gerrymandering

Section 2 provides some relief from such tactics. It gives voters the right to turn to the courts if, for example, a district could be drawn to give a minority community the opportunity to elect its candidate of choice, but the district lines instead split the community up in separate districts where its voting power is diluted.

When litigants challenge a redistricting plan or put a plan under Section 2, asserting that districts could be drawn to preserve minority-voting power that is otherwise diluted, they must first show that:

- A minority population is sufficiently geographically compact (that is, living close together) that it would make sense to draw a district containing it;
- The minority population (usually, the citizen voting-age minority population) is large enough to be more than half of a district-sized number of people;
- The minority population is “politically cohesive” – that is, it would usually vote as a bloc for the same favored candidate;

- The majority population would usually vote as a bloc for a different candidate, so that it would usually be able to defeat the minority-preferred candidate, if the minority population were fragmented among several districts.

The African American population is sufficiently geographically compact in the West Harlem Neighborhood in the 7th Council District

The Black population in West Harlem is sufficiently geographically compact. They are also the majority of WH's plurality. West Harlem consists of Morningside Heights, Manhattanville and Hamilton Heights. All three of those areas are contiguously joined together. While it is true that a small part of Morningside Heights is in the 9th Council District (still in West Harlem) and some of Central Harlem is in the 7th Council District instead of the 9th, most of West Harlem is in the 7th Council District.

However, it makes perfect sense for the 7th and 9th Districts to overlap because these neighborhoods are a part of the aggregate total land area of Harlem, which together has a rich cultural and political history. Such history is mostly a Black History. And for reasons that are overwhelmingly documented, Harlem became the Mecca of Black America through a natural and exiled migration. Therefore on this ground alone Harlem's Black population and political influence in the Western, Central and Eastern parts should not be diluted.

It would also make sense to maintain or draw a district containing the African American population. A district has been drawn containing the African American population in West Harlem in the 7th Council District.

Opponents will argue that such a district is the 9th Council District which primarily contains Central Harlem and redistricting plans, such as the UMED and Commission's plans, have created a [stronger] district containing an African American population. However, a Black community should not be relegated to just one district if it has naturally evolved to being in three contiguous districts. (> Added)

Whites have their contiguous districts lined up like ducks and Dominicans are trying to keep their cohesiveness within multiple contiguous districts. (See Response of Julius Tajiddin sent by email dated October 30, 2012.)

It doesn't matter that there is a 22% white population in West Harlem. Id. Blacks have always been a minority group in predominantly white neighborhoods for years or not in them at all. Now that Harlem is demographically changing a little doesn't mean that the Black population has to get in last place and give up their political power in the 7th District or Harlem, especially because of Harlem's rich Black history. Id. Nor should it be realistically argued for a district that contains one ethnic group, especially in New York City. Even in Harlem.

But certainly Black people can be the majority or citizen voting-age majority in Harlem or in all three districts containing parts of Harlem: West, Central and East, since it's been that way for decades. Id. (> Added) (See Response of Julius Tajiddin sent by email dated October 30, 2012.)

And the Black population can be the majority citizen voting-age population in the 7th District, because most of the districts have between 150,000-170,000 people in each district, including the 7th District. It is important to emphasize that most districts have a plurality of at least three ethnic/racial groups. The top three in many districts within Manhattan have the white population leading, "Hispanics" being next and African American being last. Examples: 50/40/10; 55/30/15 or 60/35/5. Some areas it is 75/20/5 or even 80/15/5. If the African American populations in those areas asked for their own districts based on the fact that there is a Black population south of one district and such community seems to extend to the north of an adjacent district they would not be taking seriously if even responded to at all. (> Added)

And if any population shift has occurred, as asserted by certain people, no population which was a majority or citizen voting-age population majority in such districts lost its political cohesiveness or majority status as a result of such population shift, thereby holding on as the leading population and citizen-voting age population. At least this is true in Upper Manhattan. Therefore to make up for a loss in numbers or increase a population size of a particular minority group who still has majority or citizen voting-age majority status in the district even with such population shift does not warrant Black people to now get on the back of the bus in the 7th District. Nor should the Black population be satisfied holding power in one district in upper Manhattan, especially Harlem. (> Added)

The citizen voting-age minority population in the 7th District is large enough to be retained and remain in the 7th District

Although the Black population in the 7th District is less than half of a district-sized number of people (app. < 170,000), and when litigants who challenge a redistricting plan under Section 2 the courts and Justice Department will look to see if a population is large enough to be more than half of a district-sized number of people (Id.), the other plurality is not more than half either. Id. Nor does such plurality have more citizen voting-age populations than the Black population and should not warrant that a district be drawn to make them more than half or either one a majority citizen voting-age population over the Black citizen voting-age population just because the 10th Council District had a decrease in its population over the last 10 years that puts it slightly under 140,000. * Id. (> Added)

(I would strongly argue that when it comes to the citizen voting-age population in the 7th Council District the African American citizen voting-age population is over 50% of such population in the 7th District.) (> Added)*

However, the African American population and Dominican population have more in common with each other than with any other racial group in the 7th District. They both

noticeably have African ancestry; they both share a history where Europeans enslaved their ancestors and such slavery ended in the 19th Century; they both speak the language of their conquerors. Finally, their diets, music and cultures have more similarities than unfamiliar likenesses.

Therefore, when looking at the two groups in a larger context the differences between the two are subtle and such differences are more like a sub-culture within a larger culture.

Racially, they are very much the same, although the diversity of races as in America is worldwide, and such diversity is even with the Dominican people. But most of the Dominicans in New York are of African Descent.

And most of the Dominicans who are eligible to vote in Harlem have demonstrated that they are similar in political thinking. The fact that the same African American has held the 7th Councilmanic District seat for almost 12 years proves that. Id. (See Response of Julius Tajiddin sent by email dated October 30, 2012.)

Further proof is that incumbent U.S. Representative Charlie Rangel won the primary on June 26, 2012 in the newly formed 13th Congressional District after the former 15th Congressional District's boundary lines were redrawn and now included a strong majority Dominican population over rival Dominican-born candidate Adriano Espaillat.

The minority population is "politically cohesive"

The Black population in West Harlem and other parts of the 7th District has demonstrated that it is politically cohesive. But also, the majority of the population who are of African descent (includes Dominicans) and eligible to vote do so as a bloc for the same favored candidate. Id. (See Response of Julius Tajiddin sent by email dated October 30, 2012.)

The majority population would usually vote as a bloc for a different candidate

Taking the Black "minority" population of West Harlem and other areas of the 7th Councilmanic District and dividing them into Southern District 10, District 7 and District 9, whereas the Black population in the 7th District would be reduced to 17% from 37%, would weaken the Black voting power in District 7 and make it virtually impossible for a Black candidate who could win a council seat in the 7th to win or extremely difficult, even with unity from the Dominican community. This is in spite of a Black president.
(> Added)

In most cases, as we see from real life, a white majority citizen voting-age population in District 7, or any other district in York City, would not produce a Black candidate.

To prove this point, in an article out of the **Columbia Spectator**, “**Broadway Dems push to unify Morningside into single City Council district**,” published September 21, 2012, Edward Sullivan, former New York State Assembly Member of the 69th Assembly District, is quoted as saying, “*We would like to have the ability to vote for a candidate who lives amongst us. We all consider ourselves part of the same community.*”

[<http://www.columbiaspectator.com/2012/09/21/broadway-dems-push-unify-morningside-single-city-council-district>]

The **Broadway Democrats** is a political club that consists primarily, if not entirely, of white members. Mr. Sullivan is white and the community *he speaks* of is from West 96th to 125th streets, between the Hudson River and Central Park West. If that area were made into a district it would have a white majority population. Of course anyone who knows the boundary lines Mr. Sullivan speaks of, such district would have a Black population. But with the inclusion of Manhattan Valley and the 22% white population in Morningside Heights such district would be an overwhelming majority population.

Deducing from these facts Mr. Sullivan might as well have said, “**We want to be able to elect a white candidate and we want political control of certain parts of Harlem where we are starting to live.**”

When carefully analyzing all of the particulars it’s not really about a community of like minds or race running contiguously into multiple districts (Grant Houses located on 125th and Broadway – Morningside Avenue and consisting primarily of African Americans would interrupt that flow) but trying to create a district or take over one by gerrymandering because you have an interest in an particular area. That could be development interests or land grab interests.

To illustrate this point, according to the article, Democratic District Leader Curtis Arluck expressed that, keeping the district aligned with the Hudson River would maintain the “real locus” of the district and allow all three Columbia campuses—Morningside, Manhattanville, and Medical—to remain within the same district. If the Columbia Spectator can be relied on such statement supports my position about Columbia University wanting control of a district where its campuses are situated. (See Response of Julius Tajiddin sent by email dated October 30, 2012.) (> Added)

Getting back to the percentages of the actual district proposed by the Commission, even though I gave good examples and demonstrated that there could be strong political unity among Black Americans and Afro-Dominicans there are some Dominicans who have political ambition who would rather not see such unity. This is a reality. Just like there are some people in the African American community I’m sure that may not want to see such unity because they might feel threatened and are insecure because they too have political ambition. As a result there are some that would take advantage of this split of the African American community in the 7th District and bring division. (> Added)

When a community is set up a certain way and on its face seems fair, especially with Harlem’s history, Id., having people suggest or operate in a manner to undermine a particular population that has been established for years brings about suspicion. Here lies

an obvious appearance of impropriety. Therefore, with the facts that have been laid out in this document, these redistricting plans must not get preclearance from the Justice Department.

Section 5 of The Voting Rights Act

Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act also addresses discrimination, but works a little differently. It includes covering changes to district lines.

New district plans will only be pre-cleared by the Justice Department if they (1) are not intended to dilute racial and language minority votes, and (2) leave racial and language minority voters no worse off than they were before redistricting, using old district lines but new population data.

The Commission and UMED's redistricting plans would leave 17.60 % of the Black voters in West Harlem and the 7th Council District a lot worse off than they are now. In fact *a lot worse* is an understatement.

Reducing the Black population by more than half in the 7th District and making them subject to leadership not of their choice by bolstering the white population up to 31-34% is an egregious maneuver. Even the chance of having a Dominican council representative in the 7th District is slim with the Dominican population percentage being structured at 41% (under the UMED plan) or 51% under the Commission's proposed map because the Dominican citizen voting-age population would be much lower than 41 or 51%. Maintaining the Dominican population as the majority in both plans where one increases the size a little bit and one reduces the size more than a bit is a red herring. (> Added)

Cutting the Black population out of the Northern part of 7th District (Inwood) – which currently is a part of the 37% African American population in the 7th District and putting them in the 10th Council District, a largely Dominican population, is an egregious maneuver.

To suggest that it's okay to split the African American population of the 7th District into three districts, when by their presence West Harlem can retain a strong Black cultural and political base and keep the aggregate area of Harlem, also known as The Village of Harlem, which is also Central Harlem and East Harlem, largely a Black influenced neighborhood – culturally, politically and historically is an insult to the African American population in Harlem period!

The majority of West Harlem (District 7 residents) and other District 7 residents testified on October 2, 2012 at a District Commission hearing regarding the Commission's proposed redistricting map, held at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and rejected both maps, in spite of Council Woman Inez Dicken's (of the 9th Councilmanic District) passionate presentation of the UMED Redistricting Plan.

Council member Robert Jackson, the present council member of the 7th District urged the Commission to keep the boundary lines in Upper Manhattan unchanged.

I will say this, Council Member Inez Dickens charged the Commission with purposely dividing the community and causing everyone to land grab to try to get as much for their district that they can get away with for fear of such power being vulnerable and taken away.

Hence, these plans dilute the Black vote in West Harlem in the 7th District and other parts of the 7th District and puts pockets of such Black community in West Harlem in the 7th District and other parts of the 7th District vulnerable to predators. Id. and (Supra, Page 6, 5th Para)

How Candidates Can Be Discriminated Against As a Result of Violating Section 5

In the Brennan Center for Justice, A Citizen's Guide to Redistricting 2010 Edition, It was determined that because Barack Obama had been carved out of a congressional district he previously ran for back in 2000 such redistricting was unfair.

Why? That's because Obama was more than 30% of the vote against incumbent Bobby Rush and such strong showing after a relatively hasty campaign suggested that the stage was set for a real duel in a potential rematch.

Similarly, I ran against Robert Jackson in 2009 for his councilmanic seat in District 7. Although I lost, there is an inclination that I would run again in 2013 because he will be term limited and I demonstrate a strong possibility of winning that vacant seat. Id. (See Response of Julius Tajiddin sent by email dated October 30, 2012.)

However, the Commission's proposed map carves me out of the district not by blocks, but by cutting through an alley and going around the block where I live. Id. (See Response of Julius Tajiddin sent by email dated October 30, 2012.)

Moreover, the Commission's district weakens the Black electorate in the District 7 and creates a reformed district that would create the following results: The White section of Morningside Heights, which is primarily between W. 110th Street and W. 125th Street, north to south and Morningside Drive and Riverside Drive, east to west, is added to the 7th District. The Commission also adds below W. 110th Street down to W. 97th Street, north to south, between Riverside Drive and Amsterdam Avenue (up to W. 104th Street) then to Columbus Avenue, with a couple of ins and out carvings along the way down to W. 97th Street, an area known as Manhattan Valley, also primarily white.

The Potential For A Majority White Citizen Voting Age Population in the 7th District

The majority of this new area for the 7th District would be mainly white and "Hispanic."

The Northern part of the 7th District under this proposal (lower Washington Heights) incorporates large sections of Hispanic neighborhoods that weren't in the district before. It ends at W. 182nd Street but is carved in such a way to diminish what little of the Black population in that area that was in the 7th District.

The Black population percentage in the 7th District under the Commission's proposed map is down to 17% from 37%. The "Hispanic" population has been increased to about 51%, which doesn't reflect the true percentage of citizen voting-age population with such community. And the white population in the 7th District under this plan is increased to 34%.

Taking into consideration all of these facts the white population in this new 7th District is likely the stronger population. But certainly the Black voting age population in the 7th District has been diluted under this plan.

Out of the plurality consisting of "Hispanics" (Dominicans), Black and White such placement is now Hispanic, White and Black. Columbia University's expansion is in the section of the 7th District known as Manhattanville, which under the current lines is considered a Black neighborhood in the 7th District.

Columbia's expansion into Manhattanville was very contested between Manhattanville and other West Harlem residents, including myself, because at the time Columbia had not shown a willingness to offer a meaningful community benefits agreement to the [community] in exchange for a profitable rezoning. Eminent Domain was also used by the Empire State Developments Corporation to give Columbia full control of 17 acres of land in Manhattanville. Columbia had purchased 15 of those acres by other means, which members of the community alleged was coerced. A community Benefits Agreement was finally agreed to well after the rezoning and condemnation of such private property. (> Added)

Such agreement is currently under the pressure and watchful eye of Manhattanville and West Harlem residents, with some Northern Morningside residents very much involved.

At a recent public meeting held by the West Harlem Local Development Corporation, a corporation established to be the representatives of the Community Benefits Agreement between Columbia and the West Harlem Community and other neighboring local communities (October 25, 2012) the majority of the attendees from the public were Black.

A demographic shift in the 7th District by redistricting can change the politics of this situation. It is a realistic perception that Columbia University would want to be in a district that has white leadership and a citizen voting-age population that is majority white rather than have Black councilmanic representation with a citizen voting-age population that is majority Black, especially in light of the adversity between such Black community and Columbia University.

This I believes violates Section 2 and Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Moreover, many of the benefits that 7th Council District residents fought for are materializing, i.e., a public school, created by Columbia University and the Department of Education, currently situated in the 7th Council District, would be placed in the 9th Council District.

Also the Local Development Corporation membership would change drastically. Currently many members of the Corporation are 7th Council District residents. That would change by virtue of sections of West Harlem being put in the 9th Council District. Change could also happen because of the possibility of a white council member representing the 7th District. The corporation is set up to include council member appointees. Thus, more whites would likely be in the Local Development Corporation than Blacks because of this redistricting. However, the fight over benefits was largely waged between the Black community and Columbia.

Benefactors of such agreement also included Grant Houses and Manhattanville Houses, two public housing developments in the 7th Council District. These two developments are left in the 7th Council District under both plans. Id.

However, such separation from their constituents places them in a vulnerable position. It is more than rumor that the powers that be want to privatize public housing. A white controlled district with a population having different interests than a Black population brings about all types of dissatisfying consequences, as far as the Black population is concerned. The community benefits agreement that the present 7th District residents bargained for can get complicated with a new political power base and controlling white population.

But why shouldn't the current 7th District residents be in the position of control over a benefits agreement that they bargained for?

The conclusion is that these redistricting plans will likely put the Black population in the 7th District worse off than they are now.

Other Law Relating to Redistricting

Notwithstanding federal law, the New York City Charter, at Section 52, sets criteria for redistricting. It includes keeping intact neighborhoods and communities with racial, economic, ethnic, religious and cultural ties. West Harlem, a sub-culture of Harlem is such community.

It also includes that districts shall be compact and should be no more than twice as long as it is wide. The Commission's plan and UMED's plan made District 7 like a rail car, especially the UMED Plan. There was no consideration for the Black electorate of West Harlem. Such plans bolster the White and Hispanic communities, while in West Harlem Blacks are the majority. Although, it is argued here that bringing the Dominican population to 51% under the Commission's plan and 41% in the UMED plan is a smoke screen. Id.

Conclusion

The plans ignore that Harlem has a Black American History, culture and style that's even more connected by spirituality and economy. And this connection has been intact for over 100 years. Harlem includes West Harlem, but for purposes of districts West Harlem, the way it is currently set up, must remain intact in District 7. That's because it is a protected community due its controlling population. Id.

But not only is West Harlem such a protected community, so is Central Harlem and East Harlem, from River to River. "Districtly" speaking, that's the 7th, 9th and 8th Districts, all three, running contiguously and overlapping, and being under a "Black" political influence. That's because it's been that way for decades and such a result happened by way of natural migration.

End

#

Leah Holzel

New York, NY

DISTRICT 7

October 4, 2012

To whom it may concern,

This past Tuesday, my husband and I celebrated our one year anniversary in our home in the Inwood section of Manhattan. We have never owned before and moved here from the upper east side where we had each resided for over 20 years, and where my husband has a professional practice.

I am opposed to the redistricting plan which would sever our representational ties with the fundamental cultural and educational institutions that anchor district 7 as it currently exists. Broadway serves as long-defined, well-entrenched, organic divide. Western Inwood is becoming a sophisticated, thriving and upwardly mobile community.

The lines proposed by the City Council would take political influence away from northern Manhattan by putting most of it into one district, and we would lose power and influence.

I agree with Zead Ramadan, a former chair of Community Board 12, who believes that the center of gravity is going to shift down to western Harlem. And we would lose a lot of voice.

Right now, we have two council members who also share the land area pretty equally, so when they advocate for millions of dollars of resources, they're bringing it to our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Leah Holzel

My name is Lizabeth Sostre and I live in Manhattan Valley. Manhattan Valley runs from 100th to 110th Street east of Amsterdam to Central Park. I have lived in the same building on West 109th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus since 1976. That is 36 years. However, when people ask me where I live, I tell them I live in the Upper West Side, not Manhattan Valley. That is at the heart of the redistricting issue.

My current councilmanic district (Council District 8) attaches me to East Harlem. East Harlem is on the other side of Central Park and Central Park is pretty big. This has denied me easy access to my Councilmember's office. So what I do when I have any local issues is go to Assemblymember Danny O'Donnell's office which is on West, not East, 104th Street. He is very nice and tries his best to help, but actually I should be going to my Councilmember's office. But I won't because it is too time consuming. It takes too long to get there.

The proposed lines detach me from East Harlem (thank you) but still do not attach me to the Upper West Side (proposed Council District 7) where I belong. Instead, I am now attached to the proposed Council District 9. My police precinct is in the proposed Council District 7. The fire department responsible for my building is in the proposed Council District 7. The community board for my area is in the proposed Council District 7.

Why am I still cut out? Something is very wrong here. I know you can fix this. I hope you do.

Testimony before
The New York City Districting Commission

October 4, 2012

by Mark D. Levine

Thank you. My name is Mark Levine, and I am a Democratic District Leader from the 71st Assembly District in Washington Heights. I am here to provide feedback on the drawing of the 7th and 10th Councilmanic districts uptown.

In short, the commission's first proposal for these districts was simply terrible. There are a few principles that most New Yorkers expect the Commission to be mindful of in drawing our new maps: 1) there should be an effort to keep together communities of common interest, 2) minority voting power should be protected, and 3) the basic notion of fairness should be adhered to.

Unfortunately, when it comes to Northern Manhattan, the Commission's preliminary plan failed on each of these counts.

First, the plan rips apart Northern Manhattan neighborhoods along the Hudson--namely Hamilton Heights, Washington Heights, and Inwood--areas with deep ties and a decades-long history of common representation in the 7th Council district, areas that remain connected today in the Assembly and Senate districts. I and many other testified about the nature of these deep ties in the August hearing so I won't repeat myself on this today, but suffice to say that these waterfront neighborhoods are connected by common parks and transit lines, a common school district, the presence of Columbia University campuses, similarly high rates of homeownership, and much more. That's why every effort should be made to keep these waterfront neighborhoods together in a common district.

Second, the Commission's preliminary plan dramatically dilutes Latino voting power in the 10th District, which traditionally has been overwhelmingly Latino. Under the new plan the portion of Latinos among regular votes in a Democratic primary would drop to 51%. I am talking about the so-called "prime Dems" number, which is far more relevant to the outcome of elections than raw census numbers. And if current demographic trends continue uptown then your proposal would ensure that Latinos would cease to be a majority of primary voters in the 10th district in just a few short years.

And lest you think that there were compensating gains for Latino voting power in the newly

drawn 7th, the numbers there are even weaker, with Latinos making us just 30% of regular primary voters.

And finally there is the issue of fairness. As many have already pointed out, the Commission's proposal packs in 5% more voters to almost every Manhattan District as compared to the city-wide average. This is exactly the same tactic employed by State Senate Republicans, who pack in more voters downstate to dilute our voting power--and we downstaters have rightly been highly critical of this. That fact is that Manhattan's population has *grown* relative to the rest of the city and we should see a corresponding increase in representation here. Instead we are losing one Council seat to the Bronx.

And this practice of over-packing directly affects the Washington Heights area, where the extra growth has made the contortions in the 7th and 10th districts even worse.

None of this has to happen. The commission has received multiple proposed maps that comply with every legal obligation, avoid the weaknesses of the current proposal, and leave the uptown districts largely intact. I urge you take these suggestions and jettison your preliminary draft plan.

Thank you

NYC Redistricting Manhattan Hearing
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
Testimony by Monique Ndigo Washington
Thursday, October 4, 2012

Good evening members of the NYC Districting Commission. My name is Monique Ndigo Washington. I am the President of the Terrace Apartments Tenants Association, which include four buildings near the southern tip of District 7. I am here to lend my voice as a member of the Harlem community and join with others to ensure that the boundaries of District 7 are drawn to meet the legal criteria set forth by the New York City Charter, the Voting Rights Act and the Justice Department.

I represent four generations of residing in West Harlem. Let me take a quick moment to explain why this is significant. If you ask any person anywhere in the world, if they ever heard of Harlem, I'm sure their answer would be a resounding yes. Harlem is known for its unique culture, history and heritage. We have given rise to artists, writers and activists. Harlem was the place to see and be seen. However, that dirty word gentrification arrived some twenty years ago and has threatened to change and erase our presence and history.

I have witnessed landlords evict tenants illegally from rent stabilized apartments and Mitchel-lama housing so they can increase their rents and secure market rates. Small business owners have suffered the same fate and have had to close their doors because they are unable to compete with big box retail stores, banks, franchises and Columbia University (ie. Starbucks, Duane Reade and Chase). Capitalism, real estate and greed are at the root of this displacement and land grab. Mobay Restaurant, Harlem Lanes and Hueman Bookstore are among the most recent businesses who had to shut their doors. Some of the black owned businesses who have remained on the 125th Street corridor have relocated more than once and travelled further east. There is also a huge concern about the future of our vendors, since Mayor Bloomberg's proposal to rezone 125th Street passed.

I would like to call your attention to an important aspect that occurred with the drafting of the preliminary lines. On the eastern border of St. Nicholas Avenue cuts across at 128th Street to Convent Avenue and down to 123rd Street. This line literally cuts thru an alley and is sandwiched between a building and where St. Nicholas Park ends. Why would the line stop at 128th St. and not extend to 127th Street where St. Nicholas Avenue ends or extend further down to 123rd St. Is it to cut my house (apartment bldg.) out of District 7? After learning that I was not the only person and potential candidate who experienced this in District 7 (also in Brooklyn), I can't help but be suspicious and conclude that this was intentionally and absolutely political. Is this an attempt to silence the voice of grassroots and possible elected representation for the upcoming 2013 City Council race? Representation that would challenge the political machine and buck the status quo?

As the founder of my group, Take Back Our City (TBOC), I/we ask that you take a look at this issue closely and when you consider drawing these lines and strive to keep a balance between meeting the criteria outlined by the Justice Department to account for the current population in this District and the adjoining two districts (8 and 9 respectively), be reminded that the residents of this community share a common bond. We send our children to the schools in the area, shop in the area, participate in civic and religious organizations and support our local institutions. We hope our presence will be protected and maintained. Thank you for your time and I hope you will include my testimony as you discuss and deliberate over the next few months. We, the people have a voice and will not be silenced.

**TESTIMONY OF NICK PRIGO
ELECTRONICALLY DELIVERED TO THE
NEW YORK CITY DISTRICTING COMMISSION**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4TH - 5:30PM - 9:00PM
SCHOMBURG CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE
515 MALCOLM X BOULEVARD
NEW YORK, NY 10037

Thank you for taking the time to consider this testimony. My name is Nick Prigo and I am the Male Democratic District Leader for the 69th Assembly District, Part B and the Housing Committee Co-Chair of Manhattan's Community Board 7.

I commend the effort made by the commission thus far in the production of its draft map and want to recommend to you a couple of simple, yet critical, changes that would improve upon it. My home area, the northern reaches of the Upper West Side and Morningside Heights, has been unnecessarily divided into multiple council districts. I urge the commission to correct this mistake and unify these neighborhoods into a single district.

Highlighting the most egregious result of this separation is the division of the Park West Village complex at the southern end of the draft map's CD7 and CD9. Park West Village is a seven building complex comprising two super-blocks, with an active tenant association, and a 60-year history of unified community activism. It is critical that this complex, bounded by Columbus Ave, Central Park West, West 97th Street and West 100th Street, stays unified.

The unification of this territory would be best served by moving the southern border of the draft CD9 up to West 110th Street and snaking the western border along Morningside Park up through Columbia University. Furthermore, there may be opportunities to move the northern boundary of CD6 north a few blocks to help accommodate this unification.

Hearings

From: Sharonne Salaan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 6:18 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

Greetings,

Do not change the NYC councilmanic boundary lines for Northern Manhattan.

The African American citizen voting-age population would be greatly diminished in the 7th Council District under this proposed map and the shift of political influence would be given to a white citizen voting-age population.

The Upper Manhattan Empowerment District's proposed map offered as an alternative is even worse. The latter seems to create a special district for Columbia University whereas Columbia University would be the epicenter. Both plans would put Columbia University under the auspices of a majority white population which on its face would be preferable to Columbia University considering the history between Columbia and the African American Community in Harlem.

It would also leave two public housing developments in the 7th District, Grant Houses and Manhattanville Houses, largely occupied by African Americans, vulnerable to predators. It is a commonly known fact that these two developments have been considered for some sort of privatization plan.

However, African Americans are the majority citizen voting-age population in all of Harlem. There are approximately 60,000 African Americans in West Harlem, 52,000 Dominicans and 33,000 whites. In all of the 7th District the African American population is 37%. The Dominican percentage is 47% and the white population is 15%.

Although the Dominican population in the entire 7th District is the majority population the Dominican citizen voting-age population does not have the majority. Having an African American representing the 7th District in city council for 3 terms, coupled with the total African American population in the 7th District, is evidence that the African American "minority" population is significant in this district if not self determining and is a protected group under the Voting Rights Act.

To reduce the African American population to 17% (both proposed maps) putting such group at the bottom of the top three ethnic groups by drawing into the 7th District a white neighborhood, carving a large percentage of the Black population in West Harlem out of the 7th District and putting them into the 9th District and cutting out African American neighborhoods in Lower Washington Heights is gerrymandering at its best.

Furthermore, these new boundary lines seem to purposely carve out the residences of potential African American candidates for the 7th Council District in the 2013 councilmanic race, which will be open in 2013. Particularly, one of the candidates ran in 2009 and there is a logical inclination that he would run again, especially since the council seat will be opened in 2013.

Therefore we ask that the Commission preserve the majority "minority" voting power that is already in place in the 7th District. Altering other Upper Manhattan Districts to compensate for an unequal district population

because of population shifts at the expense of the "minority" voting power in the 7th District is not fair. Those districts do not lose their actual "minority" voting power.

The 7th District meets all of the criteria to preserve its "minority" voting power population under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and such proposed maps violate both Sections 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

Sharonne Salaan
New York, New York

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/new-york-city-districting-commission-do-not-change-the-nyc-councilmanic-boundary-lines-for-northern-manhattan>. To respond, [click here](#)

Hearings

From: Aresh Javadi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 5:42 PM
To: Hearings
Cc: Melissa Mark-Viverito
Subject: Redrawing District 8 - Unity Map

I Aresh Javadi, working in El Barrio and running a Summer Camp in district 8 in the South Bronx and having lived there, strongly urge the Commission to use the Unity Map proposal as a framework for re-drawing District 8. This proposal, created by a coalition of groups including LatinoJustice PRLDEF, keeps El Barrio whole and preserves the Manhattan Valley portion of the district, while still doubling the area covered in the Bronx to include almost the entirety of Mott Haven.

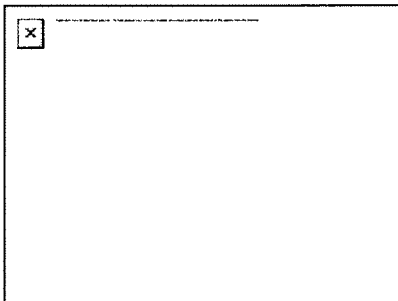
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Aresh Javadi,
c o - f o u n d e r
M o r e G a r d e n s !

NY City Community Garden
Coalition - Board Member

cellphone: (917) [REDACTED]
moregardens.org
nyccgc.org
" "

More
Gardens!
More Trees!
New York City loves to breathe!



TO: NYC Redistricting Commission

FROM: Blanca Vazquez, Manhattan Valley Preservation Coalition, co-chair

DATE: Oct. 5, 2012

RE: District 8 Redistricting Proposal

VIA: hearings@districting.nyc.gov

The NYC Redistricting Commission did not take into the account the historical integrity of district 8 and the unity of its community, especially for my neighborhood, the Manhattan Valley portion. I am co-chair of the Manhattan Valley Preservation Coalition. The creation and work of MVPC is a testament to our history of struggle, especially when it comes to housing.

Many of us have been in this mixed-income community for more than 30 years. We are here because in the 60s and 70s we fought for affordable housing, we did sweat equity and volunteer work, we organized as tenant associations and later as HDFC's so that we could remain mixed income and family friendly. We have rich neighbors to the West and low- and middle-income neighbors to the South. We have restaurants and bodega; none of that was preserved without effort. **The decision to break up MV is a poor one and so is the timing.**

We are undergoing another intense gentrification phase, this time the threat is from investment capital coming into an affordable area before it gets as super hot and expensive as the Upper East Side. With all due respect to my alma mater, Columbia University's new campus project squeezes out local businesses, restaurants and families. We have valued and protected all that makes MV unique and livable, we have resisted being recast and rearranged by powerful interests such as the Extel Corporation that seek to make this area exclusive and exclusionary. Working with community board 7, **MV organizations have succeeded in limiting high rise development** to 12 stories on the broad streets and 7 stories on the side streets. From the outside it looks like we are being punished for our success. It sends a message to organizations and neighbors that have had success in curtailing development that instead of being applauded for being good neighbors and good citizens, we will be reorganized, tearing apart working relationships we've had for years.

The new boundaries also dilute the strength of a mixed-income community and disenfranchises in particular the minorities in the district, Latinos and African Americans who have voice and vote in the longstanding organizations we have forged in tenant associations, HDFCs, and community organizations. It privileges those with big pockets and political power. MV had a history and real integrity. We have an excellent city councilperson able to unite the community by developing ties with its organizations and that stands out as representing the people who live here, **all** the

people. We don't appreciate how this recommendation comes at the expense of the civil rights goals which created the district: to give voice to the majority not in power — people of color in NYC. It disenfranchises the Latinos and African Americans and other minorities that give the neighborhood a special mixed character that was once more common in this city.

We **are** Manhattan Valley, we have been saying it with pride for decades; this proposal dismantles a living vibrant community. It should not stand.

Blanca Vazquez


NY, NY 10025

October 4, 2012

Commissioners of the NYC Redistricting Commission
Schomberg Research Center for Black Culture
515 Malcolm X Boulevard
New York, NY 10031

Commissioners:

I am speaking tonight to address the continuing division of the Upper West Side village sometimes known as Manhattan Valley and specifically the close knit neighborhood of the Upper West Side from Central Park to Riverside Parks and 96th Street to 110th street.

At the preliminary hearings, the commissioners heard about the oddity that the Upper West Side above 96th street, a ethnically diverse but a community of strong common interests, has been divided in the past and projected by the draft council lines to be divided in the future. Our natural community lines bounded by the Hudson River on the west and by Central Park and Morningside Park are recognized and use by nearly every city service district:

24th Precinct 96th to 110th Street
School District 3 57th to 123rd Street
5th Judicial District 59th to 110th Street
Columbus Amsterdam Business Improvement District
Library Catchment area
Health District

Our community, though ethnically and economically diverse, works together, from Riverside to Central Park West on our common local issues. In 2007, the Department of City Planning together with members of our community, and community board rezoned our neighborhood from 96th to 110th Streets CPW to Riverside Park in a two year effort.

Two years later, our community came together to support our locals schools, PS 145 and then PS 163 when the charter schools tried to evict the public schools. Again, this tight knit neighborhood rallied again.

And just last year, our Manhattan Valley neighborhood insisted on extending the Upper West Side retailing rezoning to preserve our local neighborhood stores for our natural retailing and if effect, our

downtown, Amsterdam Avenue and Broadway, between 96th and 110th streets. These business avenues service the neighborhood from CPW to Riverside.

It should be noted, that we have been very fortunate for the past eight years to be represented and supported by two extraordinary community centered council representatives, Melissa Mark Viverito, who has represented Manhattan Valley east of Amsterdam Avenue and Inez Dickens who has represented the area west of Amsterdam. Their strong backing and leadership has enabled us to work together. We are also extremely fortunate to have the UWS Council Member Gale Brewer as our neighboring council member who has both helped and led on several of our initiatives even though it is not her district.

At the last hearing, we requested a single district for our neighborhood and mentioned that most of our service districts run north south between Riverside Park on the west and the Morningside and Central Park on the west. The draft proposal divides the unified neighborhood into strips attached to two districts that run north into the northern borders of Manhattan. This makes even less sense than the previous district.

While we understand that some neighborhood must be at the tail end of a district and because of the maximum packed population of most of the Manhattan council districts, some council district must be that tail end. However it is unfair and unreasonable that not only that our community again be divided but now we will be attached to a council district with which we have no history or relationship – and furthermore matches our ethnic makeup the least. While personally, I think that basing representative district based upon ethnic population divides communities more than it represents them, since the federal guidelines governing NYC districts does mandate drawing districts that increase minority representation, then it should be noted that Manhattan Valley's largest minority is Hispanic in over a two to one ratio over the next largest ethnic group.

Therefore, if our neighborhood must be divided, and again it should not because we are a wonderful multiethnic community that works extremely well together and fights for our common neighborhood interests, but if it must then we should continue to be linked to Council District 8 which has represented us for the last 20 years, and very ably represented us for the last 20 years by Melissa Mark Viverito and Phil Reed, and has whose minority population in the district as a whole is similar to our own.

Finally there is a fairly easy solution for the commission. Simply return the Upper West Side part of that is in the draft portion of Council District 7 to Council District 8 and give the northwest part of the Manhattan portion of Council District 8 to Council District 7 so that the populations remain the same.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Botfeld

Democratic District Leader 69th AD – Part A

Hearings

From: Tato Torres [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:11 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Proposed lines to District 8

My name is Carlos Torres and I am a member of the East Harlem community.

The proposed lines to District 8 slice and dice our community in an arbitrary and suspiciously disrespectful manner, which raises many logical questions about the real intentions of those obviously pulling strings and disgracefully playing political games to benefit particular agendas and NOT the welfare of it's constituents. The proposed lines rip apart and disenfranchise communities with deep roots, strong ties and a long history of common political representation. There's no logical explanation that I, or anyone else I know in the community can see, to justify how District 8 is intended to be carved up to clearly satisfy "political" interests outside and well beyond those of the District and it's constituents. No well-respected or self-respecting resident or leader in District 8 agrees with or approves the proposed redistricting lines and that should NOT be ignored.

The public process surrounding these proposed district lines is highly suspicious and questionable. It lacks proper consideration and respect for the common interest and history that binds District 8's constituents and obviously benefits the particular interest of those who for one reason or another, feel threatened by these bonds and the leadership that represents us.

While it is understandable that neighboring districts have changed demographically, and that there may be a need to facilitate opportunity for continued ethnic minority representation in the City Council, it is NOT so clear and transparent that the proposed lines actually address these needs fairly. And they certainly do NOT seem to be proposed with the well-intended purpose of keeping communities or "groups of common interest" together, as required by the City Charter. In fact it is quite evident that the proposed lines actually violate the City Charter and certainly do NOT demonstrate the intention to protect our common interests. The nebulous intentions of those promoting these changes is made even more evident by their blatant disregard of the community's own voice and lack of interest and consideration for alternatives such as the Unity Map developed and proposed by a coalition of independent entities, which evidently does have the best interest of the community of District 8 as it's intention.

The current process is clearly and obviously flawed, arbitrary and those directly involved and those indirectly influencing it, are simply not interested in our common interests as a community. We seriously demand that the Commission reflects upon it's behavior and actually take into consideration the welfare of every community in every district without favoring particular political agendas. Let your conscience lead you to BE HONEST and BE FAIR as you are supposed to be.

Thank You,

Carlos J. Torres

Hearings

From: CATHERINE UNSINO [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 1:16 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Speaking at Oct. 4th Hearing on Re-Districting in Manhattan -- For your adoption of the Unity Coalition Recommendations

Dear Re-Districting Commission:

I speak in strong opposition to the re-districting proposed for the upper west side, especially but not exclusively about the plan

- 1) to split in two the historic 7 building complex located between 97th and 100th Streets (n/s) and Central Park West and Columbus Avenue (e/w) known as Park West Village; and
- 2) I also object to re-districting that would remove our effective, dedicated and committed Council Member Melissa Mark Viverito. She must continue to represent us as she has diligently on the upper westside.

1) I moved into Park West Village in 1968 because it was a racially and economically diverse, international, inclusive, progressive community -- a model for how we hoped our country would become. In fact at that time this area of the upper westside was renowned nationally as a unique and exemplary community in which people knew and mattered to each other across lines that elsewhere would categorize and compartmentalize us.

Neighbors within Park West Village have a history of sustained civic engagement on a range of issues of social justice. We have organized fund raisers for progressive causes and are politically active. We have formed self-help directories in each building to organize volunteers to help seniors and others. We developed a listserve for residents of our 7 buildings. We have formed book and film clubs, exercise programs, picnics, flea markets and a range of community activities open to all. To split this vibrant community along east/west lines would be a great injustice and would serve to weaken our voices and effective civic engagement. It would serve no constructive purpose for the people affected. One is moved to ask: what prompts this proposed re-districting at this time? Is it a strategy that would benefit individuals maneuvering for political advantage to the detriment of the best interest of citizens? That should be unequivocally rejected.

We read newspaper articles de-crying rampant income segregation across our country and see first hand how our city caters to the super rich while squeezing low and middle income New Yorkers beyond endurance. The district as it is presently constituted encompasses residents that embody the full spectrum of income levels. We use the same library, relax in the same area of Central Park, swim in its pool in the summer, buy produce at the same Farmers' Market, shop in the same stores. We know and matter to each other. If your proposal were to go through, Park West Village's representation would be split, we would be cut off from the Douglass Houses, from our neighbors at 106th St whom we have come to know and value. Often at our Farmers' Market, I see tourists enjoying the scene, led there by guides who volunteer to accompany them to interesting New York City Sites. They aren't only enjoying the fresh produce. Clearly, they are moved by the joyful diversity of our neighbors shopping together, exchanging international and regional recipes while enjoying the lively beat of our local jazz trio. Why would you tear apart such a beautiful fabric? First, do no harm.

2) Councilmember Melissa Mark Viverito has encompassed well the needs of her upper west side constituents, while also addressing concerns of those in East Harlem and the Bronx. I have met many new friends among residents of East Harlem I would otherwise not have had the opportunity to know. She has participated in our community meetings, has come to our homes, schools and community rooms learning first hand what our issues are, lending her expertise to help us grow grass roots initiatives and advocating for fairness and the people's

interest when those are threatened. Council Member Mark Viverito is an exemplary public official whose district must remain intact so she can continue superior representation. We value her effective, dedicated hard work and would find it destructive to all we value to lose her and her services at this critical time in our community. We urge that you embrace the universally valued admonition: First, do no harm.

CONCLUSION

We want our Council Member Melissa Mark Viverito to continue to represent us.

We urge that you retain our current district configuration and adopt recommendations promulgated by the Unity Coalition.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Unsino, LCSW

[REDACTED]
New York, NY [REDACTED]

Hearings

From: Celia Ramirez [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2012 4:24 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: District 8 manhattan

DO NOT CHANGE THE BOARDERS OF District 8

While there is enough turmoil I the world,

we do not need to have more added to District 8 in dividing the community by changing the district lines.

If you really knew the people in this community you wouldn't change the line as you have noted.

This community is like a HUMAN BEING IN BODY PARTS.

If you cut off an arm it's not complete; If you cut the legs off it's not complete.

And if you cut the head off it doesn't exist.

Please do not KILL THIS DISTRICT> Keep it together so it can continue to flourish.

Thank You,
Celia Ramirez

Hearings

From: Celia Ramirez <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 1:31 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Districting for District 8 manhattan

TO ALL THAT SIT ON THE COMMISSION ;

I support the fight for not moving the district line and losing pieces of our soul here in East Harlem; El Barrio.

After the battles of survival for over two decades and poverty all around in this District 8 this change would be literally ,
STEALING FROM THE PEOPLE THEIR SWEAT EQUITY AND HARD WORK THAT THEY HAVE DONE TO MOVE IT TO THE NEXT
LEVEL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Now that it would flourish and the people would be able to be proud and enjoy the fruits of their labor you come like a
thief in the night and try to take it away .

I for one, am appalled that human beings like yourselves haven't put yourselves in the shoes of (District 8) these people
and think how would you feel if they came to where you live and decide to put other powers in charge that don't even
know you.

This community needs to be able to stay as a community and not be torn apart .

After so long now that it is growing and it's developing and expanding the dead areas and producing you feel that it
should change.

NO NO NO NO , LEAVE IT ALONE... TOGETHER. NO CHANGES

Celia Ramirez ,V.P.
East River North Renewal, HDFC.Inc
430 East 118th Street Suite#1E
441 East 117th Street
New York, New York 10035
212 427-8716

Committee on Districting
New York City
District 8 Spanish Harlem

October 4, 2012

Dear Committee members & Council Leaders:

Thank you for granting me this time to speak concerning the Proposed Re-districting of District 8.

My grandfather Mr. Lopez immigrated here to Spanish Harlem in 1940 from Spain because of a Fascist Regime under Franco.

His first employment was working in La Marqueta selling agricultural foods then shortly thereafter entered WWII in the Navy got killed by a German Torpedo striking his ship.

Then my grandmother started working in La Marqueta selling fruits for the next 15 years.

I have known La Marqueta all of my life and Spanish Harlem as a cultural Mecca for the Puerto Rican & Cuban residents. The new wave of immigrants Mexicans thriving under this wonderful melting pot would be deprived of this neighborhoods rich heritage if Sections of Spanish Harlem cross-over to District 9.

Please do not allow the very few cultural landmarks Spanish Harlem residents have left to call their own just because of what looks like backroom political deals.

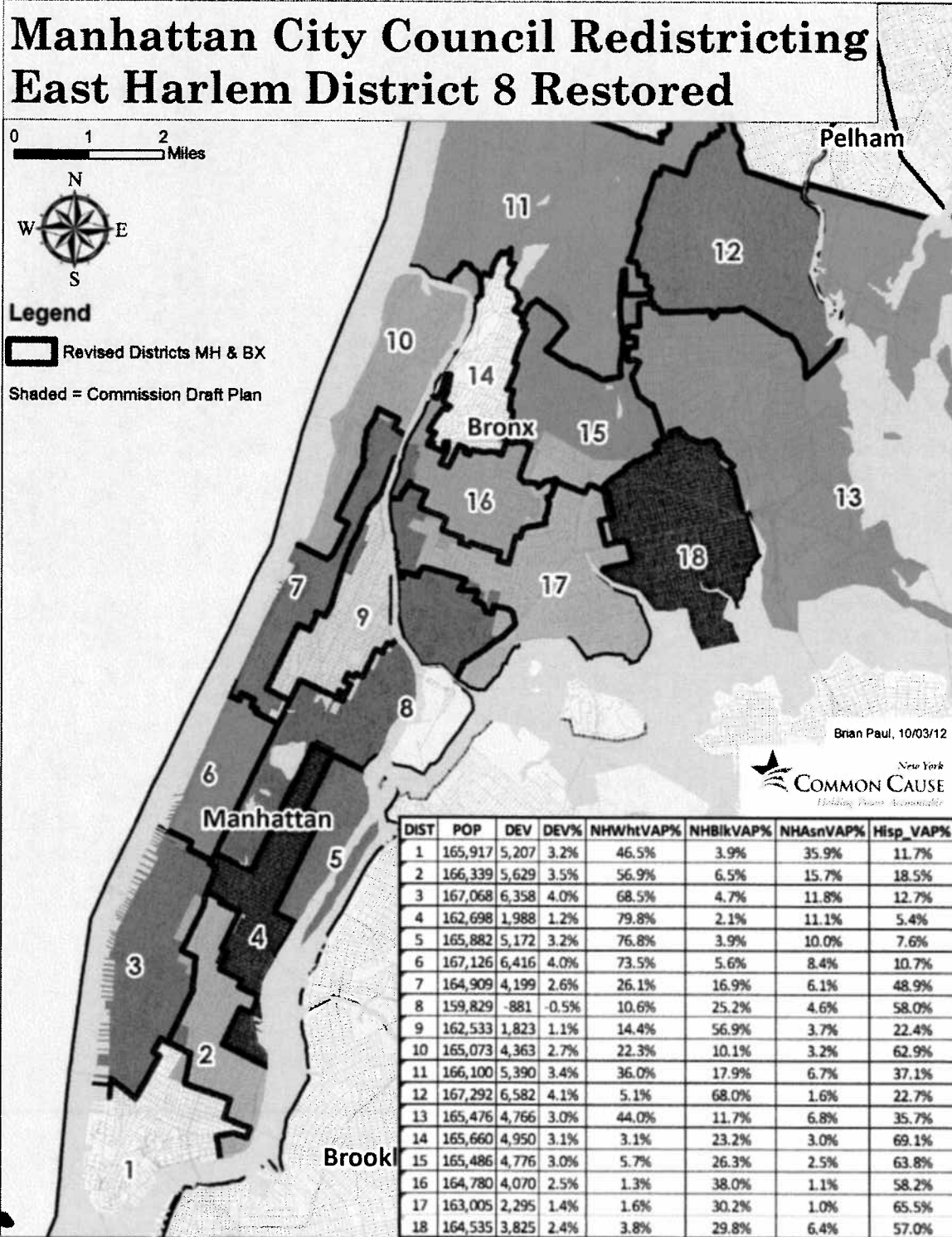
I am a leader at the organization Community Voices Heard (CVH), a community organizing group based at 106th St and Lexington Avenue. CVH asked Common Cause, a non-partisan watchdog group and expert on redistricting issues, if it was possible to draw that maps so we could keep East Harlem together, and keep District 8 based in Manhattan.

Common Cause found that it is doable. By making a few slight changes, Common Cause found that District 8 would have a population of 102,709 in Manhattan and a population of 57,120 in the Bronx

Common Cause reported to us:

ATTACHMENT 1

Common Cause's "least change while protecting the East Harlem community of interest" proposal, prepared at the request of Community Voices Heard. (Sept 2012)



A close-up of Common Cause’s “least change while protecting the East Harlem Community of interest” proposal, prepared at the request of Community Voices Heard. (Sept 2012)

New York City

0 0.5 1 Miles

Manhattan

Bronx

Queens

Central Park

St. Mary's Park

Randall's Island

Common Cause

Brian Paul, 09/27/12

Brian Paul, 09/27/12



New York

COMMON CAUSE
Holding Power Accountable

City Redistricting Hearing Testimony

October 4, 2012

Daniel Marks Cohen

New York State Democratic Committeeman, 69th A.D.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

My name is Daniel Marks Cohen, and I am the New York State Democratic Committeeman representing the 69th Assembly District of Manhattan's Upper West Side in the New York State Democratic Committee. The Assemblymember for the 69th is Daniel O'Donnell. I am a lifelong resident of the Upper West Side, my parents live in the district, my wife and I live in the district, and we are raising our newborn son – a third generation West Sider – in it as well. The part of the Upper West Side I live in – between 96th Street and 125th Street, is the poorest portion of the 69th Assembly District (<http://zipskinny.com/zipcompare.php>), it is the least served in terms of services and transportation (<http://www.straphangers.org/pokeyaward/10/>), and has more crime (http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/crime_prevention/crime_statistics.shtml).

I believe at least one reason for its consistent and uneven status is that fact that the 69th is cut up into multiple pieces of nine different districts. This was somewhat improved recently by the passage of federal redistricting legislation which redrew the TWO Congressional districts: the 8th by Representative Jerry Nadler, and the 15th by Representative Charlie Rangel; but it was made worse by the THREE State Senate districts: Tom Duane of the 29th, Bill Perkins of the 30th and Adriano Espaillat of the 31st. The latter, the 31st, is particularly egregious, stretching from 184th to 24th Streets along the west coast of Manhattan island, it looks more like the Latin American country of Chile than a proper State Senate district. But sadly, that it not your purview today, and we are stuck with this absurd district for the next ten years.

The recent proposed draft of the council lines is a modest improvement – the northern part of the area I represent is no longer in the 8th district, currently held by councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito from East Harlem, who has served us as well as any person could with a district stretching over such a large geographic area with limited resources. But the area is now split between the 7th and the 9th, councilmembers Robert Jackson and Inez Dickens, respectively. The line to divide the two districts deliberately fractures the community in a way I can only assume was to limit the voting power of the residents in the district so as to not have too much sway in either the 7th, largely seen at a “Washington Heights” seat and the 9th, which is viewed as a “West Harlem” seat.

Plainly put: the northern-most district lines proposed are nonsensical. While I am grateful that residents in my community who lived in the 8th district no longer have to go to 116th Street and Lexington Avenue for help from their councilmember, it is absurd and blatantly disrespectful to divide the area between the 7th and 9th districts along such a random line. The easiest solution is to move the border so that everything west of Central Park and Morningside Park is in the 7th. If this causes the 7th to exceed its capacity, move the line of the 6th district north to pick up some additional voters. I propose that the Commission redraw the lines more naturally, to keep Manhattan Valley's representation on the West Side, where it belongs, rather than as an appendage to another district for incumbency or demographic reasons.

Testimony of Deborah Quinones
Before the NYC Districting Commission
Oct. 4, 2012
Aurturo Schomburg Library

Good evening my name is Deborah Quinones a life long resident of El Barrio East Harlem. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the City Council redistricting. My testimony this evening comes from a place of deep and profound love and respect for my community and I apologize in advance should I become emotional. As a long time community leader, activist, founding board member of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Board member, former member of Civitas and member of Community Board #11 where I have served as Vice Chair and Chair of the Youth, Health, Cultural Committees and Carnivals Task I understand the difficulties and pressures of engaging in a planning effort that impact peoples' lives. I know that on many occasions the process, intent, and responsibility to engaging the community and maintaining transparency are difficult. So with that I want to thank the all the members of the NYC Districting Commission for all of their hard work.

I must address the issue of redistricting itself and the process of discussion with the incumbents to seek their input and approvals that keep them from really talking to the community about the issue and how they can better serve the community. I find that this discussion that started a year ago was glossed over by the elected officials assuming that from the lack of community involvement in the past that they will just do what they do and get what they want. I went to a meeting last year about redistricting and only 8 people showed up there was no follow up to reach out and ensure more participation. It seemed as if there was there just a check mark placed next to the box of community out reach and they moved on. Why wasn't there a media campaign with PSAs to educated the community?

I am very concerned that Electeds and District leaders did not follow up but instead arrogantly assumed that they were untouchable. Guess what we are all touched by the loss of the Marqueta and Randall's Island. There are clear violations of the city charter with the placement of Randall Island into Queens. The Charter states that a district should cross in another borough unless is absolutely necessary. What is so necessary about that when for years on the community board we have worked with Randall's island to ensure EH access As a members of the community board we have had so many discussion and issues with Randal's island the about EH access and participation in the programs.

My deep concern for the Marqueta as a cultural; and spiritual; sanctuary that is now being tossed as a political football for years.but it is ours. We have not had the support form the city to save it. Instead hap hazard efforts to dress it up, to paint it and to up screw it up. Every plan has been lost and then when the East Harlem Business Capital Corporation was close it was taken away. Give us back Randal's island as a community vehicle to address our lack physical fitness to address our issues of obesity and chronic conditions.

Give us the Marqueta as a solid revenue generating vehicle for fresh fruits and crafts to support our fragile tourism infrastructure.District 8 is being squeezed and we deserve better. So what do I recommend? A serious review of the current proposed lines. Go south not west and keep la Maaqutea and Randal's island and shift districts in the Bx. East Harlem is not silly paddy to be stretched to the point where we do not get adequate representation and are not afforded the same quality of life as other communities. This plan kills us at a spiritual, social, economic and physical level. We will not be a bedroom community that suffers from the lack of vehicles to generate revenue where we are unable to keep the money in the community. We are more that just projects, we are more than just train tracks, we are more than just the space between 103r and 125th and we need a district that reflect that. So now my planning hat comes on and I hear what about the numbers what about the number gives us our fair share of the legal limit. I find it so unusual that the distinct will be in pushed into the Bronx as a result of packing the Manhattan

districts at different rates of 4.0% for Man and District 8 at 0.7% Why is that? Don't get me wrong I like the Bronx, but I do not support a Bronx based district that will not fully service the needs of East Harlem. We may be small and easy to assume that there is just one layer that defines the district, but we are so much more. We share more in common with our Southern neighbors that seem to moving up into the community faster and faster. So what do I propose are shifts in Manhattan districts further south and to reworking district on the Bronx

Your concept of least change has the most impact, your concept of association tears us apart, and your interpretation of the voting rights act to protect the district has left us vulnerable

My testimony this evening was humble attempt to address this issue and I thank the commission for their time and ask that more communication occur about the next steps.

Thank You
Deborah Quinones

Testimony of DeNora Getachew to the New York City Districting Commission
Thursday, October 04, 2012
submitted electronically

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony to the New York City Districting Commission (Commission) at its Manhattan hearing on Thursday, October 04, 2012. I commend all of the Commission members for taking on such an important task to ensure our democratic system of government best reflects our community's growth and population shifts over the last decade.

I am a resident of the Upper West Side of Manhattan in City Council District 8 ("District 8"), a member of Manhattan Community Board 7 and a member of the Board of Directors of Union Settlement Association in East Harlem. It is through these multiple perspectives that I express my concerns with the proposed redistricting as it relates to District 8. While I believe that the Western portion of District 8 is in need of its own district, the proposal submitted by the Commission only exacerbates the problem by creating new divisions within our community that adversely impacts the haphazard unity that has evolved in the district. Specifically, I live on West 107th Street off of Broadway in a building that would now be carved out of District 8, although my neighbors an avenue away would remain in District 8 or be included in another Council district. Such a change cannot be what is contemplated by New York City Charter Section 52's requirements that districts be compact, contiguous, protect communities of interest, and provide fair and effective representation for communities of the racial and language minority groups which are protected by the Voting Rights Act.

As it relates to the East Harlem portion of District 8, which I have come to understand in my capacity as a Boardmember with Union Settlement Association, I would ask the Commission to respect the importance of keeping the Puerto Rican population in East Harlem in one council district. District 8 as currently constituted empowers a strong Latino population, which constitutes a community of interest. Carving this portion of District 8 into multiple pieces dilutes a community, which is inconsistent with the City Charter's mandate. Of particular note is the proposal to take La Marqueta and other important historic and cultural landmarks for the Puerto Rican community that currently reside in District 8 and place them in another Council district. This neighborhood and the important institutions that it houses should all be preserved intact.

In the absence of an actual West Side district, I would ask that the Commission keep District 8 as it is on the West Side. Making the West Side above 96th Street an ancillary part of two districts is not in anyone's best interest. Under the Unity Map proposal, which preserves much of the district as is, 90% of Manhattan Valley would be in a single Council district. Such an approach is consistent with the Unity Coalition map, which was developed by Latino Justice PRLDEF, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College. This map more accurately reflects the boundaries of the Manhattan Valley community of interest, and preserves representation of communities of color citywide. While my street is not currently included in the Unity Map that does not mean that it could not be included in a revised draft or that its approach is not sound policy.

In conclusion, I ask that the Commission strongly consider the concerns raised by myself, other residents of District 8 and policy experts on this issue as it makes a final recommendation regarding proposed district lines affecting District 8. I would also encourage the Commission to go above the City Charter's requirements and engage in another round of public comment on the proposed lines before finalizing them.

Hearings

From: D Collier [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:02 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Redistricting 8 and 9th council areas

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

Mr. Jonathan Ettricks:

Unfortunately, I have an engagement this evening I would like to add my voice to meeting and support the redistricting proposals that include the following:

1. The district boundaries of the 9th Council district be Amsterdam and Morningside Avenues to the west, 110 street to the south, 155street and Polo Grounds and Rangel Houses to the North and Lexington and Park Avenue to the East with 115th street being the turning onto Madison avenue continuing to 110th street..
2. La Marqueta (historic cultural Latino legacy)which would be split in the Commission's first proposal would then be restored to District 8.
3. Randall's Island be restored to District 8. District 8"green spaces" availability would be severely limited by Randall's move to Astoria district - further limiting our East Harlem/Harlem children access to upward mobility athletics and recreation.
4. While it is understood why District 8 was extended into Bronx, such far extension could be challenging for whoever holds that seat - having to balance issues/attention from Bronx/Manhattan. Consideration should be given to Bronx lines being drawn closer to Mott Haven and South East Bronx..

Thank you for taking into consideration my concerns.

Diane Collier
Community Advocate

Hearings

From: eastrivernorthrenewa [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 3:16 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: El Barrio La Maarqueta

Redistricting La Marrqueta:

NY State just like Texas and other southern states must conform to the Civil Rights Legislation of 1964 because of their past discriminatory practices.

If redistricting La Marqueta violates the rights of the Puerto Rican-Hispanic speaking population, or of El Barrio - based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin this Act (Federal Government), just like in Texas, will prohibit the redistricting of La Marqueta in such a manner.

Please understand: El Barrio-Spanish Harlem has few icons, the oldest and most venerable being La Marketa (East 116th Street). For 4 years on summer Saturdays, East River North Renewal Inc., headed by Albert Medina and Celia Ramirez, bring latin music lovers from all corners of the City, Connecticut, New Jersey and Puerto Rico come to La Marketa's Placita hear and dance to salsa oldies and the latest hits from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. We have been working with our dear Councilwoman Melissa Mark-Viverito to integrate this effort into the economic development plan for the Metro North viaduct. We urge your support to insure that La Marketa remains in the 8th District, along with El Museo del Barrio, Julia de Burgos Boulevard (106th 5th to FDR Drive).

Hearings

From: eastriVERNORTHRENEWAL [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 3:43 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: El Barrio La Marqueta

Redistricting La Marrqueta:

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Hearings

From: eastriVERNORTHRENEWAL [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 3:52 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: El Barrio La Marqueta

Redistricting La Marrqueta:

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Hearings

From: eastrivernorthrenew [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 3:56 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Sense of Belonging

La Marqueta *A Sense of Belonging*

Post World War II East Harlem:

New York City, the first home for millions of immigrants would eventually become the new home for a massive influx of *U.S. citizens - - Puerto Ricans from the West Indies*, in the late 1940s. Following World War II, however, migration resumed at an even greater scale, the Puerto Rican community would more than quadruple by 1950.

With the arrival of these newcomers, stores and markets arose and changed to meet their needs. As early as the 1930s, East 116th Street was crowded with stores with restaurants and music shops reflecting *the thriving Puerto Rican culture*.

A pushcart market under the Park Avenue viaduct between 111th and 116th Streets goes back to the twenties. In the thirties, Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia enclosed and equipped it with sheds. It has since evolved into *La Marqueta*.

Located in the heart of El Barrio-East Harlem, *La Marqueta* stood out as an important symbol of Puerto Rican-Hispanic culture. It was both an active and exciting place, where goods and services were sold, and it was also a place where to meet and learn about each other; and it also communicated the habits, beliefs, and values of culture from one generation to another, and as such, to provide for its continuity.

Those remembrances are not just merely knowledge of actual events or circumstances, but are a state of mind, a feeling, a sense of belonging; of how to employ oneself – rationally – in dealing with given situations. What's more, should we observe some qualities worthy of esteem in our individual lives, in anyway whatsoever, we should, at such time, regard highly and feel some sort of moral tie, with those forces that helped shape them; such as those close relationships that bind us – by ties of birth and affection – by the language and culture through which we express ourselves, and by the collective memories reconstructed from the past which nourished them.

As we go forward in our examination of the link between events that are preserved in remembered time, and a system of beliefs leading to the present and to the future, it will call up general concepts of power through which man achieves his ends; it enfolds the possibility of an improved conception of ourselves – in the present, by understanding the elements of power, options, and state of affairs that lead us to the set of circumstances in which we find ourselves today.

Albert Medina
East River North Renewal, Inc.

During the early years of the 20th Century, they were necessarily preoccupied with the legal and moral obligations of family life. However, they still took time out to function as an actuating influence in the struggle of others, and thus help overcome the trials and tribulations of daily living. They joined civic or religious organizations and became active in the affairs of the community; however their concerns were not limited to political life, but also with those issues that are reflective of family values and the social order.

These persons, builders of societies, played decisive role in defining important issues, and in influencing individual opinion regarding those issues; Some were not necessarily well known or celebrated individuals in life, but they were likely to be the persons to whom others in the local neighborhood -El Barrio-looked to for guidance on certain subjects.

Those individuals were generally unknown outside their own circle of friends and acquaintances, but their cumulative influence in the formation of public opinion was substantial. For those reasons we wish to pay tribute to -The Founders of El Barrio- by designating the historic site of “La Marqueta” E. 116th Street and Park Avenue, a commemorative landmark – in honor of those friends of humanity.

Albert Medina
East River North Renewal, Inc.

Hearings

From: eastrivernorthrenewa [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 4:01 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Founders of El Barrio

The Founding of El Barrio **The People**

The values and material objects that make up a shared way of life: the intangible creations of human society; and the products which emerged out of the interactions of people – within the limitations of the then geographic boundaries that encompassed El Barrio, NY - is not something to be glossed over lightly.

Their lives were not destined to be separate chapters in the stream of time, but rather, events that would bring together the fate and responsibilities of generations of the past with those now living, and with those who grew up with the emergence of the intrinsic values - of its founders- as a measure of their growth.

Ones life style is not determined by instinct or as an innate gift at birth! Human nature being what it is – diverse- attests to the influence of culture on personality and on everyday life experiences.

Nevertheless, the lives of those first individuals, Puerto Ricans, newcomers to NYC society (from the beginning of the 20th Century and in greater numbers in the late 1940s), was dominated by struggles against the adversities of discriminatory policies, and economic depravations. Quite often, earnest efforts on their part, to change and improve living standards were over laden with difficulties, they were not acknowledged with appreciation nor regarded with esteem by the many, and effectively resisted.

Hearings

From: eastrivernorthrenewa [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 9:56 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: el Barrio

"History is a product of Change, powered by the inevitable struggle for control; the characteristic attitudes of man, and his capacity to share in the feelings of others, will determine the course of events."

El Barrio The Altar of Sacrifices and Obligations

With utmost certainty, the deeds of our predecessors will always occupy a position of honor in our remembrance, to do otherwise we would deny our coming generations that in which they could take pride; this is rightly so, especially when such men stood at the forefront of Human Progress, who strove to rout the powers of evil in bloody combat and mend the unjust suffering of the innocent; and like the Founding Fathers of El Barrio, fought and overcame the adversities of their day.

During the closing years of the 19th century the writings of Betances and Schomburg, Puerto Rican Nationalists, dominated the thinking men of Puerto Roco and the Spanish speaking people of the Americas. In a similar manner, the entrance of American Troops onto Puerto Rican soil marked a new era for its people.

Compelled by circumstances, Puerto Ricans left the security of their native soil in search of improved living conditions. The businessman and the wage earner, men of every kind of professional and social position joined in this great movement of people; the seeming cure-all was found, then people bounded together and confided in each other their yearnings; to dedicate the place of rights and privileges with blood, an offering on the altar of sacrifices, and obligations – wherein man could progress with hope -the Temple floor was blood stained at the Eastern gate.

**Albert Medina
East River North Renewal, Inc.**

**Testimony of Elisa Maria Cose
Student at PS 163
NYC Districting Commission Hearing
Schomburg Center
October 4, 2012**

Hello, my name is Elisa Cose. I am almost 10 years old and a fifth grade student at PS 163 on West 97th Street.

I am here to testify in support of Councilwoman Melissa Mark Viverito. I want the Commission to think about how it will affect our school if her district is moved from our community.

Councilwoman Melissa fights for New York City public schools. She helped a lot with our after-school program called LEAP. LEAP helps many parents who work late. LEAP is funded by grants, the PTA and by funding from our Councilwoman Melissa. This past year LEAP lost a Ten Thousand dollar grant. Because of that, LEAP had to cut back. The program started much later in the school year. That was very hard for everyone who depends on LEAP, particularly for working parents who need an affordable and safe after school program.

If we lose Melissa as the city council member for our school we lose somebody who we know puts students first. We have no idea whether the next council member will be that dedicated or even care about me and the other students at my school.

Melissa also helps to fund supplies for my school. She understands that we need things like computers if we are to do our best.

Nobody can guarantee that school budgets won't be cut. But Councilwoman Melissa has greatly reduced the harm that would have come to our school because of budget cuts. She is a great leader who wants children to thrive. She cares about our future.

She also cares a lot about public safety. She is the one who got us Fatima, our school crossing guard who greets us every day as we go to school.

97th Street and Columbus Avenue is a very dangerous intersection. When our parents asked for a crossing guard at that intersection they were told NO! Melissa fought hard and finally got a Yes. Because of her, we are a much safer community.

Neighborhoods are supposed to be kept together. The Commission's proposed plan breaks up Councilwoman Melissa's district in a way that is harmful to our community.

I hope you will all consider what I have said and keep her as our City Council representative.

Thank You

Hearings

From: Elizabeth Kellner [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 8:26 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to Proposed Lines for 7th, 8th and 9th Districts

My name is Elizabeth Kellner, and I have lived for 36 years at [REDACTED] in the Manhattan Valley neighborhood of the Upper West Side. I testified at the hearing on October 4, and I submit these additional comments for your consideration.

First, I urge the Commission not to divide the Manhattan Valley neighborhood between two City Council districts as is currently proposed, and second, I urge you to include the neighborhood in the Upper West Side Council district where it properly belongs. This has nothing to do with preferring one Councilperson over another as I support and respect all the possible options. The legally mandated objective of the all important redistricting exercise is to ensure fair, adequate and equal representation for communities of interest, especially for historically disenfranchised and under served population groups. It is most emphatically not to accommodate jockeying among candidates for an advantage in seeking future political office, especially when that advantage would be won at the expense of preserving established communities of interest.

I know Manhattan Valley extremely well. Over the 36 years I have lived here our family has been involved with many community groups and active on many issues -- tenants rights, abandonment, zoning and land use, historic preservation, neighborhood schools, block associations and public safety campaigns, to name a few. Manhattan Valley is economically and ethnically diverse. We have a significant number of public housing and subsidized units but also luxury condos and condominiums with everything in between, hostels and hotels, landmarks, historic districts and new construction, a nursing home, senior assisted living facilities, several pre-schools and a head start program, youth programs, a business improvement district, chain stores and mom and pop shops. I could go on and on. We all live, work, play, pray and volunteer side by side, and it works. What the Commission has proposed would slice the community down the middle threatening to undermine those ties that have bound us together. A significant portion of the more affluent and white areas of Manhattan Valley would be peeled off to join the Central Harlem district, while the lower income and predominantly Latino as well as public housing blocks would be sent to the West Harlem/Washington Heights district -- in both cases Manhattan Valley would be a very tiny "tail" the would most certainly not wag the dog. The voices of our diverse and well defined community in city government would be diluted and undermined by the current proposal.

As to my second point, Manhattan Valley is unquestionably part of the Upper West Side historically and geographically - we are 100% within the boundaries of the West Side's CB #7, the 24th Pct and Community School District #3. We are served by the West Side's transportation infrastructure, social service programs, parks and youth athletic leagues. No one, from the real estate developers to the US Postal Service thinks we are anything but part of the Upper West Side.

While I appreciate the challenges facing the Commission and the many constituencies to whom you are accountable, I firmly believe that there is no rational or justifiable basis to support the destructive division of the Manhattan Valley neighborhood. Please keep us in tact. If we cannot join our natural neighbors in the Upper West Side District, please keep us with East Harlem in the 8th district -- we have been joined with that district for several decades now going back to the time when Carolyn Maloney was our City Council representative. We have a successful legacy of representation by the elected officials from that community, including Manhattan Valley's own late, great Phil Reed. I implore you to keep us together as we have been keeping it together. In July 1981 New York Magazine ran a cover story about Manhattan Valley -- it was called Fighting to Save a Neighborhood. We thought we had saved our neighborhood through our joint efforts, so please do not divide us now.

Elizabeth Kellner

Hearings

From: Eve [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 5:30 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Districts 8 & 16 re-districting, my opinion

October 10, 2012

To the re-districting commission:

I am a proud 28 year resident of East Harlem and also have the blessing of working in my community. Right now, I am not very pleased with the machinations of the commission.

On Tuesday, October 2nd, I attended the re-districting hearing in the Bronx and witnessed the great displeasure of many of District 16's residents as the commission has chosen to move a block of the constituents into District 8. Moreover, not only are the Bronx residents unhappy, scores of District 8's are as well. I implore you to reconsider this decision.

Your proposal to "change the borders" *appears* inequitable and disjointed. It does not make sense. Why change something that "ain't broken"? District 8 and 16's elected officials have worked hard to find solutions to the myriad of issues that are unique to their respective constituency. They have worked hard on planning the economic development of the areas they cover and have worked hard to establish partnerships with the many organizations/businesses that service the communities they represent in order to bring goods and services to its residents. The council members have consistently and passionately advocated on behalf of: the poor, the sick, the elderly, its youth, its workers, and the disenfranchised -representing ALL residents, of ALL walks in life, of ALL income levels.

Since 2001, District 16 has been aptly represented by Ms. Foster, one of two African American council members in the Bronx. Concourse Village, a predominantly African American housing complex of working people (a very heavy voting block) does **not** want to be represented by District 8. Concourse Village wants to be represented by the Council Member they voted for, an African American. They have lived in harmony with their fellow Morrisania neighbors for many years – why are you splitting the community up?

District 8 characterizes a mini New York City - inhabited by many ethnicities that also harmoniously live together in Manhattan Valley, Mott Haven and El Barrio. Why has the commission decided to separate such a happy family? We understand and agree that growing districts should be fairly represented but why make the residents wear a size 9-1/2 shoe when the 10 is perfectly comfortable? AND, oh my goodness – to move La Marqueta, an icon of this community out! Now, that is TRULY insulting. Has the commission read any of El Barrio's history?

La Marqueta needs to remain in District 8. Manhattan Valley (they LOVE their council member) needs to remain in District 8. Randall's Island (our council member fought hard to make it accessible to our youth not just the private schools of the city) should remain in District 8. For goodness sake, hasn't the commission noticed that Mott Havenites and Manhattanites – can easily walk to the Island and you plan on "sending" it to Queens!

The process, this time around, is not working. Too many people are very unhappy and unhappy residents make angry voters! I implore you to reconsider the mapping. I implore you to take a look at the Unity Map – which is a great compromise.

Keep our families together – don't break us up, let's us ALL be happy. The UNITY Map will keep us unified.

Sincerely,

Eve Valenzuela, East Harlem resident

Redistricting Commission Statement

Dear Committee Members:

Hello My name is Harry Rodriguez the Senior District Leader of the 68th Assembly District Part B. I am here today to voice my outrage regarding the proposed redrawing of the 8th Councilmatic and the attempt to place the Marqueta in the 9th Councilmatic district. This is an affront to the people in East Harlem and in particular the Puertorican residents of my district. The Marqueta has the tremendous potential of creating job opportunities to the residents of El Barrio when future projects take hold. Why will someone or a committee take away a parcel of land where no one resides and count it has people living there. I am requesting that committee reconsider the map changes and place the Marqueta in the 8th Councilmatic. In addition, I strongly suggest that the 8th councilmatic district include all the of the present 68th Assembly District and proceed to go north up to the Mott Haven section of the Bronx. I hope and pray that the commission understands how important it is keeping the Marqueta in El Barrio is to the residents of El Barrio. I am looking forward to your response and hope you the commission can agree with the residents Of East Harlem. How would you feel if you reside in West Harlem and they propose to take the Apollo and redrawn and place in the 10th or 8th Councilmantic District. The community will be in an uproar. Well that's how the residents of East Harlem feel about the Marqueta. So please reconsidered and take to account the concerns our residents of El Barrio/East Harlem .

Thanks for allowing me to voice my opinion,

Respectfully submitted

Harry Rodriguez

Democratic District Leader

68th Assembly District Part B

October 4, 2012

To: Districting Commission

Re: CD #8

Good evening, Chairperson Romano and Commission members, my name is Henry Calderon and I am the Chairperson of the East Harlem Chamber of Commerce. I am also the owner of a small business located in East Harlem. I was born and raised in East Harlem and I have worked here all of my life. I was a member of the previous districting commission during 2002-2003 and I had the privilege of serving as the Chairperson of that commission. I appreciate the difficult you have before you. You need to implement a simple but crucial concept, One Person – One Vote. You need to insure that minority groups are fairly represented. There are many council districts in the city in which minority groups constitute a numerical majority. This is where one looks for Communities of Interest in order to have equitable district lines. What are the criteria for a Community of Interest? Language is one, Culture is another and Geography is important as well. Another one is having the same landlord. People who have the same landlord can certainly have shared experiences especially when the landlord is the City of NY. The NYCHA has more apartments in East Harlem than in any other part of the city and having district lines that meander through our housing projects creating artificial boundaries, only adds to the many problems which already exist in our housing projects.

The people of the South Bronx and East Harlem share a similar history. The majority of the residents speak the same language and listen to the same music. Many shopped at El Barrio's La Marqueta and had picnics in the South Bronx's St. Mary's Park. We share more than just the # 6 train. We share heart and soul.

It is possible that someone who just looks at a map and does not know the people, who live there, could take away La Marqueta from its people. This is why we look to the Commission to correct this error and put La Marqueta back into CD #8. I have enclosed a map which we call East Harlem – South Bronx, A People United.

Thank you.

Testimony of Isaac Gluck
NYC Districting Commission Hearing
Schomburg Center
October 4, 2012

Good Evening. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in this public hearing. I am here to testify on behalf of Melissa Mark-Viverito and why we should not re-district.

My name is Isaac Gluck. I am 9 years old and I am a fifth grade student at PS 163, The Alfred E. Smith School. I play soccer and baseball as well as violin. I am interested in playing professional sports or possibly being a doctor like my dad.

I have three reasons why Melissa Mark-Viverito should stay as our district councilwoman.

The first reason is:

In 2010, the construction workers were building stores and markets in the area we call Columbus Square, from 97th to 99th street on Columbus and Amsterdam. PS 163 is right next door.

There is a busy intersection with cars jammed up which was an even bigger problem with the construction.

School parents spoke up and asked the NYPD for a crossing guard. The NYPD answered no. We spoke about it with Mellissa Mark-Viverito and she agreed.

She then asked the NYPD for a crossing guard just like we did. The first time they said no and said it was because no one had been hit by a car or truck.

Melissa fought hard and one day they put a crossing guard at the intersection. That day was a big change for the school because it made us all a slightly bit safer from getting hit by a car or truck.

The second reason is:

Ms. Viverito helped fund LEAP. LEAP is an after school program that allows kids whose parents cannot pick them up to stay in a safe environment where they have activities which keeps kids happy and excited. They also give time for the kids to do their homework.

Melissa fought hard to get money for this program. This helped kids in different ways including the cost of babysitters.

I think when she raised money for this leap program she took a step forward of being a good community and helping are school kids.

The third reason is;

Melissa Mark –Viverito helped fund money so that we could get our computers. School parents needed money so they could get computers for the school. The computers cost a lot of money .

Our school did not have as much money as we needed so we asked Melissa Mark –Viverito. She asked the government for more money. Melissa finally convinced them and now we have our computers.

We use are computers so that the kids can learn how to type and search interesting facts.

Thanks to Melissa Mark-Viverito we have helpful items and helpful people.

Thank you again and have a nice day.

Hearings

From: Johnny Cecilio Rivera [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 4:01 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Redistricting of the East Harlem Community
Attachments: Remarks to the NYC Districting Commission by JCR.docx

**Remarks to the NYC Districting Commission Public Hearing
October 10, 2012
Mr. Johnny Rivera, Life Long Resident of East Harlem/ El Barrio**

Greetings members of the New York City Districting Commission, I want to ask that the Commission strongly consider maintaining the current line of the 8th Council District in order to preserve the community. Keeping this boundary intact will keep organizations and residents of common interest together while slightly expanding into the South Bronx and reaching the targeted number of roughly 160,000 for the entire district.

I am requesting that the commissioners keep District 8 a majority Manhattan district even though it expands into the South Bronx area. The current District 8 borders provide a good representation of East Harlem as a "community of interest." Families identify East Harlem as the area east of 5th Avenue towards the East River, from south 96th Street up to around 143rd Street. Families and community-based organizations identify this area as East Harlem, and these are the people who have worked over the years to make this place a better home.

Randall's Island also has been part of the CB#11, part of Manhattan, and closely associated with East Harlem. At Harlem RBI, we send our kids there to play baseball and softball.

Your proposal would divide this community, a community that has labored over many quality-of-life issues regarding housing, health care and education. Your proposal would dilute the political power of East Harlem residents as the Bronx would have an enormous say and potentially overriding East Harlem's residents, undermining our political self-determination.

For these reasons, I support the Unity Plan as a framework and urge the commissioners to support this plan as well.

Johnny Rivera

Hearings

From: Julian Gerena-Quinones [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 06, 2012 10:57 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Re-Districting of El Barrio/East Harlem

To: Districting Commission

Dear Carl Hum, Chair

The East Harlem/El Barrio community will not accept anything less than the full restoration of our current District 8 boundaries, from 96th Street all the way to the Harlem River Drive. All the blocks cut out along 5th, Madison and Park need to be put back in our district. We are a community of interest and demand that you stop dividing us

--

Julián Gerena-Quinones
Barrio Media
(646) [REDACTED]
www.barriomedia.com

www.youtube.com/barriomedia
www.facebook.com/barriomedia
www.twitter.com/barriomedia

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Hearings

From: Kathleen Benson Haskins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 7:39 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Please rethink the proposed new District 8

Dear Districting Commission:

I live in District 9 but worked in East Harlem for 43 years and remain committed to the community—serving on the boards of two nonprofit organizations and also on an ad hoc committee. I was appalled to see the proposed new District 8, which chops off 20 blocks of East Harlem plus Randalls Island, splits the fabled La Marqueta in two, and reduces the Manhattan portion of the district to 49%.

The current District 8 is hardly un-gerrymandered, and I can just imagine the hue and cry that greeted it when proposed and instituted: East Harlem, Manhattan Valley, Morristania, Central Park, Randalls Island—what kind of district is that? But the council members who I remember representing District 8 in its current form—Phil Reed and Melissa Mark-Viverito—made that hodgepodge of a district work. At least the current District 8 is a majority Manhattan district. I cannot imagine the same positive outcome were the proposed new boundaries for District 8 adopted.

The proposed new district decimates East Harlem as a neighborhood and as a political entity, and it cannot be allowed to stand. Per the lion's share of testimony at the Bronx hearing on October 2, the proposed new district lines also do great damage to District 16, removing Concourse Village, which the speakers regard as a significant stabilizing force in that community.

I am aware of the domino effect of changing the proposed district lines. All those neat population totals seem to be the driving force behind the proposed changes, and once you start shifting borders those approximately equal totals disappear. But redistricting is more than a numbers game. It must take into account the recognized neighborhoods. Since the Unity Map is so well thought out and so sensitive to communities as well as to population totals, I urge you to start with that and do whatever tweaking is necessary to address the concerns with that map that were voiced at the two hearings I attended in the Bronx and Manhattan.


Sincerely,

Kathleen B. Haskins

I've lived in East Harlem for 7 years and am among the very few non-Mexican residents of my building on east 116th Street. My neighbors have welcomed me and become my friends. I feel happier and more included here than in any of the other Manhattan neighborhoods I've called home over the past 25 years, although I remain an outsider by virtue of my privilege as a white native, and my slow pace in learning Spanish. In any case, I have become invested in causes affecting this community, such as immigrants' rights, and have allied myself in a shared humanity with my neighbors. As a member of the LGBT community, I am predisposed to recognize the commonality of every human/civil rights movement. The battle for inclusion, recognition, and an equal place at society's table crosses ethnic boundaries. My time in East Harlem has intensified this awareness and opened my eyes to the unique characteristics of an over-arching Hispanic culture, the bonds and fissures existing between distinct Hispanic communities and the overall challenges of struggling, marginalized people. It is clear to me that this community requires a strong, representative voice capable of uniting the community in causes foundational to basic human rights, as well as offering support to those concerns that are unique to the disparate Hispanic cultures. The district lines should be drawn to ensure a consolidation of Hispanic constituents empowered in solidarity, and with a higher potential of Hispanic representation.

And it goes without saying that La Marqueta belongs in El Barrio.

Les LaRue


New York, NY 10029

My name is Lizabeth Sostre and I live in Manhattan Valley. Manhattan Valley runs from 100th to 110th Street east of Amsterdam to Central Park. I have lived in the same building on West 109th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus since 1976. That is 36 years. However, when people ask me where I live, I tell them I live in the Upper West Side, not Manhattan Valley. That is at the heart of the redistricting issue.

My current councilmanic district (Council District 8) attaches me to East Harlem. East Harlem is on the other side of Central Park and Central Park is pretty big. This has denied me easy access to my Councilmember's office. So what I do when I have any local issues is go to Assemblymember Danny O'Donnell's office which is on West, not East, 104th Street. He is very nice and tries his best to help, but actually I should be going to my Councilmember's office. But I won't because it is too time consuming. It takes too long to get there.

The proposed lines detach me from East Harlem (thank you) but still do not attach me to the Upper West Side (proposed Council District 7) where I belong. Instead, I am now attached to the proposed Council District 9. My police precinct is in the proposed Council District 7. The fire department responsible for my building is in the proposed Council District 7. The community board for my area is in the proposed Council District 7.

Why am I still cut out? Something is very wrong here. I know you can fix this. I hope you do.

My name is Madelyn Innocent and I've lived in Douglass Houses since 1957. I am aware that this meeting is about re-districting, District 8 and that means we will be losing a great human being and great Council Member Melissa Mark Viverito who I got to know what she stands for and what she will fight for as well. I met Melissa Mark Viverito on Broadway when she was campaigning for Council Member and she seemed to be very interested in helping the neighborhood as well as being sincere about improving the condition of Public Housing. That was the first Politian to engage me in conversation for public housing and that impressed me very much. I mention these things because when my mother told me stories before we moved into public housing how local Politian's helped my family to move in them and other families as well. Council Member Viverito has restored my faith in Politian's, because of her time and dedication in the improvement of Public Housing.

Melissa is a person who inspires people to do better in their lives. Melissa has the most public housing in her district and gets the challenges and issues public housing residents are facing. For the last two years I have been working with Melissa and her staff with Participatory Budget in District 8, and I've seen her engage with the residents of Douglass Houses where as there has not been anyone putting in the time and effort as well as money to ensure Public Housing will be saved. This reminds of the old days and the stories my mother told me as a child and young adult. Losing her will be devastating to the residents; because we will be losing the one person that I feel who had taken the time to help us in our problems and believe me there are huge problems with NYCHA.

I get it about re-districting, but this is the first time in my life that someone cares about public housing and put in the time and effort into making us proud of where we live as well as standing up for our rights. Also, redistricting will break up our communities of interest. I have never stood up for myself in many instances, but with watching and working with Melissa Viverito and her staff has given me a renewed confidence in myself to work hard for the betterment of the neighborhood. And that was due to Melissa and Community Voices Heard in which I am a member and leader, but now you want her to just abandon us and leave us to fend for ourselves. Isn't this always the way. When you start to get up there someone is always trying to keep you down.

Lastly in my life I've experience good and bad. The good is that Melissa Mark Viverito is an asset to our community that empowers us to speak up and get involved with things you may not otherwise get involved with. The bad is that we have to start over and go backward in time to someone who doesn't know us at all.

Madelyn Innocent

[REDACTED]
New York, NY [REDACTED]

Hearings

From: Marion Cunningham [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 9:26 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Keep District 8 Intact

Please keep District 8 as it is, intact. I live on the west side and think that the diversity of the district is beneficial. East Harlem/El Barrio and La Marqueta to our district. Do not separate us!

Thank you,

Marion Phyllis Cunningham

[REDACTED]
New York, New York 10025

Hearings

From: Maritza Villegas [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 9:24 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: District 8

Honorable Comission Members:

For the past 25 years I have worked in the East Harlem community, known to us as El Barrio, with much success. One of its High Schools Manhattan Center for Science and Math sits on 116th street and FDR Drive and has capitalized on the incredible amount of services the community has to offer. We have taken advantage of the internships at the hospitals and museums, the college prep services of many of the community based organizations, the medical and mental health services, and the rich cultural enrichment classes, workshops and celebrations honoring all its members of the community. Extending this community would water down the services as they stand and make the programs ineffective.

To rip apart and extend the District 8 community to the Bronx an entirely different community with a different history is unconscienable. This is a historic neighborhood with a feel unlike any other, you feel at home. I have fond memories of Sunday dinners at my grandparents during the 1950's on Third Avenue and East 109th Street and my 99 cent shoes my grandmother would buy me from La Marqueta.

Reconsider the Unity Map or leaving the District as it now stands. Don't destroy a community that has actively struggled to make itself better!

Respectively submitted,

Maritza Villegas

Hearings

From: Metin Sarci [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 3:50 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Districting Commision Proposal for Council District 8

To the members of the Districting Commission,

In looking at the proposed new district, and the rationale expressed by the Districting Commission, I believe that for a number of reasons redrawing the lines to divide a district largely between two boroughs is disagreeable as well as nonsensical. First, the proposed lines divide up neighborhoods between those that live in Manhattan and those in the Bronx. Second, the proposal disregards the representation of the Latino communities who largely occupy the current district. Finally, the proposal to split the 8th District evenly between the Bronx and Manhattan, means that one borough will get more representation than the other depending on the current council representation and/or any future candidates

I join my community as well as my councilmember in strongly urging the Districting Commission to use the Unity Map proposal as a starting point in re-drawing the 8.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Metin N. Sarci
[REDACTED]

Hearings

From: NG [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 4:15 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Hearings
Subject: Re: Keeping Communities Together

Dear Councilperson Viverito,

As a member of your small upper west side of Broadway area, I am distressed to learn that it is planned that we are reassigned, again. It is impossible to establish relationships, goals, and communications with local government if our representatives are changing often. I feel that we have just begun to get involved with District 8, and will have to start from scratch if we are redistricted.

Our neighborhood has much in common with other District 8 neighborhoods east of Broadway -- large high-rise buildings of aging housing stock, facilities for homeless individuals and families, proximity to parks, large numbers of children and elderly people.

I hope city government will reconsider these plans, and give us another term in District 8 to accomplish the projects we have started. The only bright side of this re-mapping is that my loss will be my son's gain; his neighborhood in the South Bronx is slated to go into District 8 and he is looking forward to it.

Ms. Viverito, please feel free to use this email wherever you feel it would do the most good.

Sincerely yours,
Naomi Gaskin,
[REDACTED]

--- On Wed, 10/10/12, Melissa Mark-Viverito <newsfrommelissa@gmail.com> wrote:

From: Melissa Mark-Viverito [REDACTED]
Subject: Keeping Communities Together
To: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2012, 3:23 PM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



<p>Dear Friend:</p> <p>I have to say, I was truly moved at last week's Districting Commission</p>	<p>Please join us at</p>

Testimony before the NYC Districting Commission Public Hearing

October 4, 2012

Mr. Rich Berlin, Executive Director of Harlem RBI and Chair of the DREAM Charter School

Good evening members of the New York City Districting Commission. My name is Rich Berlin. I am the Executive Director of Harlem RBI and Chair of the DREAM Charter School based in East Harlem. I'm here today to ask that the Commission strongly consider maintaining the current line of the 8th Council District in order to preserve the community. Keeping this boundary intact will keep organizations of common interest together while slightly expanding into the South Bronx and reaching the targeted number of roughly 160,000 for the entire district.

I am requesting that the commissioners keep District 8 a majority Manhattan district even though it expands into the South Bronx area. The current District 8 borders provide a good representation of East Harlem as a "community of interest." Families identify East Harlem as the area east of 5th Avenue towards the East River, from south 96th Street up to around 143rd Street. Families and community-based organizations identify this area as East Harlem, and these are the people who have worked over the years to make this place a better home.

Randall's Island also has been part of the CB#11, part of Manhattan, and closely associated with East Harlem. At Harlem RBI, we send our kids there to play baseball and softball.

Your proposal would divide this community, a community that has labored over many quality-of-life issues regarding housing, health care and education. Your proposal would dilute the political power of East Harlem residents as the Bronx would have an enormous say and potentially overriding East Harlem's residents, undermining their self-determination.

For these reasons, I support the Unity Plan as a framework and urge the commissioners to support this plan as well.

My recommendation to keep District 8 intact is informed by my 15 years of experience in East Harlem, first as a volunteer and then as the head of the Harlem RBI and DREAM Charter School, both of which are nonprofits serving over 1200 young people and their families. Over these years, I have witnessed the community of families and local organizations working together to improve the quality of life. Why would we do anything that would stop them from continuing that work?

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony
In opposition to the proposed
8th Council District
NYC Districting Commission
Thursday, October 4th, 2012
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Good Evening. My name is Sandra Morales- De Leon and I am a life-long resident of East Harlem, and also Deputy Director of the East Harlem Business Capital Corporation, whose mission is to significantly enhance the economy and commerce of East Harlem, create jobs and help entrepreneurs and small businesses become successful.

I am here tonight to speak in opposition to the proposed 8th Council District plan whose lines disproportionately traverse two counties – the Bronx and Manhattan – disenfranchises a particular community of interest, and eliminates historical landmarks that are critical to the culture of El Barrio.

Please note the following:

1. The Districting Commission is required under the charter to preserve communities of interest. The part of East Harlem included in District 8 is overwhelmingly Latino and constitutes a community of interest. To move pieces of the neighborhood – like proverbial chess pieces on a Board – to a neighboring Council district that does not share the same cultural identity, is to split up this important community of interest.
2. All residents of the East Harlem community need to be fairly represented on the City Council, keeping as much as possible to the lines that are currently drawn and which currently represent the majority concentration of Latinos and specifically Puerto Ricans.

3. The proposed redistricting would seize 49% of the population of the new district, from another county, the Bronx. This action would completely decimate El Barrio's escalating political power and influence as a community.
4. The blocks being cut from East Harlem and moved to Council District 9 in Central Harlem are 48% Latino. Some of the individual blocks go as high as 55% to 65% Latino. The non partisan good government organization Common Cause has said publicly that "there is no demographic reason" for the way East Harlem is being split up.
5. La Marqueta and other important historic and cultural landmarks for the Puerto Rican community currently reside in Council District 8. In order for these to be fully preserved and to receive proper and warranted attention, they should continue to be represented completely within the East Harlem Council District. Removing La Marqueta from the heart of the Latino community, is akin to placing the historic Apollo Theatre in a district representing Chelsea or Chinatown. The cultural relevance would be diluted. Moreover, La Marqueta is also an economic development engine for our East Harlem community and we need and deserve the jobs and economic opportunities that it will continue to offer.

We are asking that the Districting Commission review our proposed new map - the East Harlem/South Bronx map for District 8 (See attached) – which is sensitive to the need for fair representation, maintains the communities of interest and preserves historical landmarks where they have the most cultural relevance.

Thank you



District	TOTAL_ADJ	Deviation	% Deviation	HISP_ADJ	% HISP_ADJ	NHWHITE_ADJ	% NHWHITE_ADJ	NHBLACK_ADJ	% NHBLACK_ADJ	NHASIAN_ADJ	% NHASIAN_ADJ
8	164,457	4,160	2.60%	101,418	61.23%	13,334	8.05%	6,393	3.86%	41,772	25.22%

LATINOJUSTICE ■ **PRLDEF**

— EAST HARLEM - SOUTH BRONX MAP —

Testimony of Sofia Krulevitch
 NYC Districting Commissioning Hearing
 Schomburg Center
 October 4, 2012

Dear members of the New York City Districting Commission. I am Sofia Krulevitch, a 5th grade student at PS 163. I am here because I want to tell you why it is important for Melissa Marks-Viverito to continue to be our City Council Woman.

It is important for Mts. Marks- Viverito to keep representing PS 163 because she has proven that she cares about our school and its students.

Several years ago parents from PS 163 contacted her about a dangerous intersection near our school. A huge construction project on Columbus and 97 was putting kids and parents in danger. Our parents were told by the Community Board and the Police Department that the intersection did not qualify for a crossing guard. Mrs. Marks-Viverito listened to our worried parents and came to the intersection to see for herself. She agreed that many of my classmates were in danger when they crossed the street to get to school. She fought hard for funding our crossing guard. Thanks to her, many PS 163 students can get to school safely.

I ask you to please keep our school in Councilwoman Marks-Viverito's district. We need her to keep fighting for our school and its students. Thank You.

SUSAN RODRIGUEZ, [REDACTED], NY, NY 10029 M: [REDACTED] H: [REDACTED]
BUSINESS: SISTERHOOD MOBILIZED FOR AIDS/HIV RESEARCH & TREATMENT, 1751 PARK AVENUE, NY, NY 10035

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ABOUT THE PROPOSED REDISTRICTING LINES FOR DISTRICT 8. I AM A RESIDENT OF EAST HARLEM FOR ALMOST 20 YEARS AND LIVE ON 106TH STREET BETWEEN 2ND AND 3RD AVENUES. I AM ALSO THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF A SMALL NON-PROFIT CALLED SMART WHICH STANDS FOR SISTERHOOD MOBILIZED FOR AIDS/HIV RESEARCH & TREATMENT, ALSO LOCATED CURRENTLY IN DISTRICT 8 ON THE EAST SIDE OF PARK AVENUE BETWEEN 121ST & 122ND STREETS. SMART BEGAN IN EAST HARLEM IN 1998 AND RETURNED TO EAST HARLEM IN JULY 2011.

I AM HERE TODAY BECAUSE I AM DEEPLY DISTURBED AND CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROPOSED REDISTRICTING LINES THAT HAVE BEEN DRAWN BY THE NYC DISTRICTING COMMISSION THAT ARE SUPPOSEDLY TO BENEFIT THE DISTRICT AND CITY. THIS REDRAWING OF LINES DOES EVERYTHING BUT THAT.

FIRST, LET ME START WITH A QUESTION, MY FIRST QUESTION WHEN I SAW THE PROPOSED DISMANTLING AND DISECTING OF DISTRICT 8: WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS? CERTAINLY NOT THE RESIDENTS, COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES OF EAST HARLEM, A GROWING AND VIBRANT NEIGHBORHOOD THAT STANDS TO BE DIVIDED UP AND PARCELED OUT INCLUDING LA MARQUETA. SO, WHO STANDS TO PROFIT OR BENEFIT FROM THIS? CERTAINLY NOT COUNCIL WOMAN MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO WHO LOVES THIS COMMUNITY AS SHE DOES ALL OF HER NEIGHBORHOODS THAT SHE HAS REPRESENTED AS A CLEAR AND POWERFUL VOICE AT THE TABLE TO IMPROVE HER DISTRICT. THIS IS VERY APPARENT WHEN SHE WAS ONE OF 4 CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO INITIATED THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROCESS LAST YEAR. THROUGH THAT PROCESS OF WHICH I WAS PARTICIPATED AS A BUDGET DELEGATE, I SAW HOW SHE WAS ABLE TO BRING TOGETHER PEOPLE WHO LIVE OR WORK FROM EVERY SINGLE NEIGHBORHOOD SHE REPRESENTS, FROM THE WEST SIDE TO THE EAST SIDE, FROM MOTT HAVEN TO WARD & RANDALLS ISLANDS. WHO ELSE CAN SAY THAT? I WORKED ALONGSIDE MY DISTRICT COLLEAGUES TO PROPOSE PROJECTS TO BE VOTED ON AND

LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS AND NEEDS. I FELT LIKE I WAS PART OF A VERY SPECIAL COMMUNITY, ONE THAT NOW STANDS TO BE DIVIDED UP PIECE BY PIECE TO DIFFERENT DISTRICTS RATHER THAN REMAINING INTACT TO CONTINUE THE DISTRICT PRIDE AND COMRADERIE, A UNIQUE BY-PRODUCT THAT CAME OUT OF THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROCESS. I FELT LIKE A TRUE COMMUNITY MEMBER WHICH ALSO CULTIVATED MY SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZING. COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS ARE AN ASSET TO COMMUNITY LEADERS WHO ARE DOING THE RIGHT THING AND I AM PROUD AND EXCITED TO BE PART OF DISTRICT 8 TO BE ABLE TO WORK WITH COUNCILWOMAN MELISSA TO MAKE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS BETTER, FROM THE EAST TO THE WEST TO MOTT HAVEN.

SO THE QUESTION REMAINS, WHO PROFITS OR BENEFITS FROM THIS REDRAWING OF LINES? FOR ME, THE ANSWER IS CLEAR: DISTRICT 9 WOULD PROFIT; THE BRONX, WHERE THE REDISTRICTING HAS EXTENDED FAR NORTH INTO AREAS THAT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH MANHATTAN, KNOW NOTHING ABOUT COUNCILWOMAN MELISSA, AN AREA THAT HIGH VOTER TURNOUT THAT WOULD CERTAINLY BE ABLE TO PUT A BRONX DISTRICT LEADER IN PLACE THAT WOULD NOT CARE ONE BIT ABOUT THE SMALL PIECE OF EAST HARLEM THAT IS A LEFTOVER.

AND WHAT ABOUT RANDALLS AND WARDS ISLAND THAT IS SLATED TO BE DIVIDED AMONGST QUEENS DISTRICT LEADERS. I WALK ALMOST EVERYDAY WITH MY DOGS OVER THE 102ND STREET FOOTBRIDGE THAT SPANS THE EAST RIVER TO WARDS ISLAND. I HAVE WALKED THE PEDESTRIAN ROAD FROM 125TH TO RANDALLS ISLAND. THE BUS THAT GOES TO RANDALLS AND WARDS ISLAND STARTS IN MANHATTAN, NOT QUEENS. NOW THAT THE ISLANDS ARE BECOMING DEVELOPED AND BEAUTIFIED, WHY SHOULD IT NOW BE PART OF QUEENS?

THESE REDISTRICTING TACTICS ARE A TRIED AND TRUE METHOD THAT I HAVE SEEN AS AN AIDS ACTIVIST: "DIVIDE AND CONQUER." THIS PROPOSED DIVISION OF THE DISTRICT SEEMS LIKE A PURPOSEFUL, MALICIOUS AND UNDERHANDED TACTIC TO TAKE COUNCIL WOMAN MELISSA OUT OF OFFICE. THIS PROPOSED DIVISION WILL HURT THE COMMUNITY AND I WILL NOT

STAND BY AND LET IT HAPPEN, NOT IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD AND NOT IN MY DISTRICT. I STAND WITH COUNCILWOMAN MELISSA BECAUSE SHE STANDS FOR OUR DISTRICT AND OUR COMMUNITY. THE DISTRICTING COMMISSION NEEDS TO DO THE RIGHT THING AND KEEP NEIGHBORHOODS TOGETHER AND THE DISTRICT LINES INTACT. ADDITIONALLY, IT LOOKS AS IF MY AGENCY WILL FALL OUT OF THE DISTRICT 8 LINES WITH BOTH THE UNITY MAP AND DISTRICT COMMISSION'S MAP. THIS WOULD BE EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE FOR THE PEOPLE WE SERVE SINCE COUNCIL WOMAN MELISSA HAS PROVIDED SUPPORT FOR MANY YEARS FOR US TO IMPROVE OUR SERVICES FOR MARGINALIZED AND DISENFRANCHISED COMMUNITY PEOPLE. TO NOT REMAIN IN DISTRICT 8 LINES WOULD BE A SEVERE BLOW AND WOULD IMPACT DETRIMENTALLY A VERY FRAGILE CONSTITUENCY FROM THIS AREA. I WOULD ASK THAT THE LINES INCLUDE PARK AVENUE TO 125TH STREET AS PART OF THE UNITY MAP SO WE MAY STILL BE PART OF DISTRICT 8.

WE STAND WITH COUNCIL WOMAN MELISSA AND WE STAND UP FOR OUR DISTRICT. PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING AND KEEP DISTRICT 8 DISTRICT LINES WHERE THEY ARE!

October 2, 2012

TESTIMONY OF SUSAN SUSMAN
AGAINST
REDESIGNING CURRENT UPPER WEST SIDE / MANHATTAN VALLEY DISTRICT

Dear Districting Commission:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my written testimony.

As a resident of [REDACTED] in the Upper West Side for the past 40 years, and as a community activist, I have seen this neighborhood grow and develop a sense of community.

In that context, I am concerned about the proposed break-up of the neighborhood to create a so-called "West Side District." While developers Gluck and the Chetrits referred to the "former Park West Village," the actual Park West Village exists as a single entity and should not be divided. Similarly, Manhattan Valley should not lose 10% of its population to another council member. The Unity Coalition map developed by the Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund, the Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College, and Latino Justice PRLDEF should be adopted.

Our current Council Member, Melissa Mark-Viverito, has served us well. She has a good understanding of the neighborhood issues, and significantly, she and her office are there for us – inclusively responsive in more than one language.

Without a single, true West Side district, I urge that the Districting Commission keep Council District 8 as it is on the West Side.

My own concerns are affordable housing, land use and schools, and in all those areas, Council Member Mark-Viverito has served us well: we have stronger security in public housing, more funding for schools, and she has taken a strong stand on struggles concerning development.

The participatory budgeting process that she and just 3 other council members have implemented in NYC is vital in bringing our diverse neighborhoods together and promoting real grass-roots democracy.

Our community is richer for its inclusion of residents in current and former Mitchell-Lamas, rent stabilized buildings, market-rate apartments, and public housing. None of them should be excised to join a separate district.

For all these reasons, I support keeping our current District 8 as is, with our current Council Member.



Susan Susman
(for identification only: president,
Central Park Gardens Tenants' Association)

Hearings

From: William Gerena-Rochet [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 06, 2012 9:34 AM
To: Hearings
Cc: Melissa Mark Viverito
Subject: District boundary changes

To the members of the Commission:

As has been expressed already, and given that the next November Redistricting Commission Meeting is open to the public, but will not provide an opportunity for public testimony, let me reiterate that La Marqueta needs to be restored to East Harlem/El Barrio's Council District and all of the boundaries of our neighborhood restored to District 8.

The proposed changes are an affront to the community and carried on without authentic representation of its residents and leaders.

Once more it would go on to prove the inherent deficiencies of a democratic process -- if all the testimonies go for naught.

The process of having Commissions seem to be a showcase of business as usual: giving lip service, or rather 'ear-service' before keeping in place what already had been decided upon before the hearings.

But I hope this time around you make an exception and respect the wishes of the community. Otherwise the discourse of the Occupy Wall Street Movement proves that another example of making a mockery out of democracy has taken place.

Eventually this will only serve to expand that discourse so some day Abraham Lincoln's " You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can not fool all of the people all of the time," will correct our Democracy.

--

William Gerena Rochet

Spanish Harlem/El Barrio

Hearings

From: CATHERINE UNSINO [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 1:16 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Speaking at Oct. 4th Hearing on Re-Districting in Manhattan -- For your adoption of the Unity Coalition Recommendations

Dear Re-Districting Commission:

I speak in strong opposition to the re-districting proposed for the upper west side, especially but not exclusively about the plan

1) to split in two the historic 7 building complex located between 97th and 100th Streets (n/s) and Central Park West and Columbus Avenue (e/w) known as Park West Village; and
2) I also object to re-districting that would remove our effective, dedicated and committed Council Member Melissa Mark Viverito. She must continue to represent us as she has diligently on the upper westside.

1) I moved into Park West Village in 1968 because it was a racially and economically diverse, international, inclusive, progressive community -- a model for how we hoped our country would become. In fact at that time this area of the upper westside was renowned nationally as a unique and exemplary community in which people knew and mattered to each other across lines that elsewhere would categorize and compartmentalize us.

Neighbors within Park West Village have a history of sustained civic engagement on a range of issues of social justice. We have organized fund raisers for progressive causes and are politically active. We have formed self-help directories in each building to organize volunteers to help seniors and others. We developed a listserve for residents of our 7 buildings. We have formed book and film clubs, exercise programs, picnics, flea markets and a range of community activities open to all. To split this vibrant community along east/west lines would be a great injustice and would serve to weaken our voices and effective civic engagement. It would serve no constructive purpose for the people affected. One is moved to ask: what prompts this proposed re-districting at this time? Is it a strategy that would benefit individuals maneuvering for political advantage to the detriment of the best interest of citizens? That should be unequivocally rejected.

We read newspaper articles de-crying rampant income segregation across our country and see first hand how our city caters to the super rich while squeezing low and middle income New Yorkers beyond endurance. The district as it is presently constituted encompasses residents that embody the full spectrum of income levels. We use the same library, relax in the same area of Central Park, swim in its pool in the summer, buy produce at the same Farmers' Market, shop in the same stores. We know and matter to each other. If your proposal were to go through, Park West Village's representation would be split, we would be cut off from the Douglass Houses, from our neighbors at 106th St whom we have come to know and value. Often at our Farmers' Market, I see tourists enjoying the scene, led there by guides who volunteer to accompany them to interesting New York City Sites. They aren't only enjoying the fresh produce. Clearly, they are moved by the joyful diversity of our neighbors shopping together, exchanging international and regional recipes while enjoying the lively beat of our local jazz trio. Why would you tear apart such a beautiful fabric? First, do no harm.

2) Councilmember Melissa Mark Viverito has encompassed well the needs of her upper west side constituents, while also addressing concerns of those in East Harlem and the Bronx. I have met many new friends among residents of East Harlem I would otherwise not have had the opportunity to know. She has participated in our community meetings, has come to our homes, schools and community rooms learning first hand what our issues are, lending her expertise to help us grow grass roots initiatives and advocating for fairness and the people's

interest when those are threatened. Council Member Mark Viverito is an exemplary public official whose district must remain intact so she can continue superior representation. We value her effective, dedicated hard work and would find it destructive to all we value to lose her and her services at this critical time in our community. We urge that you embrace the universally valued admonition: First, do no harm.

CONCLUSION

We want our Council Member Melissa Mark Viverito to continue to represent us.

We urge that you retain our current district configuration and adopt recommendations promulgated by the Unity Coalition.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Unsino, LCSW

[REDACTED]
New York, NY [REDACTED]

City Redistricting Hearing Testimony

October 4, 2012

Daniel Marks Cohen

New York State Democratic Committeeman, 69th A.D.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

My name is Daniel Marks Cohen, and I am the New York State Democratic Committeeman representing the 69th Assembly District of Manhattan's Upper West Side in the New York State Democratic Committee. The Assemblymember for the 69th is Daniel O'Donnell. I am a lifelong resident of the Upper West Side, my parents live in the district, my wife and I live in the district, and we are raising our newborn son – a third generation West Sider – in it as well. The part of the Upper West Side I live in – between 96th Street and 125th Street, is the poorest portion of the 69th Assembly District (<http://zipskinny.com/zipcompare.php>), it is the least served in terms of services and transportation (<http://www.straphangers.org/pokeyaward/10/>), and has more crime (http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/crime_prevention/crime_statistics.shtml).

I believe at least one reason for its consistent and uneven status is that fact that the 69th is cut up into multiple pieces of nine different districts. This was somewhat improved recently by the passage of federal redistricting legislation which redrew the TWO Congressional districts: the 8th by Representative Jerry Nadler, and the 15th by Representative Charlie Rangel; but it was made worse by the THREE State Senate districts: Tom Duane of the 29th, Bill Perkins of the 30th and Adriano Espaillat of the 31st. The latter, the 31st, is particularly egregious, stretching from 184th to 24th Streets along the west coast of Manhattan island, it looks more like the Latin American country of Chile than a proper State Senate district. But sadly, that it not your purview today, and we are stuck with this absurd district for the next ten years.

The recent proposed draft of the council lines is a modest improvement – the northern part of the area I represent is no longer in the 8th district, currently held by councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito from East Harlem, who has served us as well as any person could with a district stretching over such a large geographic area with limited resources. But the area is now split between the 7th and the 9th, councilmembers Robert Jackson and Inez Dickens, respectively. The line to divide the two districts deliberately fractures the community in a way I can only assume was to limit the voting power of the residents in the district so as to not have too much sway in either the 7th, largely seen at a “Washington Heights” seat and the 9th, which is viewed as a “West Harlem” seat.

Plainly put: the northern-most district lines proposed are nonsensical. While I am grateful that residents in my community who lived in the 8th district no longer have to go to 116th Street and Lexington Avenue for help from their councilmember, it is absurd and blatantly disrespectful to divide the area between the 7th and 9th districts along such a random line. The easiest solution is to move the border so that everything west of Central Park and Morningside Park is in the 7th. If this causes the 7th to exceed its capacity, move the line of the 6th district north to pick up some additional voters. I propose that the Commission redraw the lines more naturally, to keep Manhattan Valley's representation on the West Side, where it belongs, rather than as an appendage to another district for incumbency or demographic reasons.

Hearings

From: Dean Dacian [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 9:39 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Keep Park West Village Intact!

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of [REDACTED] for almost 47 years (basically my entire life), I find it ridiculous that some arbitrary redistricting decision would cause our community to be split up.

The powers that be should reconsider.

As a devoted member of the community I think we ought to be aligned in Council District 6, currently under Gale Brewer — as one community, so that Park West Village's needs are properly addressed as a whole Community, not a fractured mess...

Cordially,

Dean Dacian

Hearings

From: D Collier [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:02 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Redistricting 8 and 9th council areas

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

Mr. Jonathan Ettricks:

Unfortunately, I have an engagement this evening I would like to add my voice to meeting and support the redistricting proposals that include the following:

1. The district boundaries of the 9th Council district be Amsterdam and Morningside Avenues to the west, 110 street to the south, 155street and Polo Grounds and Rangel Houses to the North and Lexington and Park Avenue to the East with 115th street being the turning onto Madison avenue continuing to 110th street..
2. La Marqueta (historic cultural Latino legacy)which would be split in the Commission's first proposal would then be restored to District 8.
3. Randall's Island be restored to District 8. District 8"green spaces" availability would be severely limited by Randall's move to Astoria district - further limiting our East Harlem/Harlem children access to upward mobility athletics and recreation.
4. While it is understood why District 8 was extended into Bronx, such far extension could be challenging for whoever holds that seat - having to balance issues/attention from Bronx/Manhattan. Consideration should be given to Bronx lines being drawn closer to Mott Haven and South East Bronx..

Thank you for taking into consideration my concerns.

Diane Collier
Community Advocate

Hearings

From: Elizabeth Kellner [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 8:26 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to Proposed Lines for 7th, 8th and 9th Districts

My name is Elizabeth Kellner, and I have lived for 36 years at [REDACTED] in the Manhattan Valley neighborhood of the Upper West Side. I testified at the hearing on October 4, and I submit these additional comments for your consideration.

First, I urge the Commission not to divide the Manhattan Valley neighborhood between two City Council districts as is currently proposed, and second, I urge you to include the neighborhood in the Upper West Side Council district where it properly belongs. This has nothing to do with preferring one Councilperson over another as I support and respect all the possible options. The legally mandated objective of the all important redistricting exercise is to ensure fair, adequate and equal representation for communities of interest, especially for historically disenfranchised and under served population groups. It is most emphatically not to accommodate jockeying among candidates for an advantage in seeking future political office, especially when that advantage would be won at the expense of preserving established communities of interest.

I know Manhattan Valley extremely well. Over the 36 years I have lived here our family has been involved with many community groups and active on many issues -- tenants rights, abandonment, zoning and land use, historic preservation, neighborhood schools, block associations and public safety campaigns, to name a few. Manhattan Valley is economically and ethnically diverse. We have a significant number of public housing and subsidized units but also luxury condos and condominiums with everything in between, hostels and hotels, landmarks, historic districts and new construction, a nursing home, senior assisted living facilities, several pre-schools and a head start program, youth programs, a business improvement district, chain stores and mom and pop shops. I could go on and on. We all live, work, play, pray and volunteer side by side, and it works. What the Commission has proposed would slice the community down the middle threatening to undermine those ties that have bound us together. A significant portion of the more affluent and white areas of Manhattan Valley would be peeled off to join the Central Harlem district, while the lower income and predominantly Latino as well as public housing blocks would be sent to the West Harlem/Washington Heights district -- in both cases Manhattan Valley would be a very tiny "tail" the would most certainly not wag the dog. The voices of our diverse and well defined community in city government would be diluted and undermined by the current proposal.

As to my second point, Manhattan Valley is unquestionably part of the Upper West Side historically and geographically - we are 100% within the boundaries of the West Side's CB #7, the 24th Pct and Community School District #3. We are served by the West Side's transportation infrastructure, social service programs, parks and youth athletic leagues. No one, from the real estate developers to the US Postal Service thinks we are anything but part of the Upper West Side.

While I appreciate the challenges facing the Commission and the many constituencies to whom you are accountable, I firmly believe that there is no rational or justifiable basis to support the destructive division of the Manhattan Valley neighborhood. Please keep us in tact. If we cannot join our natural neighbors in the Upper West Side District, please keep us with East Harlem in the 8th district -- we have been joined with that district for several decades now going back to the time when Carolyn Maloney was our City Council representative. We have a successful legacy of representation by the elected officials from that community, including Manhattan Valley's own late, great Phil Reed. I implore you to keep us together as we have been keeping it together. In July 1981 New York Magazine ran a cover story about Manhattan Valley -- it was called Fighting to Save a Neighborhood. We thought we had saved our neighborhood through our joint efforts, so please do not divide us now.

Elizabeth Kellner

Hearings

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:23 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Manhattan Valley and the Proposed City Council Districts

Dear Redistricting Commission Members:

I am Glory Ann Hussey Kerstein, founder and current President of DEBNA, the Duke Ellington Boulevard (West 106 St.) Neighborhood Association, which was founded in September 1991 to fight the scourge of crack in Manhattan Valley. I have proudly lived in the Valley for 30 years.

The proposed redistricting is a disservice to Manhattan Valley, a vibrant neighborhood that has served for decades as a stepping stone for low-income and minority groups including my grandmother who came from County Longford, Ireland, in 1911 and was living at 67 West 106 St. when my mother was born ten years later. Later the Valley was majorly Puerto Rican and now Dominican.

Manhattan Valley starts from Broadway to Central Park West, and from West 110 St. south to West 100th or West 96th St.

But no matter what the southern boundary, slicing the Valley up along Amsterdam Ave. and West 104th St. ignores the years of struggle for minority groups seeking to better themselves by establishing small enterprises that transcended the proposed boundaries.

It also ignores the more recent struggle to rid Manhattan Valley of crack where block associations and housing groups from both sides of Amsterdam Ave. and below and above West 104th St. (including the projects, Frederick Douglass Houses) combined forces to clear Manhattan Valley of drugs and close down a mecca for the drug trade, the Castle Hotel on Duke Ellington Blvd. (it is now a youth hostel!).

Manhattan Valley's interests and needs are strengthened by having ONE City Council Member to represent us, not three. Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito well understands the Valley issues of retaining the last vestiges of affordable housing and resisting over-development and spurring employment for youth. She has also proven visionary in initiating a citizens' participatory budgeting process for the dispersal of Council discretionary funds in her district, one of only a handful of Council Members to do so.

I recognize the enormous task that the 15 members of the Redistricting Commission face. Such a small number cannot have first-hand knowledge of all of the communities in the five boroughs.

The message I wish to bring to the Commission from Manhattan Valley is this: if it's not broken, don't fix it. Keep Manhattan Valley intact, and allow us to vote again for a Council Member who has so ably represented us.

Thank you.

Glory Ann
[REDACTED]

NYC 10025

917-[REDACTED]

Hearings

From: judith baldwin [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 8:07 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: PWV

Park West Village (PWV) should remain *intact*. We are a community. Keep it that way.

**TESTIMONY OF NICK PRIGO
ELECTRONICALLY DELIVERED TO THE
NEW YORK CITY DISTRICTING COMMISSION**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4TH - 5:30PM - 9:00PM
SCHOMBURG CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE
515 MALCOLM X BOULEVARD
NEW YORK, NY 10037

Thank you for taking the time to consider this testimony. My name is Nick Prigo and I am the Male Democratic District Leader for the 69th Assembly District, Part B and the Housing Committee Co-Chair of Manhattan's Community Board 7.

I commend the effort made by the commission thus far in the production of its draft map and want to recommend to you a couple of simple, yet critical, changes that would improve upon it. My home area, the northern reaches of the Upper West Side and Morningside Heights, has been unnecessarily divided into multiple council districts. I urge the commission to correct this mistake and unify these neighborhoods into a single district.

Highlighting the most egregious result of this separation is the division of the Park West Village complex at the southern end of the draft map's CD7 and CD9. Park West Village is a seven building complex comprising two super-blocks, with an active tenant association, and a 60-year history of unified community activism. It is critical that this complex, bounded by Columbus Ave, Central Park West, West 97th Street and West 100th Street, stays unified.

The unification of this territory would be best served by moving the southern border of the draft CD9 up to West 110th Street and snaking the western border along Morningside Park up through Columbia University. Furthermore, there may be opportunities to move the northern boundary of CD6 north a few blocks to help accommodate this unification.

Rosia M. Remy

New York, [REDACTED]

October 5, 2012

To the New York City Districting Commission:

Though I registered to give testimony at the public hearing held on October 4, 2012, events were such that I was unable to be present. I am therefore taking the opportunity to write to you and point out why I believe the proposed redistricting is WRONG for our community, the Manhattan Valley.

Manhattan Valley is foremost a community that has always been distinct, though existing as part of the Upper West Side. The current proposal for redistricting has two major faults:

1. The proposed zoning redistricting as is being proposed is unacceptable and not in compliance with the laws that say "established communities shall be kept intact". The proposed redistricting as it stands will destroy a community, MANHATTAN VALLEY", that has long existed as an integral part of the Upper West Side and has flourish under the present Community Board District over the last 25 years. Manhattan Valley fought and struggled for recognition for a long time as a community. Now just when we are able to enjoy the fruit of this community's labor, the commission's plan would not only destroy this neighborhood and community by integrating into a different community (zoning into Harlem) whose needs are so different that the only thing that can happen is that this community of ours, MANHATTAN VALLEY, would lose its voice on important matters.
2. If this total disregard to the MANHATTAN VALLEY Community was not enough, the proposed redistricting actually SPLIT the Community; with one part of it being zoned into the Upper West Side and another part zoned into Harlem. MANHATTAN VALLEY has been a flourishing community for a very long time. Its residents has struggled hard create and build onto this COMMUNITY for the last quarter of a century. So this redistricting makes absolutely no sense. A whole Community build on the common interest of its residents cannot be eradicated and fractioned in this matter. MANHATTAN VALLEY needs to stay intact.

I do not believe that it was the intent of the Redistricting Commission to completely ignore a thriving community that has always has a very strong foundation on the Upper West Side and very well represented by the Community Board. This would be in complete disregard to the New York City Charter as far as neighborhoods and communities are defined. I, therefore request that the Redistricting Commission revisit the drawing board to take into account that our community needs to stay intact. Our residents and Associations have worked hard and struggled over the years to establish our community in the Manhattan Valley. The voices of the residents and Associations of

the MANHATTAN VALLEY needs to be heard and are best represented under the current Community Board where the Community's identity is well established and recognized.

Sincerely,

/s/Rosia Remy

Rosia Remy
Manhattan Valley Resident
Since 1992

Gustavo Rosado

Executive Director, El Barrio's Operation Fightback

October 4, 2012

Testimony on District #8 Council Lines in Manhattan @ Schomburg Center

These proposed district #8 Council lines are not an attack on an elected official. This is an attack on a community, East Harlem, El Barrio, CPB#11, is a community that is recognized and acknowledged overlong period of time, with distinct history, identity and tradition.

The eighth council district lines, as they are currently proposed, are designed to minimize and practically eliminate our voice as a community.

It's like dividing up a family into different households. Telling your son you're going to go live with your uncle, telling your daughter you're going to live with your cousin and we're going to go live with some friends. I think we could all acknowledge this doesn't make sense.

In particular this neighborhood has traditionally had a strong Hispanic presence and at a time where the Latino numbers are growing and we finally have an opportunity for fair representation, a plan like this appears to be designed to strategically divide and conquer.

This is devastating to us as a community, it's unfair and it's unjust and it doesn't have to be this way. There are alternatives.

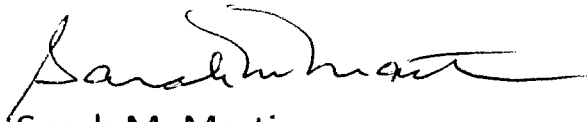
It is my understanding that there are sufficient numbers in El Barrio with the assistance from an adjacent area to keep East Harlem, El Barrio, and CPB#11, together as a community. This needs to be done and it must be done.

Thank you.


SUMMARY OF REMARKS OF
SARAH M. MARTIN, PRESIDENT
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF GENERAL GRANT HOUSES
AT THE CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING HEARINGS
OCTOBER 4, 2012

I live in Grant Houses, a public housing development of approximately 4400 people across the street from Morningside Gardens, a middle income co-op with 1000 units. For at least 18 years we have been working together with Morningside Gardens to improve our neighborhood because we have many problems that need solving. To split our immediate neighborhood into two different districts would make it very difficult to address the issues that confront both developments. We urge you to keep us in the same district on the final map.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah M. Martin", written in a cursive style.

Sarah M. Martin


NYC 10027



November 1, 2012

Attention NYC Districting Commission:

I am writing to express concern over the proposed map NYC District 8 that historically includes East Harlem, Manhattan Valley and part of Mott Haven. The proposed district divides communities of interest in upper Manhattan and the south Bronx. We call on you to revise the final District 8 Map to include previous portions of East Harlem and Manhattan Valley, while creating a portion of the Bronx that includes one community and not several.

Hispanic Federation represents 100 Hispanic-serving not-for-profit organizations and works to address the needs of the broader Latino community including maximizing civic engagement and strengthening Latino leadership in the community, government and corporate arenas. As such, the Federation is a watchdog against the disenfranchisement of Latino New Yorkers and attempts to divide and reduce the representative power of our community.

There are several reasons why the proposed District 8 map is not best for the existing Latino and East Harlem/Manhattan community. First, the proposal splits up East Harlem, which is a community of interest, including the stripping of the influential La Marqueta – a well-known marketplace on Park Avenue between 111th-116th Streets that serves as a vital economic and social venue for El Barrio. Second, the community of Manhattan Valley, which is 38 percent Latino, has been historically represented by the East Harlem Council Member and shares much of the same needs and interests of El Barrio residents. Third, the proposed map cuts through and splits apart several Bronx communities of interest from Mott Haven through High Bridge.

We urge the final map of District 8 to restore previous district lines to include all of East Harlem including La Marqueta and surrounding streets, as well as previously included streets of Manhattan Valley. Similarly, any Bronx portion of the district should be confined to one complete neighborhood to preserve communities of interest.

Sincerely,

José Calderón
President

Cc:
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Speaker Christine Quinn

Hearings

From: Deborah Pollack [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 4:50 PM
To: Hearings
Attachments: DOC003.PDF

Deborah Pollock
Director of Social Services
West Harlem Group Assistance, Inc
1652 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10031
212-862.1399 ext. 25-office
212-862.3281- Fax
[REDACTED]

This email and any attachments thereto, is intended only for use by the addressee(s) named herein and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this email, you are hereby notified any dissemination, distribution or copying of this email, and any attachments thereto, is strictly prohibited. If you receive this email in error please immediately notify June P. Andrews via email at jpandrews@whgainc.org or call her (212) 862-1399 extension 11 and permanently delete the original copy, any copy of this email and any printout thereof. Thank you.

Name: Devel Pollack

October 4, 2012 Districting Commission Meeting

Testifying in support of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Districting Plan (UMED Plan)

I support the UMED plan and believe the district boundaries should be as follows:

1. The district boundaries of the 9th Councilmanic district should be Amsterdam and Morningside Avenues to the west, 110th Street to the south, 155th Street and the Polo Grounds and Rangel Houses to the north, and Lexington and Madison Avenues to the east.
2. The district boundaries of the 7th Councilmanic District should have a contiguous border along the Hudson River to the west, rest at 97th Street to the south, Morningside and Amsterdam Avenues to the west, and follow Fort Washington Avenue to Interstate 95 (I-95)/the George Washington Bridge entrance. I-95 is a common sense boundary and the district lines should not go further north than I-95. Also to follow historic district lines and maintain the connections of communities of interest the district should also include the Jumel Mansion neighborhood.
3. The district boundaries for the 10th Councilmanic should include the total area north of I-95 including the wholly contained neighborhoods of Cabrini Heights and Inwood. For population purposes the district has to extend south of the common sense I-95 boundary. That extension should not crack in half the heart of Washington Heights' Dominican community at the I-95 boundary as the commission's plan suggests. Instead the area east of Fort Washington Avenue and west of Amsterdam Avenue down to 155th Street should be included in the 10th Councilmanic district.

I believe the districts should follow these boundaries because:

1. THE UMED PLAN IS **SIMPLE**

- This plan avoids gerrymandering by using the community districts as its base. These lines were established in 1975 and are universally recognized as community boundaries. Deviations from those boundaries were to adjust for population and were simple changes.
- The deviations either followed existing district lines as in the case of the Jumel Mansion Neighborhood or the Fort Washington Avenue extension or used very simple, long avenue boundaries. Examples would be the lengthy Madison and Lexington Avenues at the east of the 9th and Amsterdam Avenue and Morningside Aves. between the 7th and 9th.
- Amsterdam Avenue is a simple, but important boundary between the 7th and 9th districts. Several transportation routes run along Amsterdam and it is the western demarcation of several neighborhoods like Hamilton Heights and Sugar Hill.
- Residents of the Upper West side between 96th and 110th Streets which had previously been split between three councilmanic districts would now be in one district, a significant concern raised in previous hearings.

2. THE UMED PLAN IS **FAIR**

- The plan doesn't just adhere to the provisions of the Voting Rights Act, but goes further to protect the ethnicities and nationalities that constitute the Upper Manhattan political mosaic.
- This plan recognizes the important nationality characteristic of Washington Heights. Looking beyond the Hispanic/Latino designation, its Dominican community was "cracked" in half by the Commission's first redistricting proposal. This plan summarily rejects that approach and reunites the Dominican community to the north and south of I-95 as it currently exists in Council District 10. This protects the voting strength of the Dominican Community in Council District 10 instead of diluting it.
- The plan recognizes the historic African American Community in Central Harlem and the Dominican Community in Washington Heights. Districts 9 and 10 reflect those historic communities, but the plan also recognizes the demographic changes of the community and its proposed district 7 evenly balances traditional ethnic communities with new resident ethnic communities for a district that is more evenly split than the Commission's plan which appeared to favor one ethnic minority over others.

3. THE UMED PLAN IS **BALANCED**

- Many significant institutions remain wholly contained in single districts in this plan.
- The City College of New York maintains the Amsterdam Avenue boundary and is to its east. It would lie totally within the 9th Councilmanic District.
- One of the Upper Manhattan's largest institutions, Columbia University, with the exception of its athletic facilities, are wholly contained within one district. The current district has the university split across three districts.
- La Marqueta which would be split in the Commission's first proposal would now rest solely in the 8th Councilmanic district.

October 4, 2012

Ref: Upper Manhattan Empowerment District Plan Testimony

I Donald C. Notice, Executive Director of West Harlem Group Assistance, Inc. (WHGA), a community based development corporation, was established in 1971 to revitalize the under- invested West and Central Harlem communities riddled with dilapidated and abandoned buildings. Over the years, WHGA has expanded its supportive and social service programs to residents facing displacement as a result of demographic and economic changes in Harlem. To date, WHGA has developed over \$110 million in low to moderate income housing totalling 1,640 units.

West Harlem Group Assistance provides services throughout western Harlem.

Our engagements with the various community in which we operate give us specific insight into the natural boundaries that differentiate communities from one another.

It is evident to us that:

1. Amsterdam Avenue represents an important dividing line along which neighborhoods like Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville and Sugar Hill run.
2. The Amsterdam Avenue dividing line is crucial for determining differentiated communities.

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Hearings

From: jamaal nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 9:36 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Harlem Democratic District Leader Would Like To Speak At Tonight's Hearing

Hello,
My name is Jamaal Nelson one of Harlem's Democratic District Leaders. I would like to speak at tonight's hearing. Below please find my testimony.

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UPPER MANHATTAN EMPOWERMENT DISTRICT PLAN

Name: Joyce Adewumi

October 4, 2012 Districting Commission Meeting

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Testimony
NYC Districting Commission Meeting
October 4th, 2012

Changes to a councilmanic district should never restrict or compromise the interest and concerns of the majority of people residing there.

Changes to a councilmanic district should never pit one group of citizens against another or result in creating a divide based on color, heritage or nationalities.

The *Upper Manhattan Empowerment District Plan (UMED)* insures that this is not done.

The UMED

- Avoids gerrymandering
- Protects important community boundaries
- Unifies a district that is currently split into three
- Insures that historic institutions are contained in a single district

As a voting resident in upper Manhattan for over fifty (50) years I have had the privilege of living through and being involved in many of its changes and accomplishments. It is with this experience that I fully support the *Upper Manhattan Empowerment District Plan (UMED)*.

Thank you.

Name: Rev. G. Morgan-Thomas Chair CB9
October 4, 2012 Districting Commission Meeting 201 Edgecombe Ave
NYNY 10050

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District Testimony

Upper
Manhattan
Empowerment District

Plan

♀

Name: ___Ruben Rankin_____

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District Testimony

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10th Council District
7th Council District

District Testimony

9th Council District

10th Council District

7th Council District

9th Council District

District Population Deviation

%

Deviation White % White Black

%

Black Hispanic

%

Hispanic

7 161,746 1,036 0.60% 50,418 31.20% 28,400 17.60% 67,084 41.50%

9 166,848 5,342 3.30% 15,639 9.40% 98,826 59.50% 42,754 25.70%

10 166,279 5,569 3.50% 29,202 17.60% 9,514 5.70% 121,562 73.10%

†

Hearings

From: Angela Phillips [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:55 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Testimony

Name: Mrs. Angela Phillips

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- ☐ The plan doesn't just adhere to the provisions of the Voting Rights Act, but goes further to protect the ethnicities and nationalities that constitute the Upper Manhattan political mosaic.
- ☐ This plan recognizes the important nationality characteristic of Washington Heights. Looking beyond the Hispanic/Latino designation, its Dominican community was

“cracked” in half by the Commission’s first redistricting proposal. This plan summarily rejects that approach and reunites the Dominican community to the north and south of I-95 as it currently exists in Council District 10. This protects the voting strength of the Dominican Community in Council District 10 instead of diluting it.

☐ The plan recognizes the historic African American Community in Central Harlem and the Dominican Community in Washington Heights. Districts 9 and 10 reflect those historic communities, but the plan also recognizes the demographic changes of the community and its proposed district 7 evenly balances traditional ethnic communities with new resident ethnic communities for a district that is more evenly split than the Commission’s plan which appeared to favor one ethnic minority over others.


3. THE UMED PLAN IS BALANCED

- ☐ Many significant institutions remain wholly contained in single districts in this plan.
- ☐ The City College of New York maintains the Amsterdam Avenue boundary and is to its east. It would lie totally within the 9th Councilmanic District.
- ☐ One of the Upper Manhattan’s largest institutions, Columbia University, with the exception of its athletic facilities, are wholly contained within one district. The current district has the university split across three districts.
- ☐ La Marqueta which would be split in the Commission’s first proposal would now rest solely in the 8th Councilmanic district.

Mrs. Angela D. Phillips, Deputy Director

CONVENT AVENUE FAMILY LIVING CENTER

34 Convent Avenue
Manhattan, New York 10027
(212) 866 -7816 (Phone)
(212) 865- 8471 (Fax)



Hearings

From: Stacey Cohen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:40 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: District Testimony
Attachments: District Testimony.pdf

Good Morning,

See Attachment.

Thank You,

S. Cohen-Meekins
Director, Social Services
(CAFLC)



**UPPER
MANHATTAN
EMPOWERMENT**

**DISTRICT
PLAN**

Name: _____

Stacey Cohen-Meckins

October 4, 2012 Districting Commission Meeting

Testifying in support of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Districting Plan (UMED Plan)

I support the UMED plan and believe the district boundaries should be as follows:

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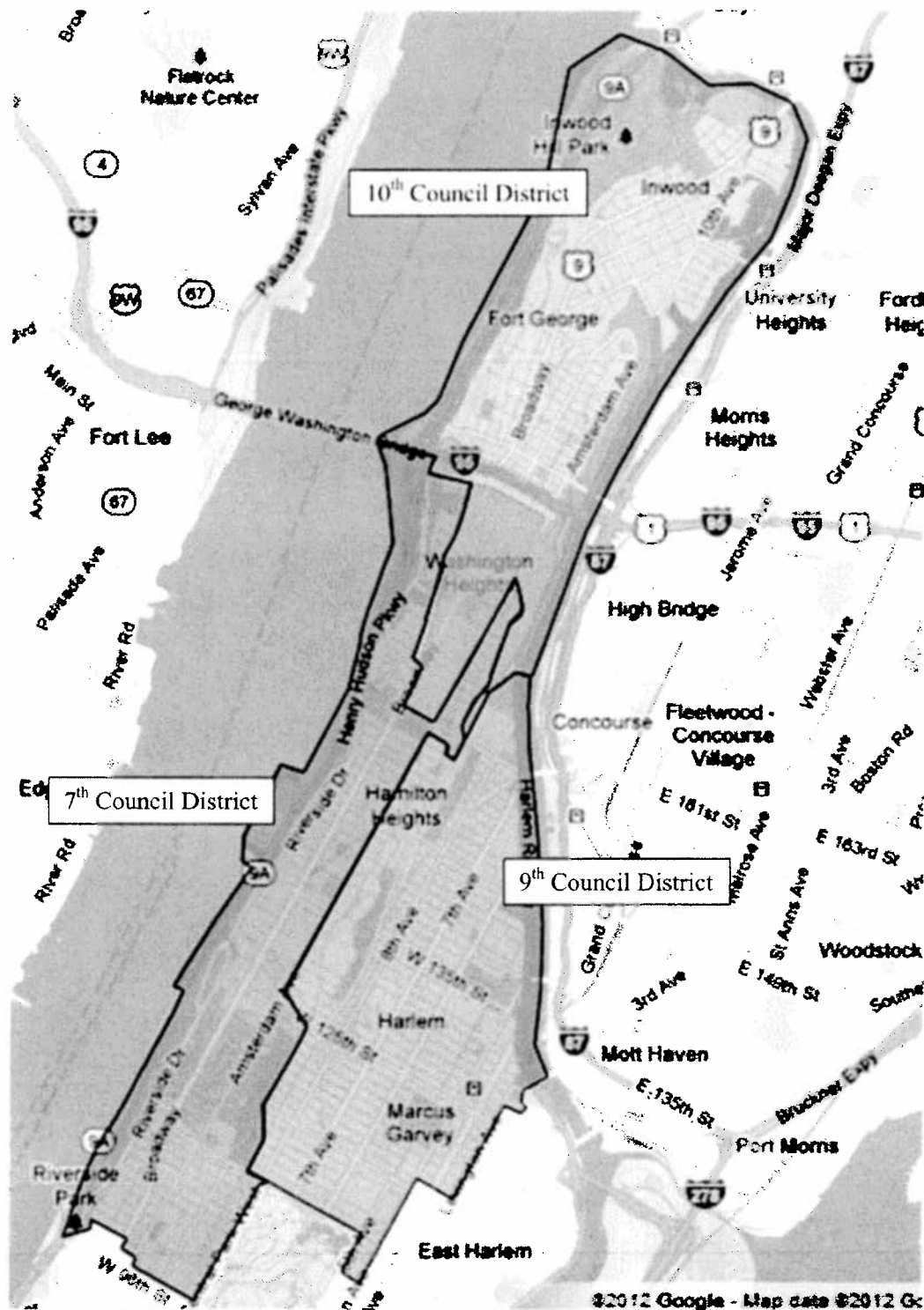
- This plan avoids gerrymandering by using the community districts as its base. These lines were established in 1975 and are universally recognized as community boundaries. Deviations from those boundaries were to adjust for population and were simple changes.
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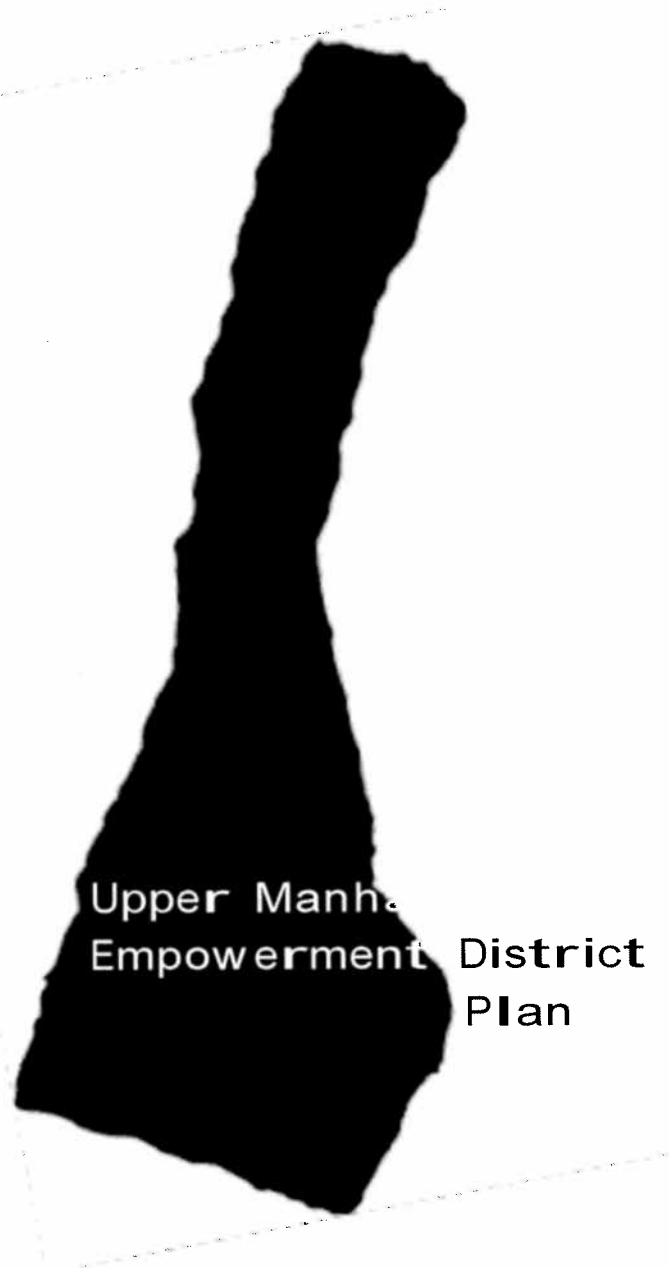


©2012 Google - Map data ©2012 Google

District	Population	Deviation	% Deviation	White	% White	Black	% Black	Hispanic	% Hispanic
7	161,746	1,036	0.60%	50,418	31.20%	28,400	17.60%	67,084	41.50%
9	166,848	5,342	3.30%	15,639	9.40%	98,826	59.50%	42,754	25.70%
10	166,279	5,569	3.50%	29,202	17.60%	9,514	5.70%	121,562	73.10%

Hearings

From: Nadene Gordon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:15 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Testimony
Attachments: District Testimony.doc



Upper Manhattan
Empowerment District
Plan

Name: Nadene Gordon

October 4, 2012 Districting Commission Meeting

Testifying in support of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Districting Plan (UMED Plan)

I support the UMED plan and believe the district boundaries should be as follows:

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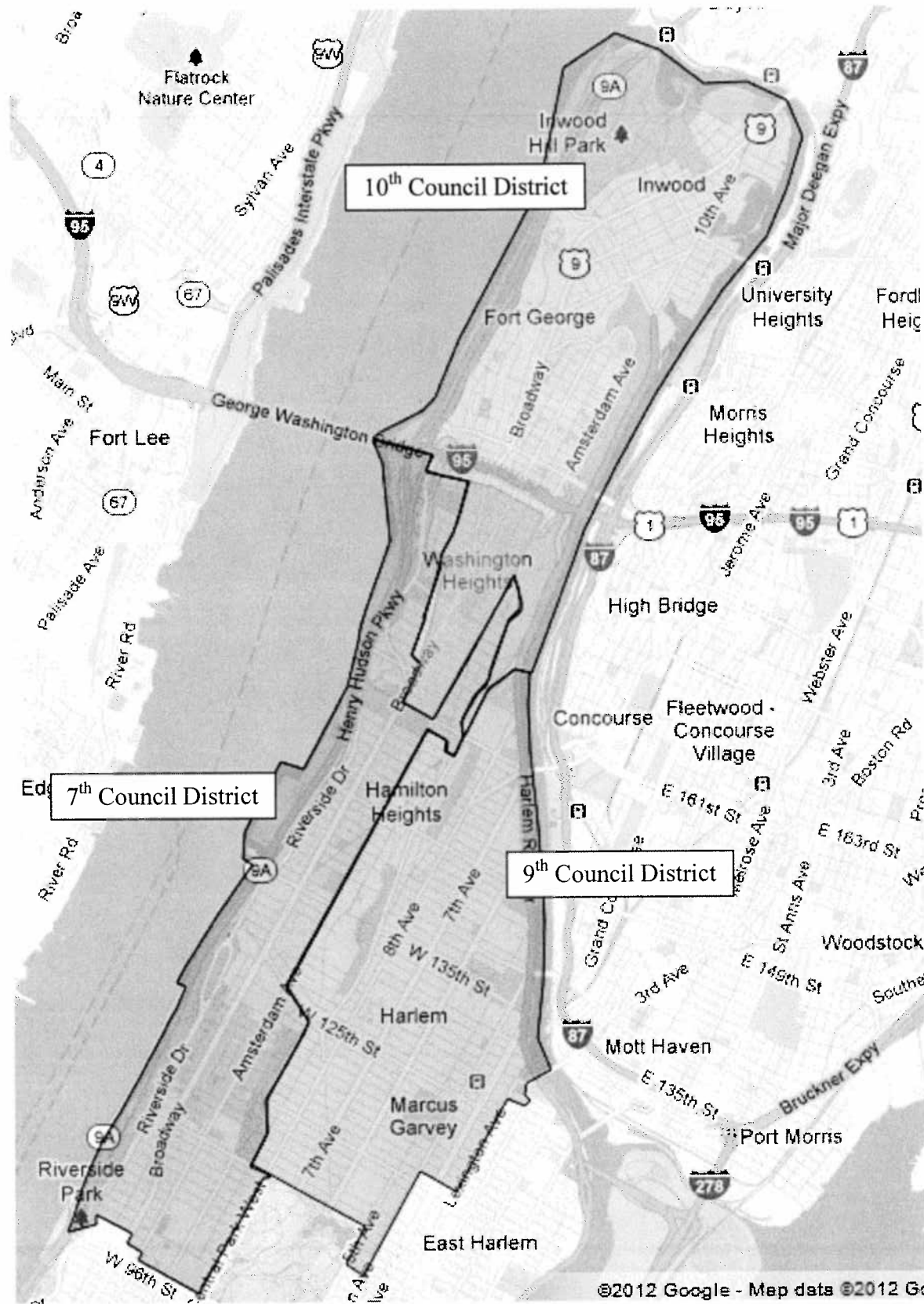
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Hearings

From: Dorisabel Cruz [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 9:56 AM
To: Hearings
Cc: 'Dorisabel Cruz'
Subject: Upper Manhattan Districting Commission
Attachments: UMED Plan-D. Cruz.pdf

Thanking you in advance.

Ms. Dorisabel Cruz, Director
Oberia D. Dempsey Multi-Service Center
127 West 127th Street, Room 101
New York, NY 10027
212-749-0353



Name: Soisabel Cruz

October 4, 2012 Districting Commission Meeting

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Hearings

From: June Andrews [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 6:27 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: District Commission-Testifying in Support of the UMED Plan
Attachments: Support UMED Plan-June P. Andrews-Henderson.PDF

Good Afternoon,

Please see attached my testimony in support of the UMED Plan.

Thanks

*June P. Andrews
Deputy Director
West Harlem Group Assistance, Inc.
1652 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, New York 10031
(212) 862-1399*

This email and any attachments thereto, is intended only for use by the addressee(s) named herein and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this email, you are hereby notified any dissemination, distribution or copying of this email, and any attachments thereto, is strictly prohibited. If you receive this email in error please immediately notify June P. Andrews via email at jpandrews@whgainc.org or call her (212) 862-1399 extension 11 and permanently delete the original copy, any copy of this email and any printout thereof. Thank you.

Name: June P. Andrews-Henderson

October 4, 2012 Districting Commission Meeting

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Morningside Heights Historic District Committee

Columbia Station

PO Box 250405

New York, NY 10025

(646) 721 4651

Morningsideheights.org

October 4, 2012

Good evening. My name is Laura Friedman and I am the President of the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee. Thank you for allowing us to submit testimony on behalf of the Morningside Heights community.

I am a 35-year resident of Morningside Heights and have come to know and see our area as a unique neighborhood. Morningside Heights is a diverse, historic, and architecturally rich neighborhood. The area's distinctive natural and landscaped boundaries are defined by an elevated plateau bordered by two 20th-century Olmsted-designed parks: Riverside Park as the western boundary and Morningside Park as the eastern. The south boundary is formed by 110th Street and the north by 125th Street.

As diverse as we are, our community has a long history of working together to address issues that affect our neighbors. Currently Morningside Heights is allocated to both the 7th and 9th District, separated by a wandering north-south border. In your newly drawn draft plans you divide our community along an east west corridor, up the middle of Amsterdam Avenue. We ask you to recognize that the current redistricting is an opportunity for the City to restore our community to its natural boundaries with its diverse population – and to place us in one community, in one Councilmatic District.

Morningside Heights is a vibrant and coherent neighborhood.

We live amidst many fine institutions in this area and in order to coordinate the needs that they have, an organization was formed many years ago that continues to exist today. That organization is called the Morningside Alliance, which, by its own definition, seeks to foster communication and collaboration among the more than 16 major institutions that are located, or doing work, in Morningside Heights. Among them are Columbia University, which has student housing and schools on both sides of Amsterdam, Jewish Theological Seminary which has its student housing on both sides of Amsterdam, Saint Luke's Hospital, which is entirely on the other side of Amsterdam, as is the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine.

In the northern part of Morningside Heights, and creating an amazing example for the entire city, is the Sanitation Coalition. This group has been operating for 20 years and brings together our two large housing complexes, Grant Houses (a public housing project) and Morningside Gardens (originally a Mitchell Lama). This group has worked

to bring residents together to work on issues that confront both housing complexes. I have attended events that they have sponsored and we have had reports given to us about the work they are doing. Efforts like this exemplify the spirit of collaboration in our district.

Recently a very innovative organization was formed to help community members become involved with the seniors who live in our neighborhood. This organization is entirely composed of volunteers and its founding president has been recognized and awarded for her effort and commitment. The name of this organization is Morningside Village. President Irene Zola understands that aging in place is an issue that concerns us all and we all have a responsibility to help our neighbors. Just last week I attended an event that Morningside Village sponsored called *Love An Elder Day* where seniors from all over the Heights were honored and neighbors gathered to celebrate and applaud them. The seniors receiving assistance from this organization come from every part of Morningside Heights, as do the volunteers who assist and visit them regularly.

Going back to the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee, we have members from all over the neighborhood and we are working with block associations and coops from Riverside Drive to Morningside Drive, and specifically with block associations east of Amsterdam. The goal of our organization is to achieve historic district status for Morningside Heights and to preserve and maintain the historic buildings, parks and institutions that make our neighborhood the beautiful community it continues to be. If asked, each person who resides here will proudly tell you: they live in Morningside Heights.

We have worked hard to unite our community and to maintain the bridges built by such organizations as the Sanitation Coalition, the MSH Alliance, Morningside Village and many more. Drawing a Councilmatic line up the middle of Amsterdam Avenue is the contemporary equivalent of Robert Moses' building the Cross Bronx Expressway, isolating one half of a neighborhood thus creating a literal and cultural wall that segregated that area into two communities.

From our geographic layout to our dynamic community we are asking that the Commission keep us in the same council district. Please do not chop us up into political pieces, thus weakening our ability to represent our needs and making a false chasm, where it need not exist.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

THE MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS/WEST HARLEM SANITATION COALITION, INC.

100 La Salle Street #19F, New York, NY 10027 (212) 666-6157

General Grant Residents' Association
Morningside Gardens Community Relations
Montefiore Park Neighborhood Association
New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
Riverview Towers Community Relations Comm.
600 Block Association of West 147th Street
Spencer Apartments
Volunteers for Tiemann Place
West Harlem Coalition
Westside Heights Citizens League
West 122nd-123rd Street Block Association
West 147th Street Block Association

Joan Levine & Sarah Martin, Co-Chair
Martha Cain, Secretary
Marie Ledoux, Assistant Secretary
& Rep. To OVN
Gloria Allen, Treasurer
Joan Morford, Representative at large
Linda Prince, Representative at large
Cynthia Doty, Community Organizer

Good Evening:

My name is Joan S. Levine and I am Co-Chair with Mrs. Sarah Martin of the Morningside Heights/West Harlem Sanitation Coalition, Inc. Mrs. Martin is President of the Grant Houses Residents Association, a public housing development containing 1940 units. I am the former chair of the Community Relations Committee at Morningside Gardens, a co-op containing almost 1000 apartments adjacent to Grant Houses. Both developments were part of the same redevelopment project completed in 1957.

Almost 20 years ago the groups from the two complexes formed the Coalition in order to work on quality of life issues in our neighborhood together. We decided correctly that "in unity there was strength". Since that time we have been a force in the community. A few of our accomplishments are: working to make the elevated section of the #1 train more attractive and less noisy, getting empty lots cleaned up, working across property lines to reduce rat infestations. Most importantly, we have given hands-on recycling workshops all over the district. The most Herculean pilot project that we undertook was bringing recycling to Grant Houses, the only public housing development now that recycles above the City average. (Please see the NY Times of July 4, 2009 for a major article about this enormous undertaking.)

All of these accomplishments would NOT have been possible if both developments had not been in the same Councilmanic, Assembly and State Senatorial districts. Because of this we can thank former Councilman Michels, current Councilman Jackson, former Assembly Member Sullivan, current Assembly Member O'Donnell and Senator Perkins for their help with our work throughout the years.

The projected redistricting lines for the new District 7 keep us together once more. It is imperative that the final draft does the same.

Thank you.



Joan S. Levine
October 4, 2012



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Mid-Manhattan Branch

Roy Wilkins Center • 270 West 96th Street • New York, NY 10025

(212) 749-2323 • naacpmb@aol.com • www.naacpmb.org

<http://www.facebook.com/mmNAACP> • <http://www.youtube.com/mmNAACP>



October 3, 2012

OFFICERS

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Hon. Geoffrey E. Eaton

First Vice President

Garry A. Johnson

Second Vice President

Yolanda J. Payne

Secretary

Sandra May Flowers

Assistant Secretary

Eleanor Jackson

Treasurer

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Kyndell A. Reid, Esq.

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Jean Dixon-West

Mary Louise Williams

Hon. Mercedes Ortiz

Youth Council President

Hon. Billie Holliday Hayes

President Emeritus

NYC Districting Commission

Attn: Jonathan Ettricks

253 Broadway, 7th Fl.

New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Ettricks:

My name is Geoffrey E. Eaton and I serve as President of the NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch, which is located at the Roy Wilkins Center, 270 West 96th Street in the Borough of Manhattan. Our Branch members reside as far South as Battery Park and Chinatown, the Upper East Side and West Side, Harlem and as far North as Washington Heights and Inwood.

The NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch played a pivotal role during the Census 2010 Count: By hosting forums and informational meetings; coordinating and organizing census community awareness events; through phone banking and encouraging residents in many underserved neighborhoods the importance of being counted and filling out and mailing the census form.

The NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch is an active advocating voice for the people who reside in the Borough of Manhattan and for underserved communities within the boundaries. Under the umbrella of the NAACP New York State Conference and President Hazel N. Dukes, the Mid-Manhattan Branch Civic Engagement committee members testified during the redrawing of the New York State Congressional, Senate and Assembly Districts to ensure that districts are representative of their population, which at the end of the day, was not the case when a special master had to be appointed by a three Judge panel to approve Congressional District lines.

It is for that reason why the NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch is submitting testimony to the New York City Redistricting Commission on the proposed City Council District Maps. As President and on behalf of all the officers, executive committee, committee chairs and card carrying members of the NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch, I am submitting testimony in support of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Districting Plan (UMED Plan).

Sincerely,

Geoffrey E. Eaton
President

THE NAACP MID-MANHATTAN BRANCH

GEOFFREY E. EATON

PRESIDENT

ROY WILKINS CENTER

270 WEST 96TH STREET

NEW YORK, NY 10025

TESTIMONY

October 4, 2012

A stylized, high-contrast map of Manhattan, New York, rendered in black and white. The map is oriented vertically, with the Hudson River on the left and the East River on the right. The central landmass is white, while the surrounding water bodies are black. The map is partially obscured by the text on the left.

Upper Manhattan Empowerment District Plan

Testifying in support of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Districting Plan
I support the UMED plan and believe the district boundaries should be as follows:

1. The district boundaries of the 9th Councilmanic district should be Amsterdam and Morningside Avenues to the west, 110th Street to the south, 155th Street and the Polo Grounds and Rangel Houses to the north, and Lexington and Madison Avenues to the east.
2. The district boundaries of the 7th Councilmanic District should have a contiguous border along the Hudson River to the west, rest at 97th Street to the south, Morningside and Amsterdam Avenues to the west, and follow Fort Washington Avenue to Interstate 95 (I-95)/the George Washington Bridge entrance. I-95 is a common sense boundary and the district lines should not go further north than I-95. Also to follow historic district lines and maintain the connections of communities of interest the district should also include the Jumel Mansion neighborhood.
3. The district boundaries for the 10th Councilmanic should include the total area north of I-95 including the wholly contained neighborhoods of Cabrini Heights and Inwood. For population purposes the district has to extend south of the common sense I-95 boundary. That extension should not crack in half the heart of Washington Heights' Dominican community at the I-95 boundary as the commission's plan suggests. Instead the area east of Fort Washington Avenue and west of Amsterdam Avenue down to 155th Street should be included in the 10th Councilmanic district.

I believe the districts should follow these boundaries because:

1. THE UMED PLAN IS SIMPLE

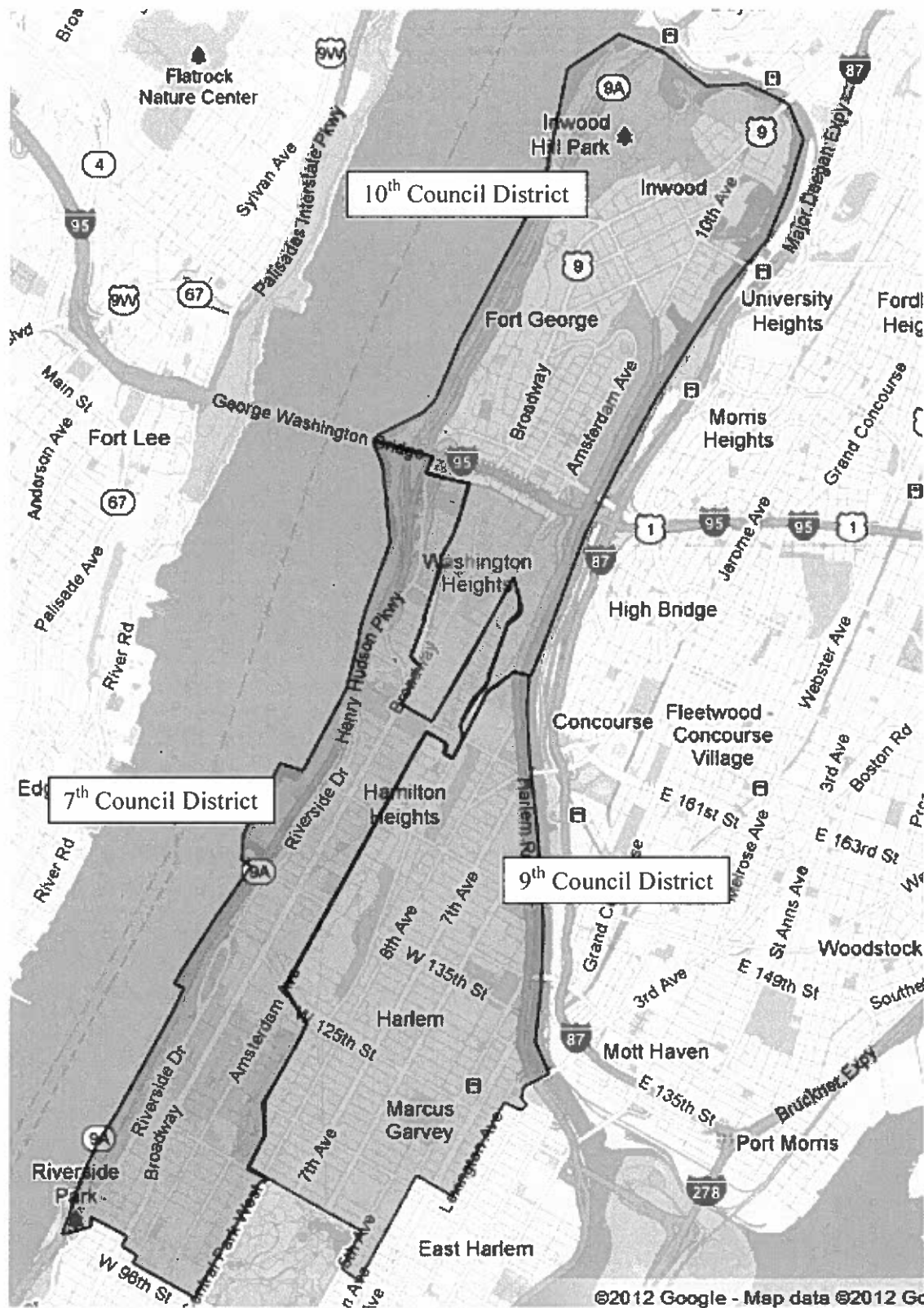
- This plan avoids gerrymandering by using the community districts as its base. These lines were established in 1975 and are universally recognized as community boundaries. Deviations from those boundaries were to adjust for population and were simple changes.
- The deviations either followed existing district lines as in the case of the Jumel Mansion Neighborhood or the Fort Washington Avenue extension or used very simple, long avenue boundaries. Examples would be the lengthy Madison and Lexington Avenues at to the east of the 9th and Amsterdam Avenue and Morningside Aves. between the 7th and 9th.
- Amsterdam Avenue is a simple, but important boundary between the 7th and 9th districts. Several transportation routes run along Amsterdam and it is the western demarcation of several neighborhoods like Hamilton Heights and Sugar Hill.
- Residents of the Upper West side between 96th and 110th Streets which had previously been split between three councilmanic districts would now be in one district, a significant concern raised in previous hearings.

2. THE UMED PLAN IS FAIR

- The plan doesn't just adhere to the provisions of the Voting Rights Act, but goes further to protect the ethnicities and nationalities that constitute the Upper Manhattan political mosaic.
- This plan recognizes the important nationality characteristic of Washington Heights. Looking beyond the Hispanic/Latino designation, its Dominican community was "cracked" in half by the Commission's first redistricting proposal. This plan summarily rejects that approach and reunites the Dominican community to the north and south of I-95 as it currently exists in Council District 10. This protects the voting strength of the Dominican Community in Council District 10 instead of diluting it.
- The plan recognizes the historic African American Community in Central Harlem and the Dominican Community in Washington Heights. Districts 9 and 10 reflect those historic communities, but the plan also recognizes the demographic changes of the community and its proposed district 7 evenly balances traditional ethnic communities with new resident ethnic communities for a district that is more evenly split than the Commission's plan which appeared to favor one ethnic minority over others.

3. THE UMED PLAN IS BALANCED

- Many significant institutions remain wholly contained in single districts in this plan.
- The City College of New York maintains the Amsterdam Avenue boundary and is to its East. It would lie totally within the 9th Councilmanic District.
- One of the Upper Manhattan's largest institutions, Columbia University, with the exception of its athletic facilities, are wholly contained within one district. The current district has the university split across three districts
- La Marqueta which would be split in the Commission's first proposal would now ressolely in 8th Councilmanic district.



District	Population	Deviation	% Deviation	White	% White	Black	% Black	Hispanic	% Hispanic
7	161,746	1,036	0.60%	50,418	31.20%	28,400	17.60%	67,084	41.50%
9	166,848	5,342	3.30%	15,639	9.40%	98,826	59.50%	42,754	25.70%
10	166,279	5,569	3.50%	29,202	17.60%	9,514	5.70%	121,562	73.10%



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October 22, 2012

Mr. Carl Hum
Executive Director
Mr. Alan Gartner
Assistant Director
NYC Districting Commission
253 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10013

Sent via email: chum@districting.nyc.gov | algartner@districting.nyc.gov

Dear Carl and Alan:

Hi. It was a pleasure meeting with you a couple of weeks ago on October 4th to discuss my organization's concerns about the New York City redistricting process.

I since conferred widely with my colleagues and Latino community leaders on what we discussed and would like to reiterate our position for the record that the Commission needs to hold a public hearing to allow community comment on your final proposal before it is submitted to the City Council. Based on our discussion, it is clear that there will be significant changes in the current preliminary plan that you recently released after the current round of hearings. The Latino community and the public in general will need some lead time to be able to seriously analyze the final proposal before it is presented to the Council, which is a more political process the commission was created to correct for.

You mentioned that before submission it would be possible for you to get input on the final proposal from Latino and other community advocates on a one-to-one basis and that it is possible for the City Council to hold hearings before taking a vote on the plan. As I tried to point out, I think these are less desirable alternatives to the Commission holding at least one citywide public hearing on the final proposal.

You pointed out that you are constrained from holding such a hearing by the City Charter because it is not something that it mandates. After reviewing the Charter, we see nothing that prevents the Commission from holding such a hearing or hearings and, I would argue, doing so is more the in the spirit of the Charter's goal of creating an open redistricting process that maximizes wide public input.

We also believe, as I told you, that such an opportunity for public input on your final proposal would more fully comply with your obligations under the federal Voting Rights Act. It would assure that protected classes would have a more direct voice in determining your final proposal to the Council.

As you know, my organization has objected publicly to the underrepresentation of Latinos on the NYC Districting Commission. When the 15-member Commission was first established in 1991, it had three Latino members; today, three decades later, despite the dramatic growth of the city's Latino population, it still has only three members. Certain Latino communities, most obviously the Dominican community, are not represented on this panel. As a result, it is our belief that the Commission must do everything possible to provide Latinos and other protected classes the opportunity to provide you with their concerns about the plan you will be proposing to the Council.

Such an open process through the very end would result in providing your final proposal to the Council with greater force and legitimacy. It will, in addition, be in the spirits of the Voting

continued . . .

Rights Act and the City Charter in calling for an open process which with results we all will have to live with for the next ten years.

Once again, it was a pleasure meeting with you to discuss our concerns. We appreciate the Commission's commitment to assure the fullest possible participation of the Latino community and the public in general in this important process, but are concerned that shortchanging at the critical where you hand it off to the Council could singlehandedly undermine your efforts until this point.

If we can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Best wishes for a successful redistricting of our City Council.

Un abrazo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Falcón', enclosed within a large, loopy circular stroke.

Angelo Falcón
President

cc: Benito Romano, Chair, NYC Districting Commission
Thomas Perez, Assistant Attorney General, US Justice Department
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn
NYC Councilmember James Oddo
Juan Cartagena, President and General Counsel, LatinoJustice PRLDEF
Tracy Shaffer, Voting Rights Section, US Justice Department

Date: October 23, 2012

To: NYC Districting Commission

253 Broadway, 7th Floor, NY, NY 10007

From: NoHo Neighborhood Association Steering Committee

Re: Opposition to proposal to change NoHo's City Council District

The steering committee of the NoHo Neighborhood Association is opposed to the proposal to move the core area of NoHo from City Council District 1 to District 2,

NoHo should not be severed from SoHo. The two neighborhoods are "communities of interest" as defined by the NYC Charter, Section 52 ©.

NoHo and SoHo are the same neighborhood as defined by zoning put in place forty years ago. The unique zoning is the M1-5B Zoning District and permits Joint Living Work Quarters for Artists (JLWQA) under State legislation.

Both are historic landmark districts with a similar history and architectural heritage, including cast-iron architecture. Both have a predominance of loft buildings occupied by artists.

Residents of NoHo and SoHo share the same concerns and have a similar demographic. This community of interests does not exist between NoHo and any neighborhood of District 2. We respectfully request that the commission maintain NoHo's place in District 1 with its sister community of SoHo.

Sincerely,

Denise Martin and Jeanne Wilcke, NoHo Neighborhood Steering Committee

Contact denisebmartin@hotmail.com or rednyc@mac.com

NoHo Neighborhood Steering Committee:

Mary Clarke

Carol Conway

Terri Cude

Nancy English

Laura Feldstein

Lisa Keenan

Denise Martin

Stan Ries

Nicholas Quennell

George Wachtel

Ann Walsh

Jeanne Wilcke

Meg Williams

Bruce Williams

cc: Hon. Margaret Chin, City Council District 1; Hon. Rosie Mendez, City Council District 2; Sean Sweeney, Director, SoHo Alliance

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October 4, 2012

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FINACIALLY-DISTRESSED RENTAL HOUSING

Testimony for the New York City Districting Commission Public Hearing- Oct. 4, 2012

Good evening to the Districting Commission and to the members of my community that have joined us here today.

The critical nature of the districting process is not lost on anyone in this room this evening. We have come here to say to you that we know that districting will affect the future of this community for the next decade and beyond. And we have come with a resounding voice to describe to you how the lines for the council districts in Upper Manhattan should be drawn to reflect the dynamic demographics of our community.

Today I am, no doubt, speaking to you as a senior member of the New York City Council representing the district that we currently sit in, but I am also speaking to you as someone that has lived in Upper Manhattan, in Harlem, my whole life. I'm speaking as someone that has participated in shaping and fostering the vitality of our community; it's political vitality; it's social vitality; it's cultural vitality. Moreover I have owned and operated a business in this community. A real estate business that depends on a deep knowledge of the constituent communities and demographic patterns that make up Upper Manhattan. I can say with the assurity of multiple generations at my back, that I **KNOW** this robust and dynamic part of our city.

And it is with that deep knowledge and experience that I can say, respectfully, that the Districting Commission's first map does not reflect the reality of this community. At first glance I was disappointed in the map because it appeared to ignore obvious natural boundaries like the large cliff that separates the Polo Grounds and Rangel Houses from Washington Heights, but connects those developments to Central Harlem. I was disappointed that the Commission's map ignored the obvious, and more importantly, the SIMPLE demarcation that Amsterdam Avenue constitutes between 125th St. all the way to 155th St. It was disappointing that the Commission's proposal ignored the desires of the community between 96th St. and 110th St. on the Westside to be represented by one elected official that could be accountable to their needs instead of spread across multiple elected officials. It was disappointing that 'La Marqueta' an important institution in East Harlem would be irrationally drawn into my district. But quite frankly, nothing was more disappointing than the manner in which the proposed plan encodes a cynicism pushed by some disparate elements in our own communities that Latinos and African Americans cannot work



together to elect a representative of the community's choosing. A proposed plan that assumes Latino is just Latino and ignores the rich national identities that distinguish Puerto Ricans, and Dominicans, and Mexicans, and Columbians to name a few. We reject the cynicism of a plan that cracks the Dominican community in half at I-95 and asserts that the Dominican community south of I-95 has more in common with the Upper Westside than with the other part of Washington Heights currently represented by the same elected official.

But that disappointment was at first glance, because I was thankfully informed by the Commission that this was merely a first draft that was produced looking solely at census numbers indiscriminate of the particulars of our community. I was informed that the testimony provided tonight would guide any further attempts to draw the maps and those maps would be a more accurate depiction of the community's wishes.

After closely examining the rationale that produced the proposed maps by the Commission, we are here today to describe to you what we are calling the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Districting Plan. The UMED Plan corrects the disappointments that I just described for you. Let's talk boundaries. Our plan suggests these boundaries:

The district boundaries of the 9th Councilmanic district should be Amsterdam and Morningside Avenues to the west, 110th Street to the south, 155th Street and the Polo Grounds and Rangel Houses to the north, and Lexington and Madison Avenues to the east.

The district boundaries of the 7th Councilmanic District should have a contiguous border along the Hudson River to the west, rest at 97th Street to the south, Morningside and Amsterdam Avenues to the west, and follow Fort Washington Avenue to Interstate 95 (I-95)/the George Washington Bridge entrance. I-95 is a common sense boundary and the district lines should not go further north than I-95. Also to follow historic district lines and maintain the connections of communities of interest the district should also include the area encompassing Jumel Terrace Historic District.

The district boundaries for the 10th Councilmanic should include the total area north of I-95 including the wholly contained neighborhoods of Hudson Heights and Inwood. For population purposes the district has to extend south of the common sense I-95 boundary. That extension should not crack in half the heart of Washington Heights' Dominican community at the I-95 boundary as the commission's plan suggests. Instead the area east of Fort Washington Avenue and west of Amsterdam Avenue down to 155th Street should be included in the 10th Councilmanic district.

If we follow these boundaries we end up with a plan that is simple, balanced, and fair. A plan that is simple because we use long unbroken common sense boundaries and stray away from the jagged blocks that are the harbingers of gerrymandering. These recommended district boundaries are logical because they are based on Community District lines recognized in this city since 1975.

The plan is balanced because we manage to keep major institutions like Columbia University and City College wholly contained within single districts. We also do the same with communities

like Hudson Heights and Inwood, Sugar Hill and Hamilton Heights, and the portion of the Upper Westside between 96th St. and 110th St, otherwise known as Manhattan Valley. Instead of being split between districts these neighborhoods are now contained wholly within one district or another.

Finally, and most importantly, the UMED Plan introduces the realistic characteristics of Upper Manhattan, which previous maps ignore. Our plan acknowledges that the 9th Council District that I represent is a traditionally African American District that deserves to be protected. The plan does not crack in half, but instead recognizes the demographic realities to our north and solidifies the 10th Council District as a primarily Dominican community. And our plan sees the potential for collaborative action, for a coalition, if you will, in the 7th Council District. This is a critical component to fairness because that district is in transition. It is extraordinarily mixed with African American, Latinos of multiple nationalities, and White voters. For a fair coalition the courts have set forth three important standards that our proposed district meets. First, the majority of the district has to be constituted as compromising the protected class of minorities. Ours is with not only a majority, but with that majority composing far over 50% of the population. Second, there has to be a pattern of voter behavior confirming the possibility for a coalition. That most definitely exists. Even a cursory look at the voting patterns in the areas we have identified does not indicate that voters will only vote for their race. In fact, races over the last 10 years up and down the ballot prove otherwise. And finally there needs to be evidence that a minority candidate can beat a majority candidate and that is obviously the case in this district. Several court cases, including cases even in the State of New York (Ex.1. Thornburg v. Gingles, Ex.2. Arbor Hill Concerned Citizens Neighborhood Association v. County of Albany And Albany County Board Of Elections, Ex.3. Wilson v. Eu) have proven that our approach, an approach that defeats cynicism and enshrines the notion that we can work together, is the right approach.

Simple, Fair, and Balanced we ask you, I ask you as a lifetime resident of this community, to adopt this approach.

Thank you.

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**NYC Districting Commission
Public Hearing**

Thursday, October 4th 5:30PM – 9:00PM

**Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
515 Malcolm X Boulevard
New York, NY 10037**

Testimony by Council Member Margaret Chin, District 1-Lower Manhattan

Good evening, Commissioners. I am Council Member Margaret Chin, the New York City Council representative for District-1, Lower Manhattan. I thank you for the opportunity today to offer some insight regarding the current and proposed district lines as an elected official, long time lower Manhattan resident, and also someone who was involved in this process many decades ago.

District-1 currently includes the Financial District, Battery Park City, Tribeca, Chinatown, the Lower East Side, parts of SoHo, and some of Greenwich Village. I am proud to represent a district that is extremely diverse, both ethnically and socio-economically. We have both Wall Street and nine public housing developments. We have 18 subways, and many more buses. We have more than 5 miles of waterfront – more if you include Governors Island.

Our district has experienced a large amount of residential growth in the last ten years, and this could continue as new residential construction and conversion projects resume with the economic recovery. However, our population right now places us very close to the median district size, and it is my strong feeling that very little change is needed in our district.

For this reason, I support the draft proposal by the Districting Commission, at least where it applies to District-1, with a few minor edits.



- For example, I hope you'll further consider the inclusion of housing complexes like Gouverneur Gardens which has traditionally been included as part of the Lower Manhattan community, and which under your draft proposal would be in District-2.

I know that the Districting Commission looks very closely at balancing population size, and tries to achieve districts that are close to the median, rather than the permitted 5% margin. However, I do think it is important for the Districting Commission to consider future growth as well. I am concerned about proposals that show a 7% among districts in Manhattan, namely in the so-called "Unity Map" proposal, spearheaded by AALDEF and LatinoJustice. To the extent possible, minimizing population deviation from the median is an essential part of protecting the democratic principle of one-citizen-one-vote. It also is important, especially for higher poverty areas, to ensure that each district has enough resources to address its needs.

For my district specifically, I am very concerned that this "Unity Map" proposal suggests removing Tribeca and Battery Park City from District-1. ***This is something I adamantly oppose.***

For one thing, and those living in Lower Manhattan will tell you, there is a community of interest here that crosses any racial or socioeconomic lines. The "Unity Map" map blatantly ignores the shared interests between downtown neighborhoods and instead only considers at the color of people's skin. This is a community that experienced and was directly affected by the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Ten years later, and after much community advocacy, we are just reaching some major milestones in rebuilding:

- The Memorial opened last year; Tower 1 at the World Trade Center is beginning to be leased and is almost topped out; the Fulton Transit Hub should be complete in 2014; and the WTC site will be open to the public soon as well.

We also are just seeing the roll out of the Zadroga Act and federal compensation for those in our community whose health was affected by 9/11.

Now is not the time to cut this community in half – not when we still have work left to be done.

Additionally, the argument that the "richer" areas should be separated out from the "poorer" neighborhoods in our district glosses over the fact that many neighborhoods downtown are economically mixed.. There are many who live in Tribeca who are middle class

Independence Plaza North, Southbridge Towers and Gateway are three examples of areas where very large concentrations of middle class families reside. These families rely on rent-stabilization agreements, Section-8 and other subsidized housing programs. The residents who live in these

building built the downtown community and fought for its first public schools. These are our artists living in lofts; they are our area's first pioneers.

That being said, any attempt to carve out a Chinatown/Lower East Side district will only reduce socio-economic diversity. This will double the number of housing projects in the district and create a district with a high concentration of poverty. Concentrating high needs in one district only ends up resulting in resources having to be spread more thinly. For this exact reason, I believe that District-1's income and ethnic diversity has been arguably one of its strengths.

I am also concerned about any plans that propose packing Asians and Latinos in one district. When I first testified twenty-two years ago at a Districting Commission hearing like this, we asked for Chinatown to remain intact and for there to be an opportunity for an Asian to be elected. We didn't ask for a guarantee. And at that time, we also respected the hopes and aspirations of the Latino community to have their own representation. At that time, three districts were drawn to create opportunities for the election of a Latino, Asian, and LGBT candidate. It took some time, people had to get registered, people had to get politically organized – but that is what we have today.

The “Unity Map proposal,” to combine Chinatown and the Lower East Side, is most likely to pit minority groups against one another, instead of providing the opportunity for the election of representatives from each group.

Furthermore, the dramatic redrawing of lines proposed in the “Unity Map” will **NOT** result in an equally dramatic increase in minorities in District-1. This proposal seeks to tear apart the Lower Manhattan community for a mere 1.5 percent increase in the Asian population in District-1, a 4.8 percent increase in the Latino population, and a 1.4 percent increase in the Black population. This is certainly not worth reducing minority opportunity for representation in Manhattan and cutting the Lower Manhattan community in half, especially since the demographics of lower Manhattan are likely to continue to change over the next ten years. In fact, according to census data, the fastest growing Asian population in Lower Manhattan was in Battery Park City and the Financial District.

In any case, the main point I want to make is that no matter how you redraw lines in *Lower Manhattan*, you will never be able to guarantee the election of a minority candidate. The only way to guarantee the election of a minority candidate is to make sure minority community register to *vote*, are organized, and active in their local communities.

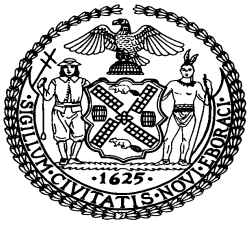
I support the Commission and the draft proposal for District-1. I ask you not to be swayed by whichever group yells the loudest, for they do not represent the true voice of the Lower Manhattan community. Contrary to what the critics want you to believe, these communities share

more in common than they count as differences. I firmly believe that in Lower Manhattan our diversity is our greatest strength, and I urge to to keep our boundaries intact as this process moves forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Contact:

Kelly Magee
Director of Communication
(212) 788-7259



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ALEXANDER RIAS
Director of BLAC Affairs

TO: NYC Districting Commission
SUBJECT: TESTIMONY re: NYC DISTRICTING, 2ND ROUND

At this critical stage in the redistricting process, the seemingly impersonal dotted lines that represent boundaries via council districts come alive and real people, real voices and real communities emerge united and resolute. And the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus of New York City Council can appreciate the scheduled process that has taken place thus far. And, as expressed in our first-round testimony, the Caucus is happy to know that access and transparency have been a hallmark of this Commission.

This Caucus also understands that the preliminary lines released in September simply represent a draft--based mostly upon numbers—a draft that serves to propel conversation and discourse about the future of this city. It is expected, now that the voices of the people are heard, that more realistic lines be drawn that keep and bring communities of common interest together, instead of dividing them; lines that help communities grow wholly, instead of stunting their progress by fragmenting them.

The Black, Latino and Asian Caucus simply wishes to echo the voices of the more than 4 million New Yorkers in 27 council districts that we represent: that communities of color, as protected by the Voting Rights Act, and communities of common interest shall be granted the full ability to choose representatives by the full power of their vote. The new lines of this city should not, and cannot deem this right to representation diminished. It simply cannot!

Moreover, boons to community pride, tradition and culture do more for a community than census numbers can describe. It is our expectation that as the Commission continues seek balance between numbers and cultures, lines and community pride, voters and the future of this city's most devoted. It is expected that the Commission do so within the full requirement of the law, and by truly listening to the resounding responses that it is receiving in this second round.

Lastly, this Caucus suggests that an additional round of public comment be scheduled following the release of the second drafted maps—if allowed by New York City Charter and all laws governing this process. This critical phase should be open and transparent, to allow the voice of the people to be resoundingly clear. Our communities' voices will continue to be heard!

Sincerely,

Robert Jackson
BLAC Co-Chair

Fernando Cabrera
BLAC Co-Chair

**Testimony of Assemblyman Keith L.T. Wright, 70th Assembly District to the New York
City Districting Commission
October 4, 2012**

Thank you, New York City Districting Commission, for allowing me to give testimony as to why it is of the utmost importance that we reconsider the proposed district maps for the New York City Council. As your commission tackles yet another legislative redistricting attempt, it is essential that you work together with the elected officials that understand the needs of these neighborhoods, and with the community members who deserve fair and effective councilmanic representation. In my testimony I will outline why, in upper Manhattan, we must promise a fair and smart redistricting process in order to preserve the unity and progress that has empowered our communities.

As it stands, the new City Council maps do little to bind together communities of interest or to allow the Hispanic and African American population in Upper Manhattan a necessary voice in City government. I support the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Districting Plan, which will effectively maintain political participation and viability. This plan is simple and fair, because it uses community districts as its base. Any changes to existing boundaries were done carefully, are not drastic, and reflect the success that the existing neighborhoods have. The plan adheres to the provisions of the Voting Rights Act, while also protecting the historic and diverse demographics of Upper Manhattan. The plan also grants many of the large institutions contained in the area their own council district, allowing for more focus, better representation and a centralization of resources for both the districts and the institutions.

Perhaps most foolishly, the proposed maps slice through many of Upper Manhattan's most established and well-known neighborhoods, including El Barrio in East Harlem. On the heels of a huge revitalization to El Barrio's famed La Marqueta Mile, this Commission is looking to split the marketplace between districts, neglecting to consider that the site is of economic importance and historically part of the 8th Councilmanic district. This type of oversight is careless but avoidable - it would undoubtedly have a devastating effect on our communities.

The maps proposed by the New York City Districting Commission represent an eerie recurrence of the Federal Court's failure to address the needs of Upper Manhattan in the

recent statewide redistricting process. As you move forward in this redistricting, I ask that you familiarize yourself with the needs of these communities, and consider what is at stake if you neglect the existing boundaries and attempt to reshape neighborhoods that have been solidified in the past decade.

Thank you for allowing me to deliver this testimony on behalf of the communities I have dedicated my life and career to representing. I will be glad to answer any questions that you should have at this time.



ROBERT J. RODRIGUEZ
Assemblyman 68th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Small Business
Labor
Banks
Mental Health
Corporations, Authorities & Commissions
Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force
Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian
Legislative Caucus

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

October 4th, 2012

Regarding: Redistricting of the 8th City Council District

Dear New York City Districting Commission Members:

Please allow this letter to serve as my public testimony for the October 5th 2012 City Council Redistricting hearing. As Assembly Member for the 68th New York State Assembly District, and a life long resident of Harlem, I write to express my opposition to the proposed map for the 8th City Council District. While I applaud the NYC Districting Commission's attempt to honor the demographic goals of our community, the Districting Commission proposal does not reflect my community's interest. I urge you to redraw based on the following recommendations:

- Maintain the Voting Rights Act to insure a majority Latino population;
- Re-draw the map to preserve East Harlem's cultural and economic corridor in the 8th City Council District including La Marqueta and the Park Avenue corridor;
- Restore the lines in a way that preserves East Harlem as a contiguous community including Manhattan Valley, and Randall's Island;
- Ensure that the 8th City Council District's boundaries are continuous.

East Harlem is a unique district with decades of political, cultural and economic history that have shaped it, as well many of the significant obstacles that we face. It has always been to us, East Harlem's life long residents, one district, and a source of pride and strength from which to approach our goals and challenges. Therefore, we recommend a map that is more reflective of our interests.

As you deliberate on the proposed District lines for the 8th City Council District I urge that you honor the concerns and recommendations of this testimony. Additionally, the 9th Council District is not acceptably drawn, and negatively impacts the 9th, 7th and 10th districts. It should be redrawn with widely accepted boundaries that allow representative groups to remain contiguous. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Robert J. Rodriguez
Assembly Member, 68th District
New York State Assembly

Email Address: rodriguezrj@assembly.state.ny.us

□ Albany Office: Room 729, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248, 518-455-4781
□ District Office: 55 East 115th Street, New York, New York 10029, 212-828-3953

Hearings

From: Barbara Fanning [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 3:22 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: Redistricting

To those whom it my concern,

I am writing on behalf of Park West Village Community Network. We represent a strong, diverse and active community of 2400 apartment units in 7 buildings situated in Manhattanville between West 97 and West 100 Street and Amsterdam Avenue and Central Park West. Park West Village was built as a community in 1959 and we continue that community spirit with the Park West Village Tenants' Association and the Park West Community Network.

We are appalled at the notion of redistricting because it appears that a new district line would split our community. The lines drawn through Columbus Avenue literally fall between our 7 buildings. To my mind, it is an most reprehensible example of how little thought was given to the notion of community when these redistricting lines were conceived.

Be assured, however, we will continue to be a community regardless, we will continue to have amongst the highest voter turn-outs in the city. We will vote according to our community needs and for only those politicians who actively support them.

Sincerely,
Barbara Fanning, Chair
Park West Community Network

Winifred Armstrong Testimony
To the Districting Commission, October 6, 2012
On behalf of the Park West Neighborhood History Group
www.upperwestsidehistory.weebly.com

We ask that in considering new City Council Districts, Park West Village be kept intact. The present proposals of the Districting Commission divide a community built as a Village, and which we have worked over the 50 years of its existence to maintain and enjoy as a community.

We are roughly 5000 people, living in 2500 apartments, in seven buildings between 97th and 100th Street along Central Park West and Columbus Avenue on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Park West Village was built on the ashes of another Old Community, as one of the urban renewal projects of Robert Moses. Its express intent was to attract a multi-ethnic, middle class working community to this multi-economic neighborhood. It succeeded....and I think by now we can say it is we who live there who have made it succeed.

Our resident civic groups include people from “both sides of the street.” We were conceived as a neighborhood, and are well served by a Library, Police and Fire Station down 100th Street, and a Community Board (7) who knows us well.

Please do not divide us down the middle, as your proposals now do.

I attach a brochure we prepared ***Park West Village: History of a Diverse Community*** which will give you a further sense of our community’s past, present and future.

Peace on the Street Inc.

Peace through Strength / Paz Via Fuerza

Meditation - Martial Arts / www.peaceonthestreet.com

Peace on the Street
at LaGuardia House
307 116th St, New York, NY 10035
212-978-8776
10/4/12

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

Dear Members:

My name is Stan Koehler and since 2003 I have directed a program for youth in Spanish Harlem. I also own property and live in El Barrio. I am very concerned that the political boundaries of the district are drawn to insure the integrity of the community. To that end, I am writing in opposition to the proposed boundaries for District 8 and in support of the Unity Plan. I will leave to others to present the reasons why we should not splinter off the important and historical parts of our community that lay to the west of Park Ave and restrict myself to two points.

First, Randall-Ward's Island must be restored to the district. We are plagued with gangs in our community. One of the remedies is sports activities for our youth. Our youth, suffering from the cutbacks in recreation programs, must continue to have support in using these island recreation areas. It's essential that their council person, elected by their parents and families, also has the responsibility to insure that our youngsters continue to have access to Randall-Ward and its programs.

Second, if the Bronx section is going to expand, we need to remove the long, thin, gerrymandered section that stretches up the East River to the Cross Bronx Expressway. This section needs to be reintegrated into the neighborhoods that had these blocks sliced away. The Unity Plan provides this.

More importantly the Unity Plan provides increased representation for the Mexican New Comers and the Chicano youth. Mexican Americans make up a significant part of the population of El Barrio. They are especially represented amongst business owners.

They are also a significant population in the Bronx section of the Unity map. Removing the thin strip crawling up the East River and expanding the Mott Haven area will reflect a more organic neighborhood as well as allow the interests of this group of Latinos to be represented on both sides of the river.

Sincerely,

**Stan Koehler
Executive Director**

From: Yma Rodriguez

To:

Thank you for signing up to testify at the Districting Commission meeting on October 4th at the Arturo Alfonso Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 515 Malcolm X Boulevard, 135th Street, New York, NY 10037 regarding keeping East Harlem's District 8 intact. You are all registered to testify and ready to go!

Below are the two training meetings that have been set up to help organize those who would like some strong talking points and tips on how to prepare for their testimony. Please let me know if you will attend the training. Please encourage others to attend the information/training sessions below as well as the Districting Commission meeting.

1. Monday, October 1st (6:30pm to 7:30pm) @ 58 East 117th Street
2. Tuesday, October 2nd (6 pm to 7pm) @ 1695 Madison Avenue in the Preamble Room

Thank you again for you commitment to East Harlem.

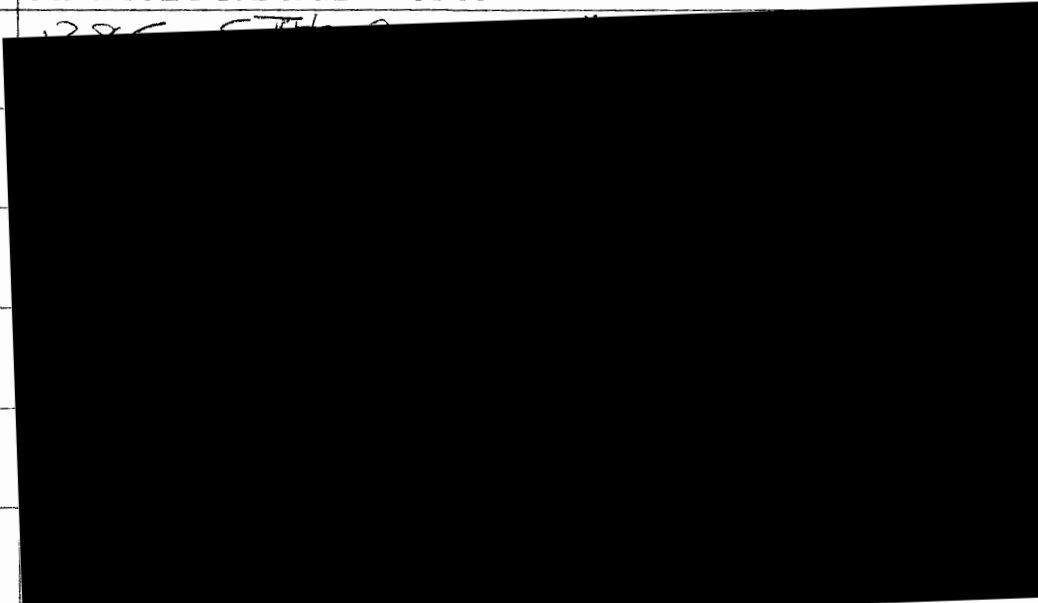
Yma B. Rodriguez, MPA
Puertorriquenos Unidos del
Estado de Nueva York
[REDACTED] Mobile

EL BARRIO'S CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT IS UNDER ATTACK!

The City is proposing to change the City Council district lines to further divide the El Barrio/East Harlem community, and move more of Council District 8 into the Bronx. This will dilute our neighborhood's political power. Important landmarks like La Marqueta will no longer fall entirely in our community's primary Council district. The Unity Coalition has released a proposal that would preserve more of El Barrio's boundaries. **We demand that our Council District be kept whole!**

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La Ciudad está proponiendo redesignar los distritos del Concejo Municipal para dividir El Barrio, e incluir más población del Bronx en el Distrito 8. Esta propuesta reducirá la fuerza de nuestro poder político como comunidad. Lugares importantes para la comunidad puertorriqueña y latina como La Marqueta ya no estarán dentro del distrito principal de nuestra comunidad. La Coalición de la Unidad ha lanzado una propuesta que preserve mejor los límites originales de El Barrio. **¡Exigimos que nuestro distrito se quede como está!**


NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Frank Perez	
Andrés Rincón R	
Armando Ramos	
Louis Gonzalez	
RIVERA Johio	
Jason Cruz	

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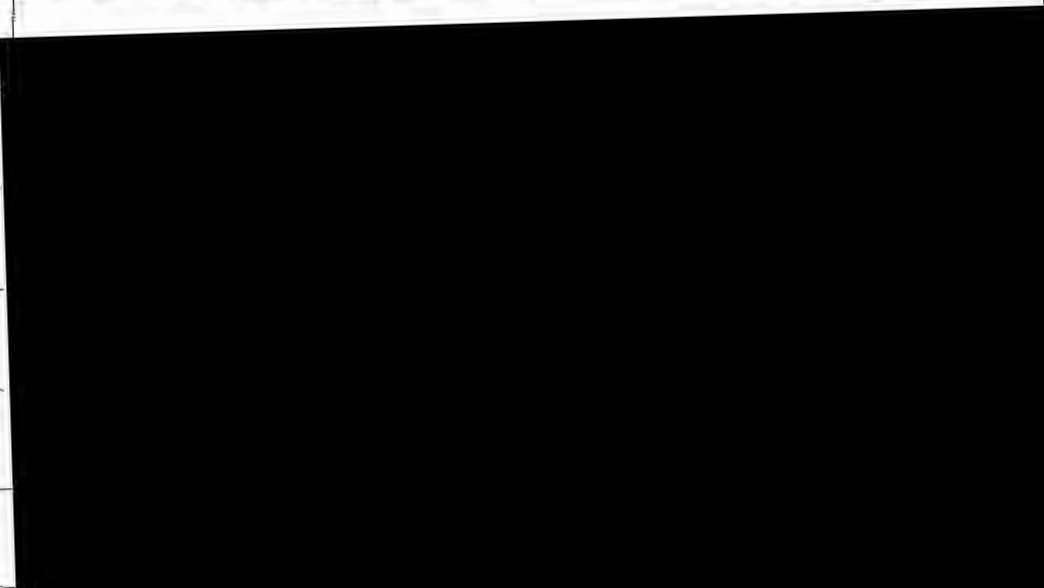
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Diane Negron	
TITO ALVAREZ	
Joseph Reis	
Saben Santiago	
Ilis P. Dominguez	
Jose Carrero	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
IRIS Roman	
Cindy PEREZ	
Luphe Martinez	
Wilfredo M...	
Nancy Gomez	
Ramon Flores	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
115 SYE TOBACCO PAPER INC	
MARGARITA RODRIGUEZ	
MARIA FELIZ	
Robert Santiago	
Maria Ortiz	
Ramon Bravo	

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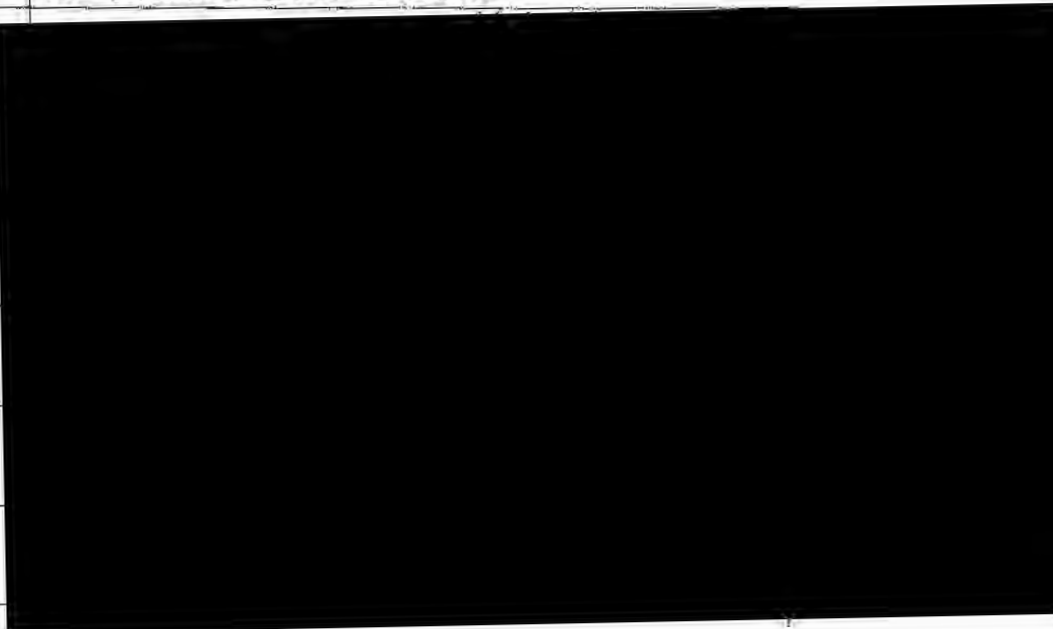
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Aharon Cordero	
CAPPELLAN DE GROCERY	
MIRIAM HERNANDEZ	
Felix Declet	
JOSE MEDINA	
AMANDO SANTOS	

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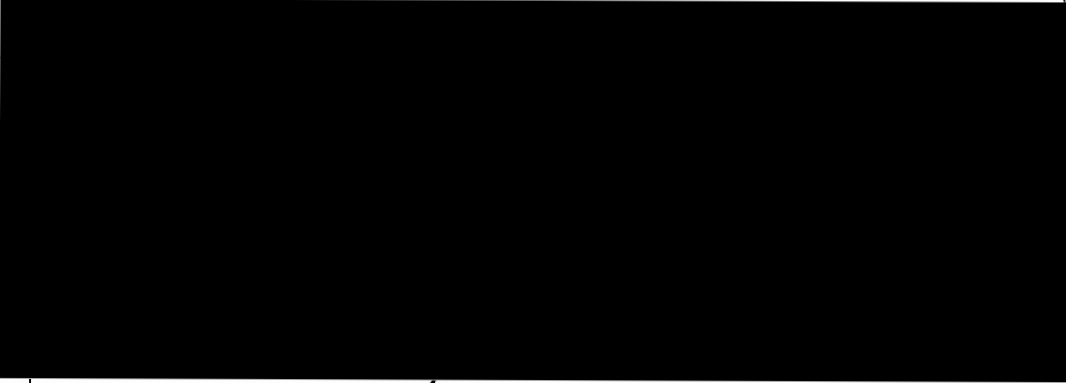
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Nilda Coaxum	
J. BARETT	
Johnny Rosado	
Tommy Rome	
Milady Rivera	
Lisa Gullon	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
JOSE DONET	
SENON RIVERA	
JOHN CARRERO IV	
ERVIN A. SANOQUE <i>Long</i>	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
José Espada	
Joanna Espada	
Joselyn Espada	
Jose B. Espada	
Angel Vasquez	
Edwardo Martell	

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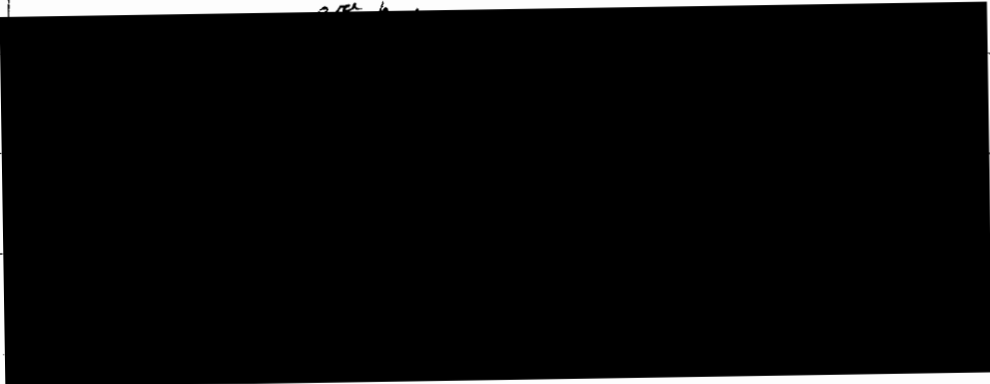
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Primitivo Ayala	
Rodrigo Díaz	
Livio Texidor Jr DRBARY	
Raul Velez	
Raul Velez Jr	
Troy Velez	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
MARCOS CEDILLO	
ELBA BUNILLA	
IVAN LOPEZ	
EDWIN MARCIAL	


Teatro Moderno Puertorriqueño
181 E. 111 St.
New York, NY 10029

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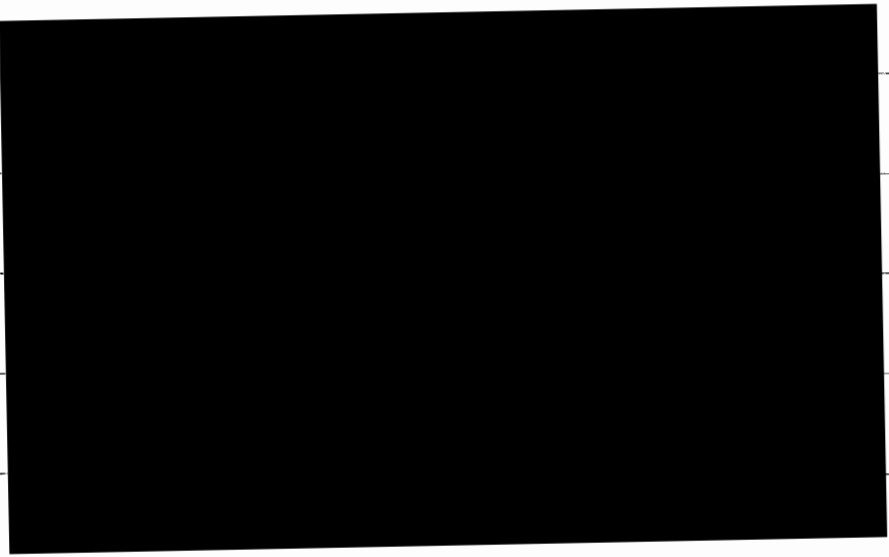
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
LORRAINE KNOX	
Mia BEL (C.V.H)	
Samir Torres	
Angel Pina	
SAMMY GONZALEZ	

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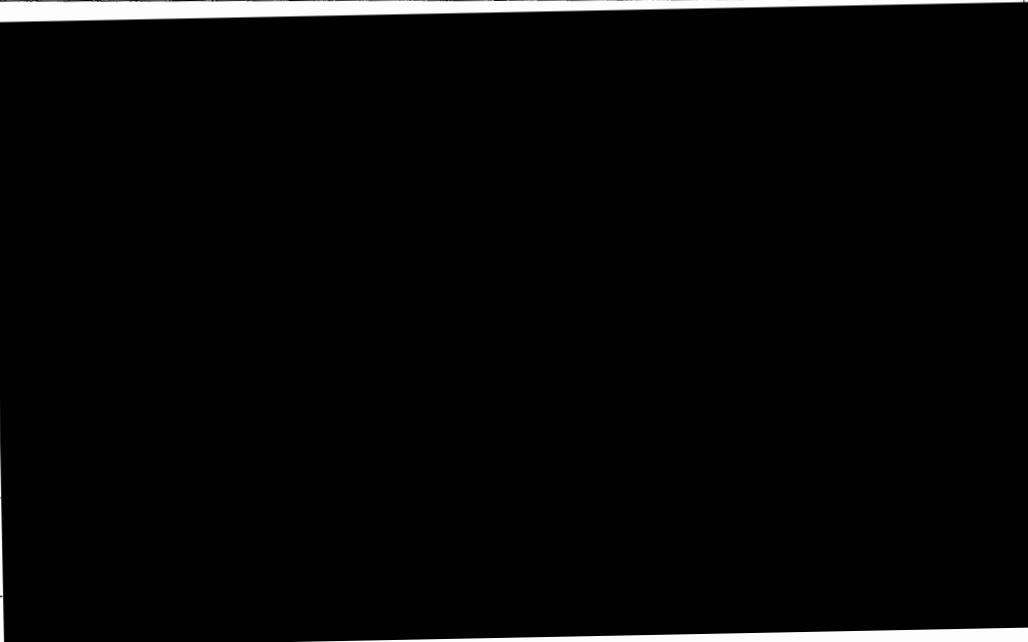
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Janet Santiago-Paxach	
Carmelo Paxach	
José Herdaga	
Samir Dely	
David Zurita	
WILLIE ORTIZ	

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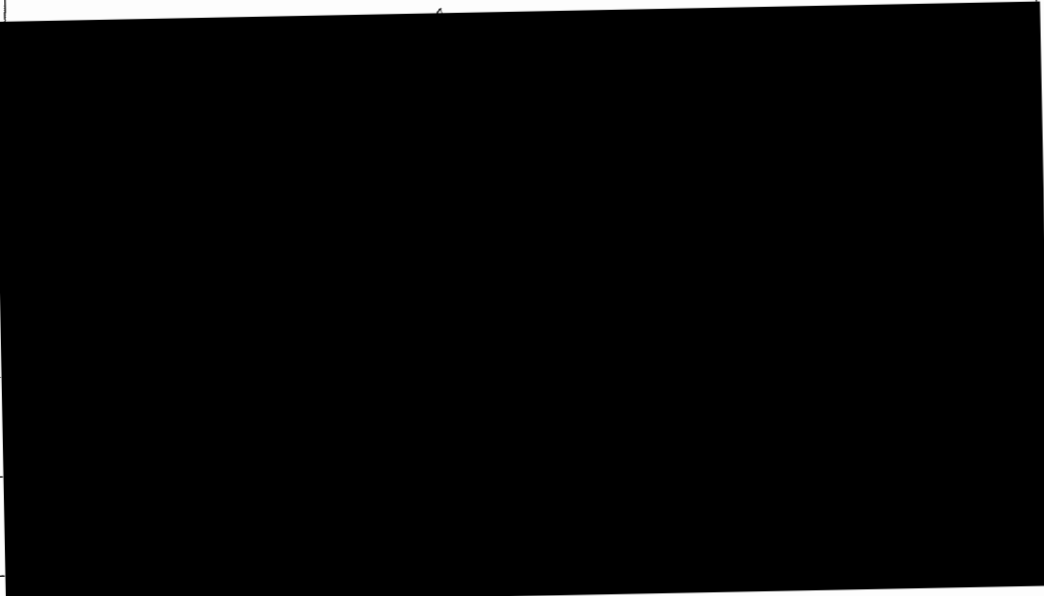
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Shaylee Ramirez	
Julia Colón	
Miguel Rivera	
Phil Ruiz	
Carney Carabba	
Tahan Havan	

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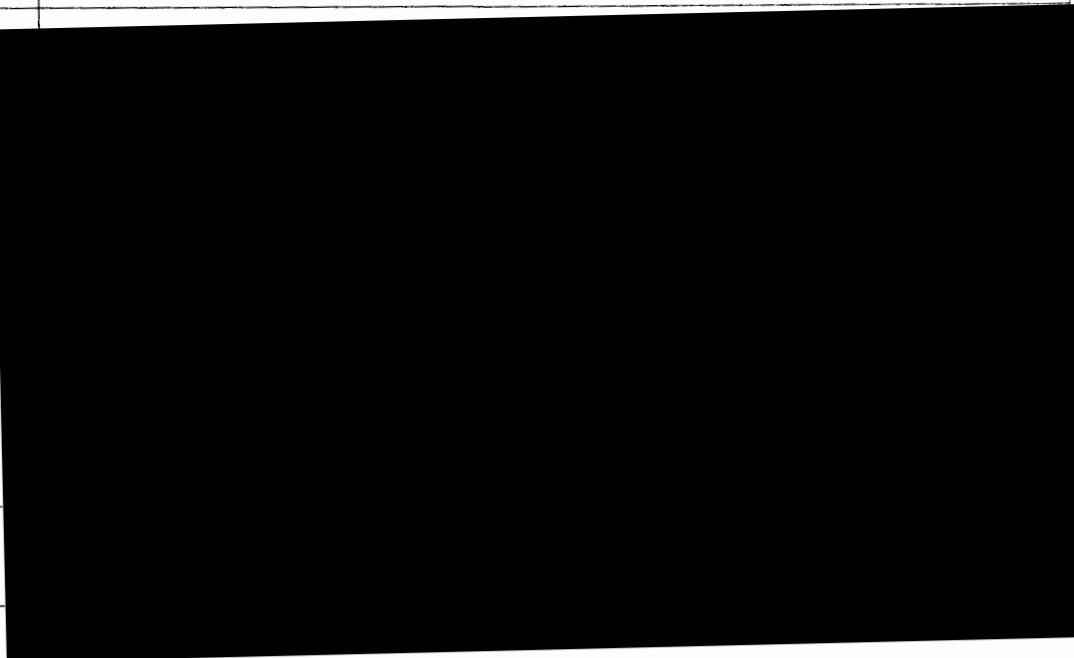
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
G. Garcia	
Ramiro Cortes	
Rodriguez, E	
Rosy Lopez	
Antonio Felix	
Carmen Mateo	

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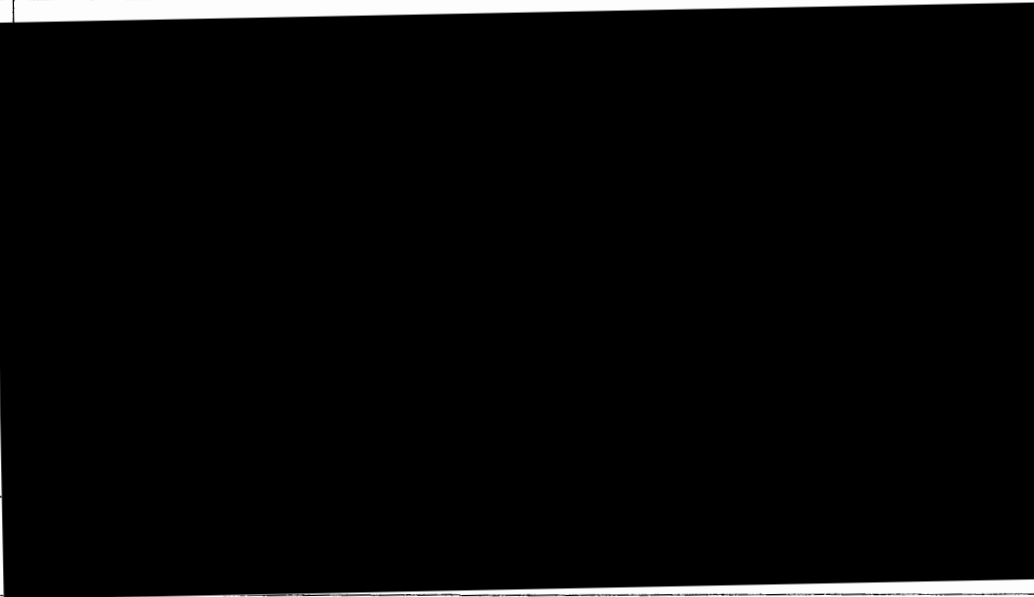
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Humberto Prieto	
Phil Otero	
José García	
Rafael Rivera	
Nelson Otero	
John Kye	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Misael Calaza	
Santo Domingo	
Jeroni Reyes	
Benny Flores	
Yngeso Dantes	
Milago Calal	

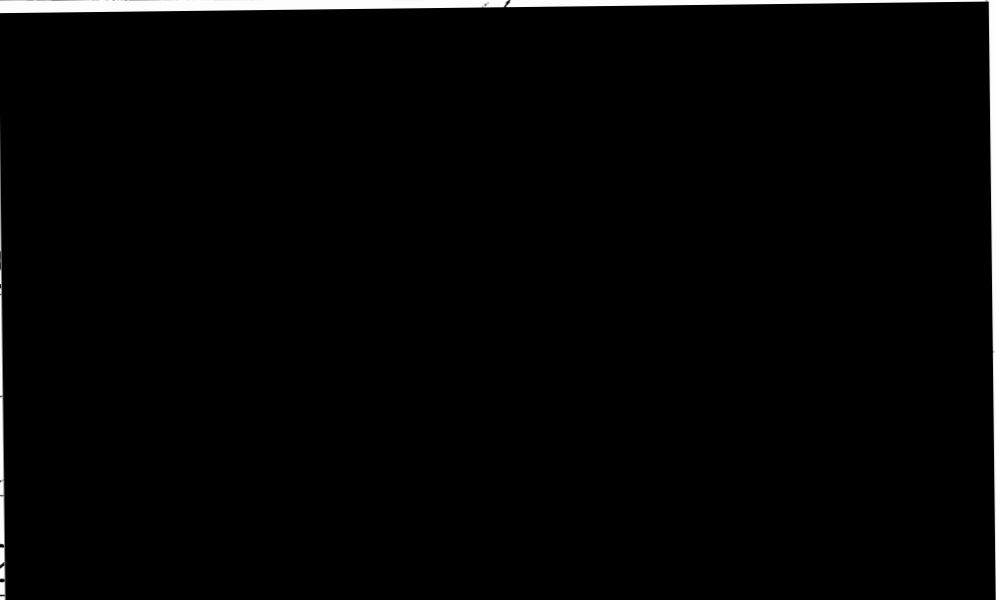
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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Freddy Rivera / Freddy Rivera	
Luis Aguayo	
Beunilda Velez	
Ana Guerrero	
Maria Rios	
Ana Morales	

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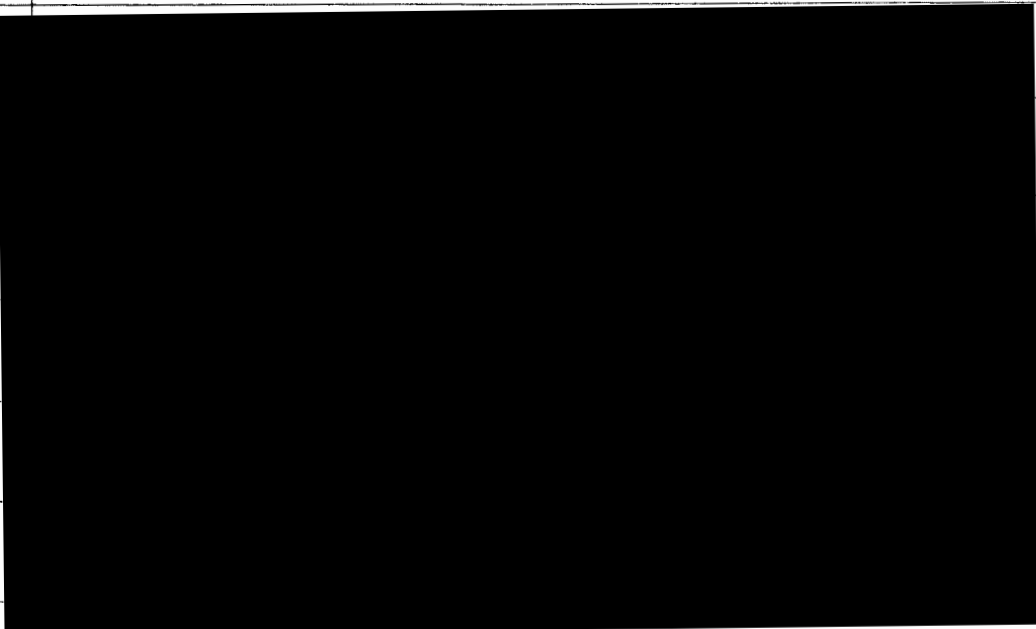
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
FRANCISCO LOPEZ	
JOSE DIAZ	
Heriberto Castro	
Roberto Perez	
Denise Ramon	
Millie Nieves	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Jesse Torres	
HAheem Stern	
H. Rocha	
T. Johnson	
N. CORTES	
Janet H. Sanchez	

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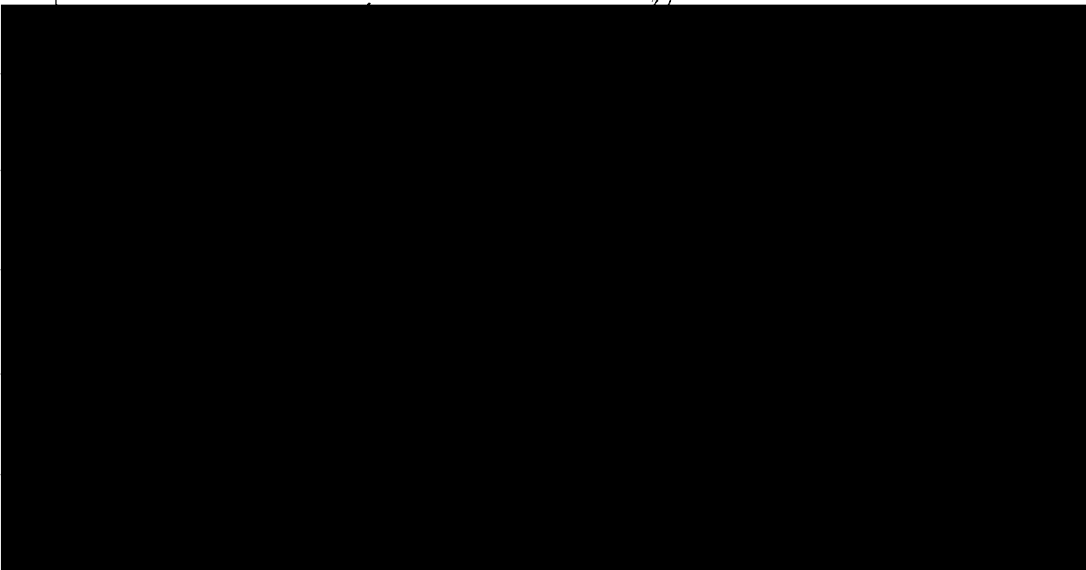
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Yisela Ayala	
Isabel Gonzalez	
Nelson Gonzalez	
Carmen Perez	
Jaguar Chubb	
Duke S.	

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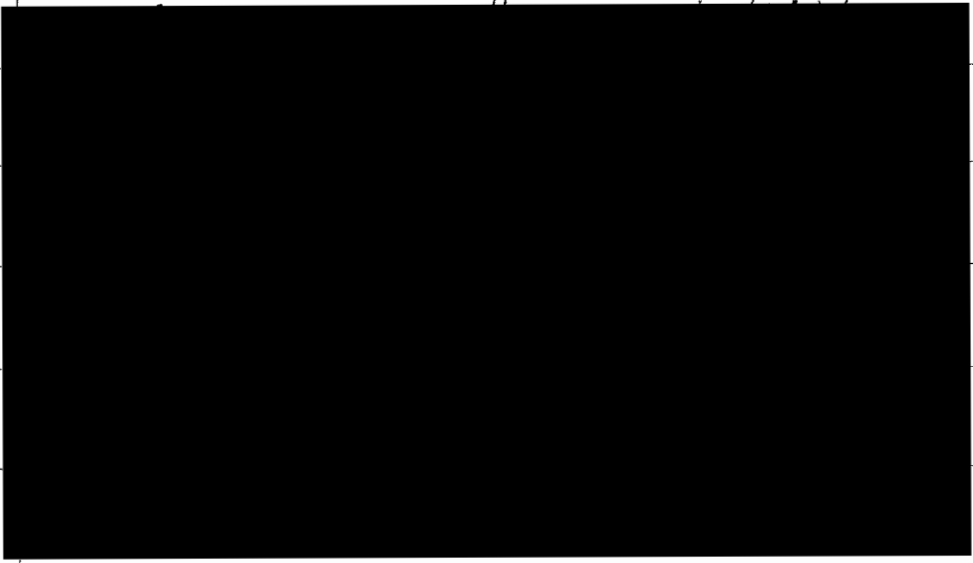
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Carmen Castro	
SUSIE HICAGO	
SWANN STOKLEY	
Prudencia Cortez	
Maria Figueroa	
Luz D Estrada	

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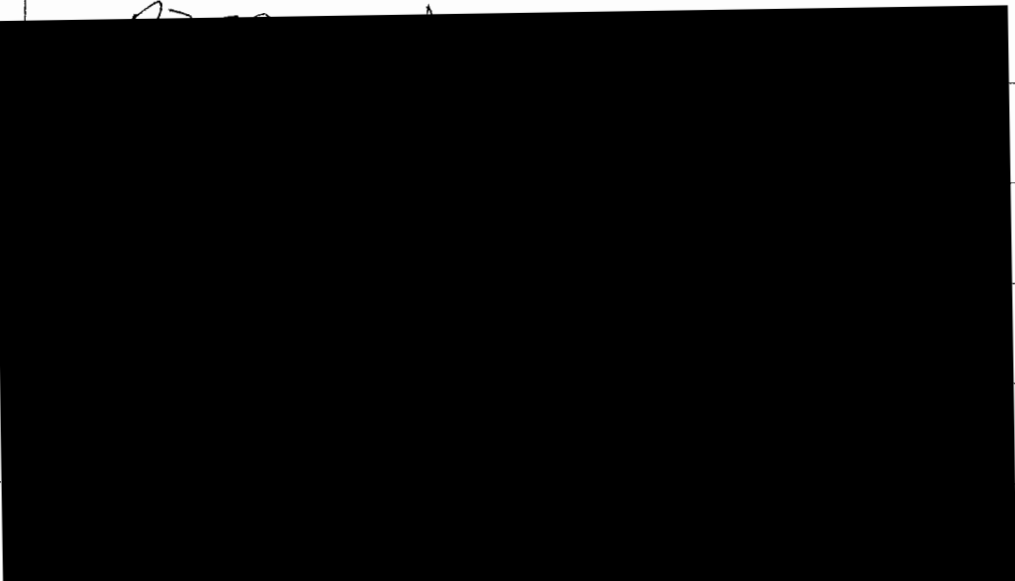
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Laine Mangione	
Vivian Rodriguez	
RONALD PALACIOS	
Carlos Figueroa	
CARMEN FIGUEROA	
Margaret L. Day	

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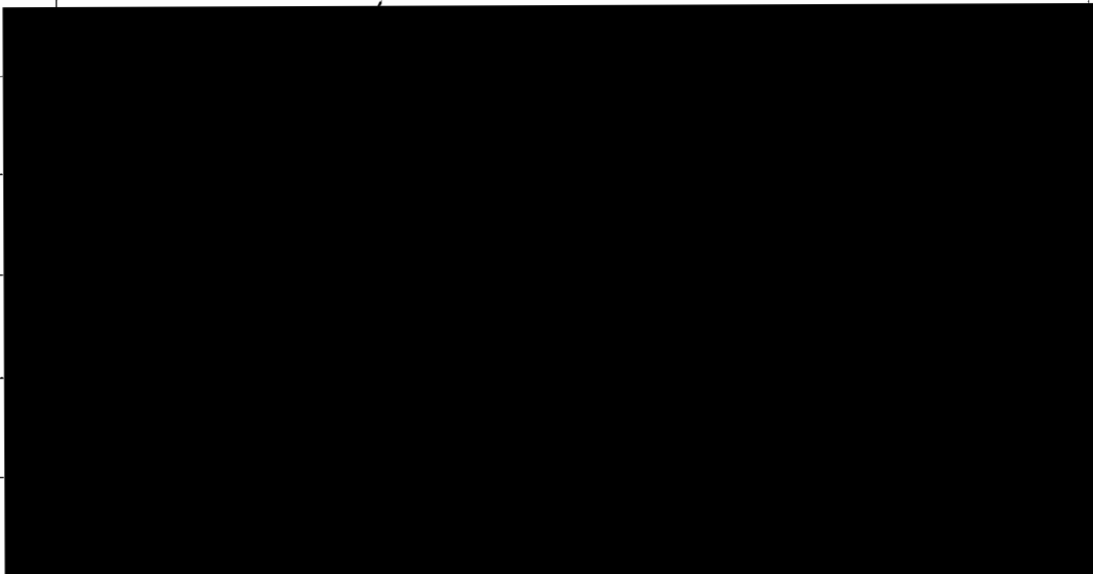
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Marta Klat	
Henda Beaumont	
Delbrag Ramos	
Johanna Viz	
Denise Valdez	
Maria Ortiz	

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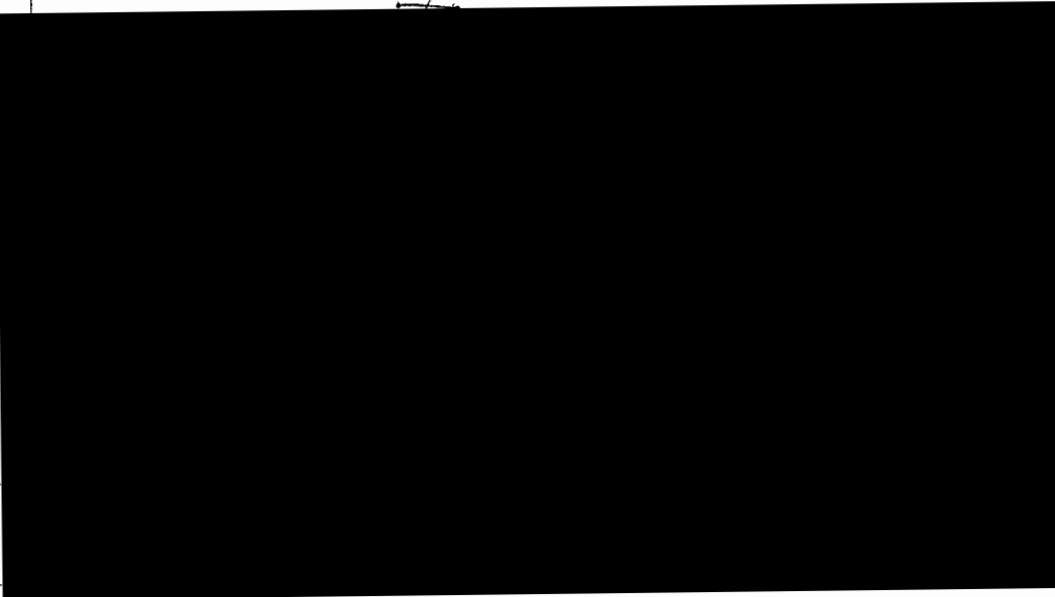
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Luis Valdivia	
Brent Dill	
Christina Garcia	
Worthy Melancon	
Randy Alencar	
Randy Rodriguez	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Rafael Pérez	
Ethel Allen	
Doris Cruz	
Victor Cortes	
KAREN VALENTINE	
Nicole King	

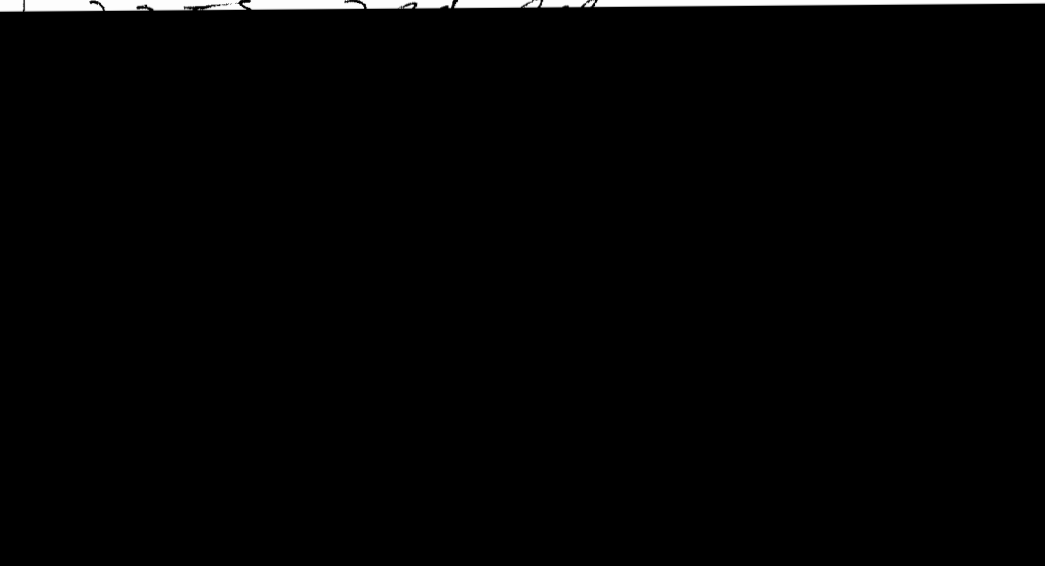
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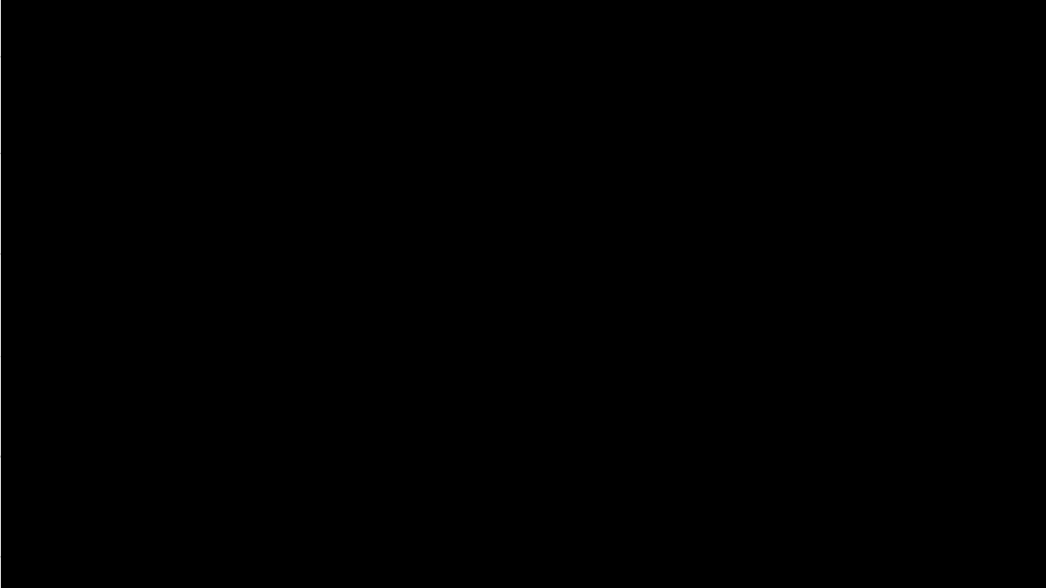
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Francisco Torres	
Luis Peña	
Geno Velasco	
Raul Rodriguez	
DIANA DELGADO	
Luis Lopez	

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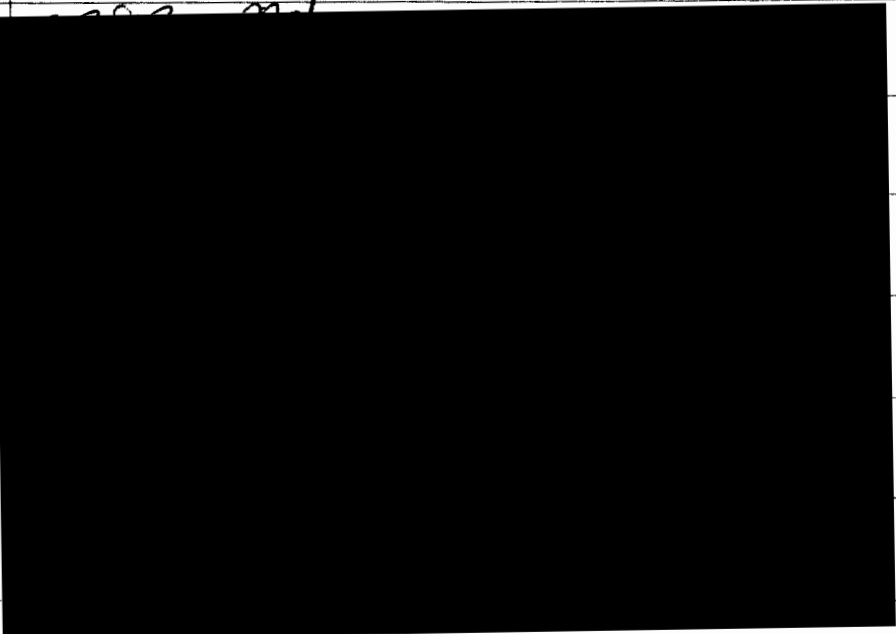
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Francisco Castiglia	
Wanda Vazquez	
Melida Zapata	
John Vargas	
Nora Hernández	
Choufete Amador	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Betsy Berrios	
Jeannette BERRIOS	
Richard BERRIOS	
Jane Valentin	
Samie Hayes	
Rafaela Brown	




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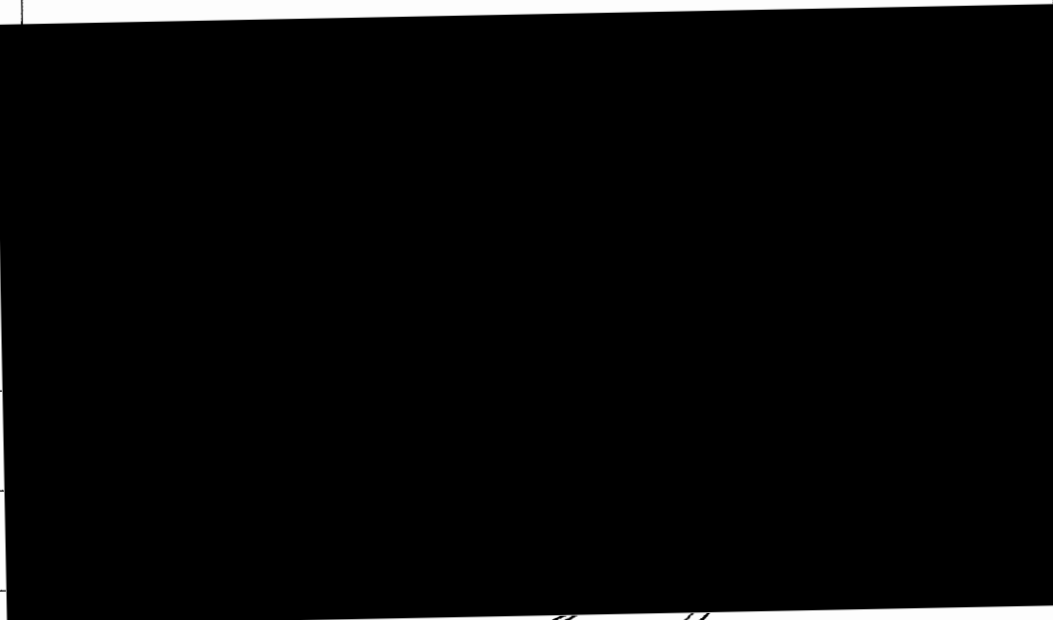
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Anthony Al	
Christian Turi	
El Gato Verde	
Pablo Anobledo	
Elvin Rincón	
Luz Martinez	

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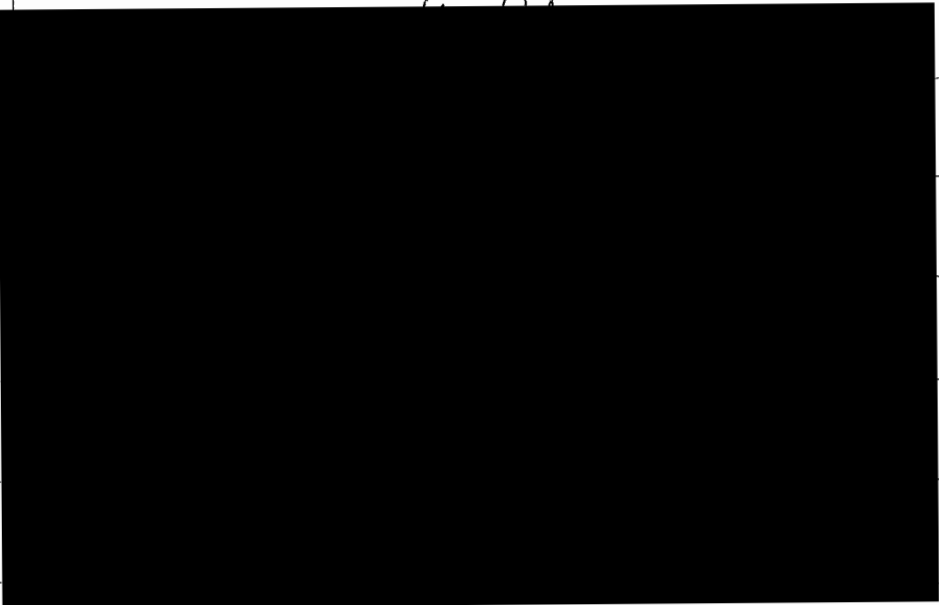
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
SAM CONE	
Blanco	
Yorgine Saez	
Rosa German	
Enrico Castro	
Blas Medina	

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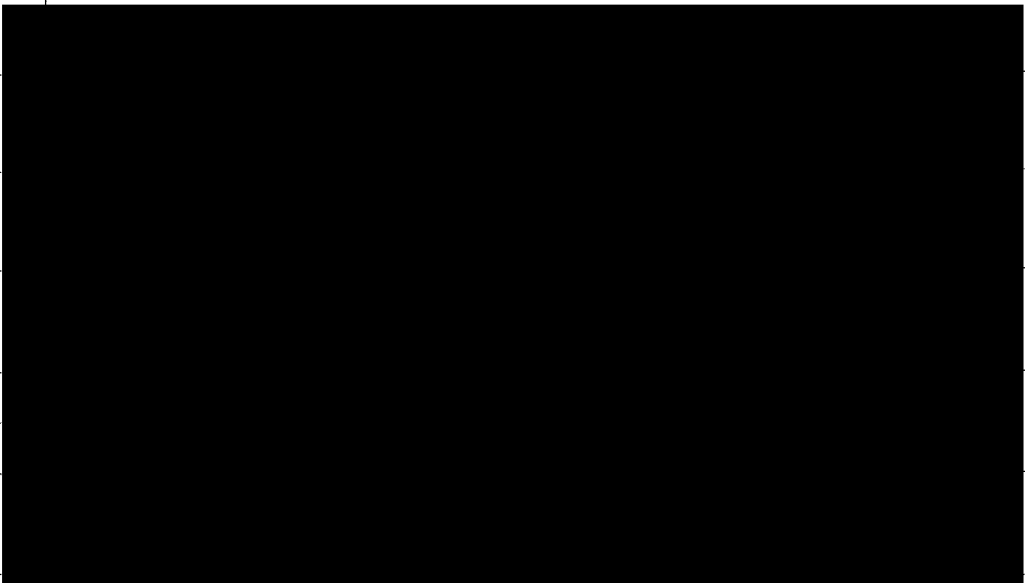
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Anna Mendez	
Alexandro Mendez	
Alexandria Mendez	
Eleanor Rivera	
Belen Mendez	
Rosanna Ortiz	

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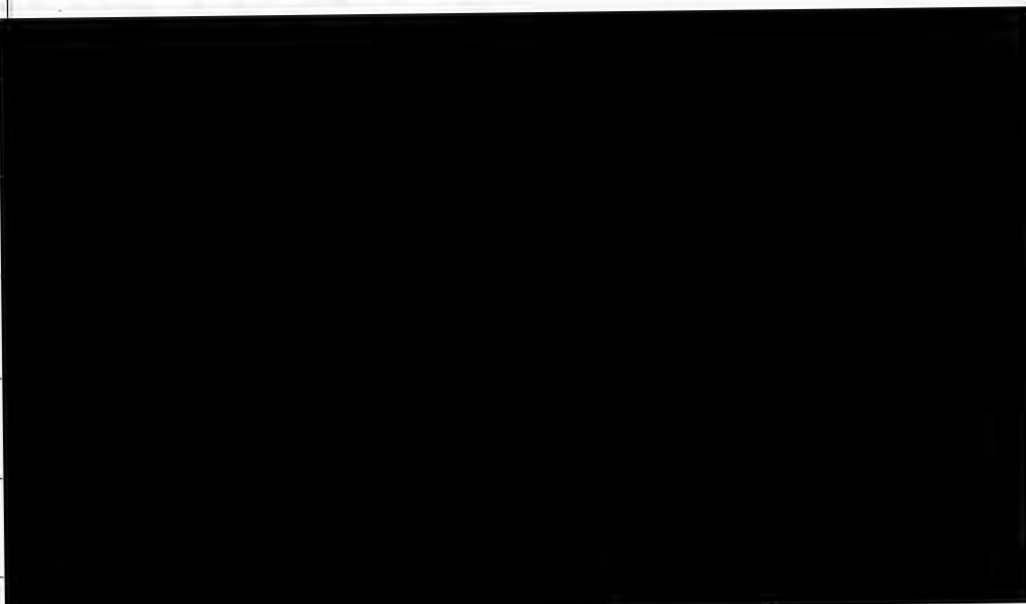
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Adrian Cull	
Adrian Cull	
Miguel Roman	
Joseph Defesent	
Nancy Gray	
Kristina Medina	

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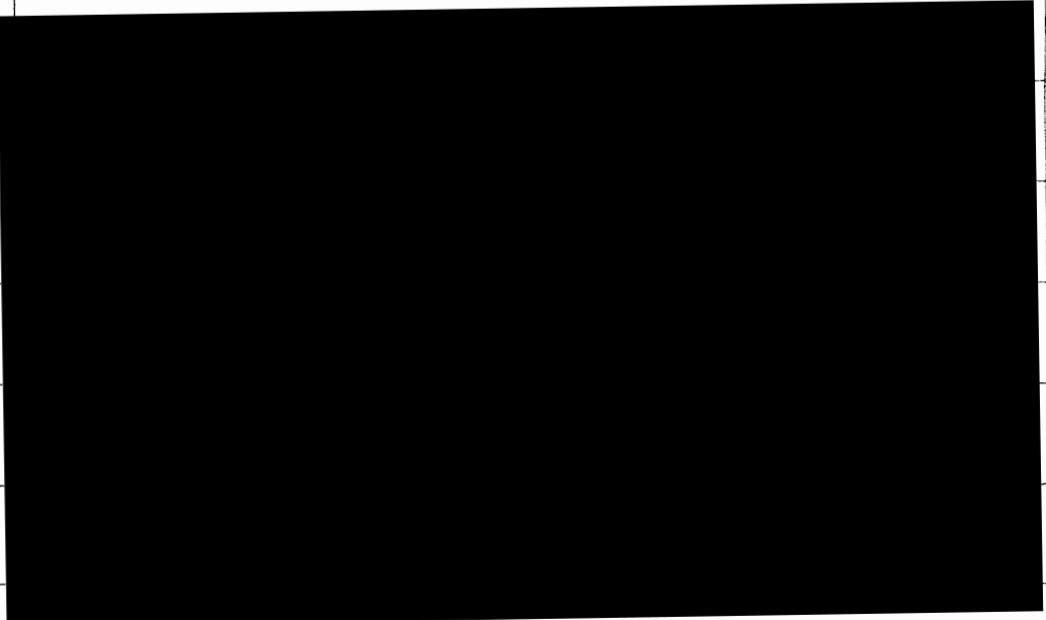
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Christian Velazquez	
Francisco Martinez	
Alfred Harris	
Rosemary Masfay	
Ligia Torres	
Mon Torres	

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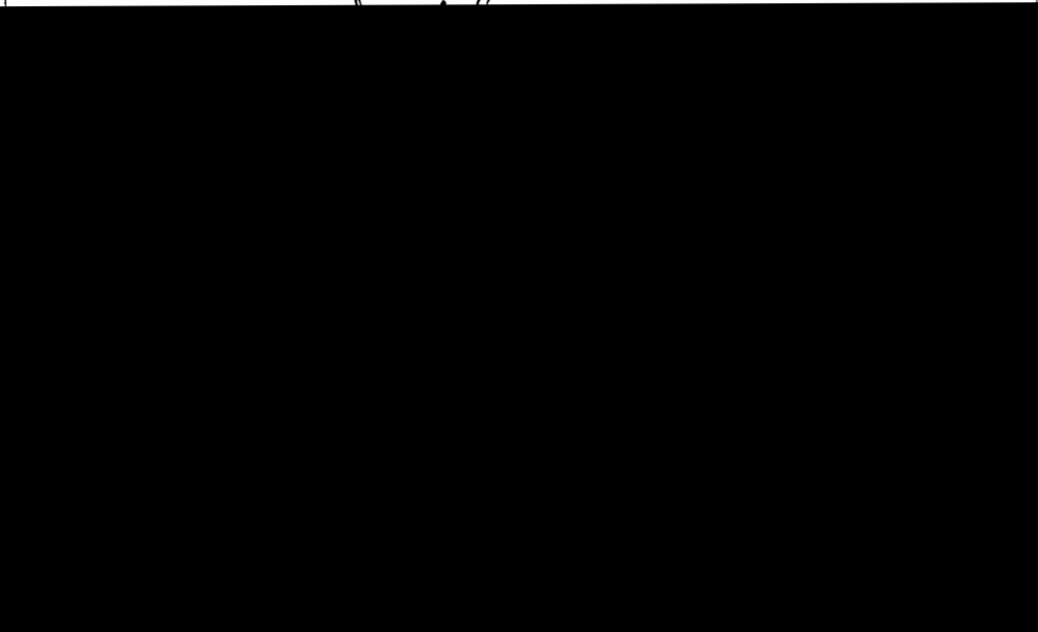
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
ERNEST GRAVEY	
Ada Moreno	
Sophia Smith	
Millie Valentin	
Jane T Burgos	
Sandra Colon	

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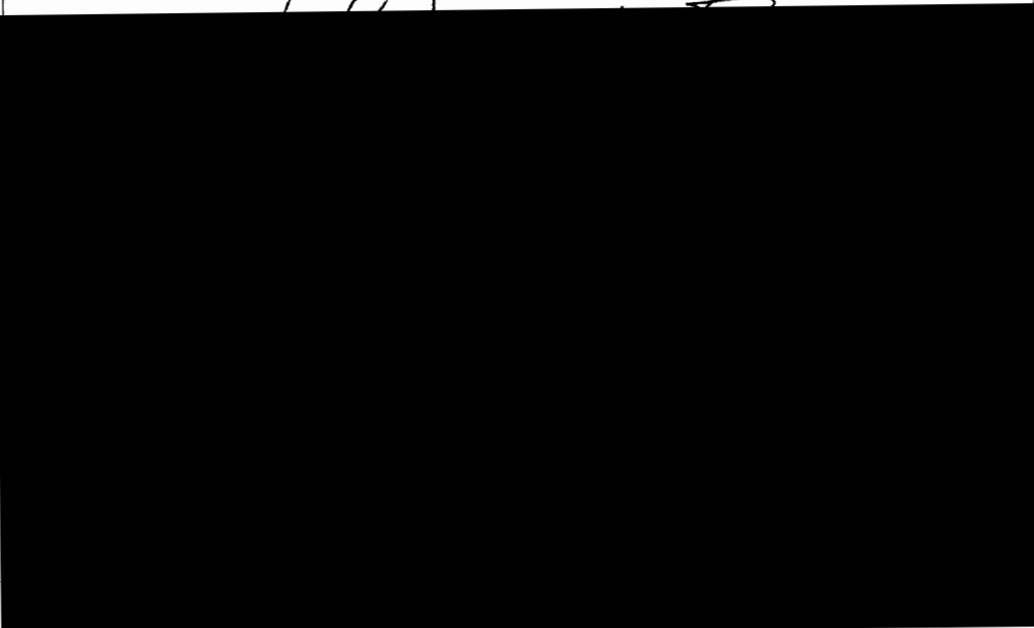
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
C. O. Rivera	
William Hernandez	
Ramon R. Arino	
Lydia Gorman	
Carlos Canabiquillo	
Yenny Marte	

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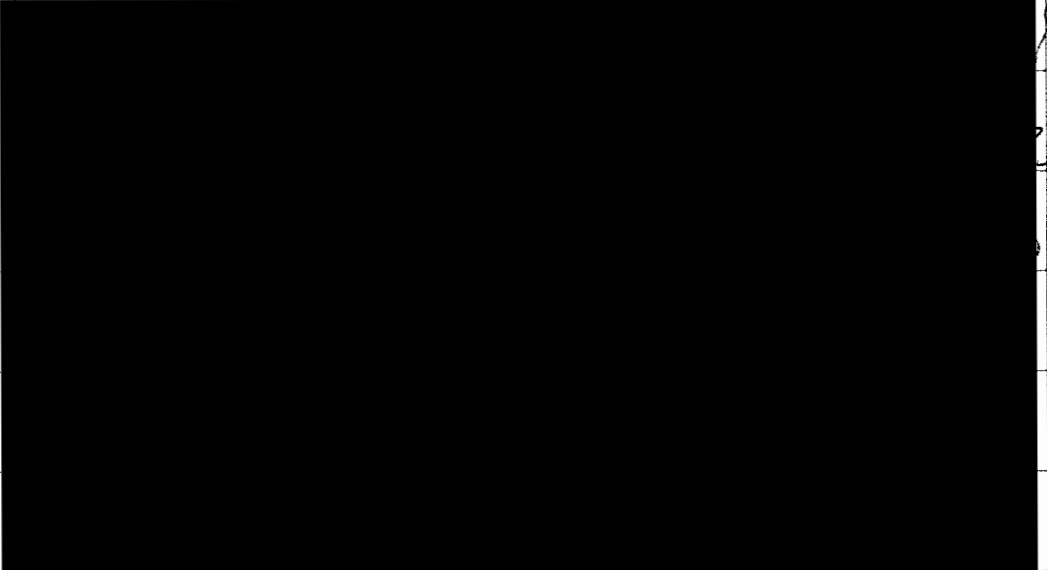
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
EDETTE DELEZ	
Deborah Cruz	
MARIA RODRIGUEZ	
Emilio Cruz	
Magaly Mayano	
Marta Rodriguez	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Lucia Rosell	
WILFRADO Pagan	
Juana Santana	
El Moorish TAINOS Aborigina	
TAINO & [REDACTED] ✓	
Clifford Tarver	
Marcos [REDACTED]	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
M. Roumaik	400 W. 43 rd St. #50 NYC 10036
Lee Van Vanuon	711 Amsterdam Ave. #4E NY 10025
Dolores Vanuon - Berhuly	711 Amsterdam Ave. #4E N.Y. 10025
Joseph Torres	550 West 125 th Apt 12C New York NY 10027
Klodes Clark	35 E. 106 th St NY 10029
Judy Clark	2130 FIRST AVE NYC-NY

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Charlene Morales	
Eileen Burgos	
Evelyn Melendez	
Gm. Oj	
Gloria Beneta	
Jose L Melende	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Rubio Juan Ortiz	
Gloria Ascencio	
Norma Leon	
Felicitas Morales	
Levita T. SALES	
WILFREDO GONZALEZ	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Angel Martinez	
Chick Martinez	
Shun-yeun Chen	
Maria M. Benitez	
Rubia Bunces	
Daisy Peralta	

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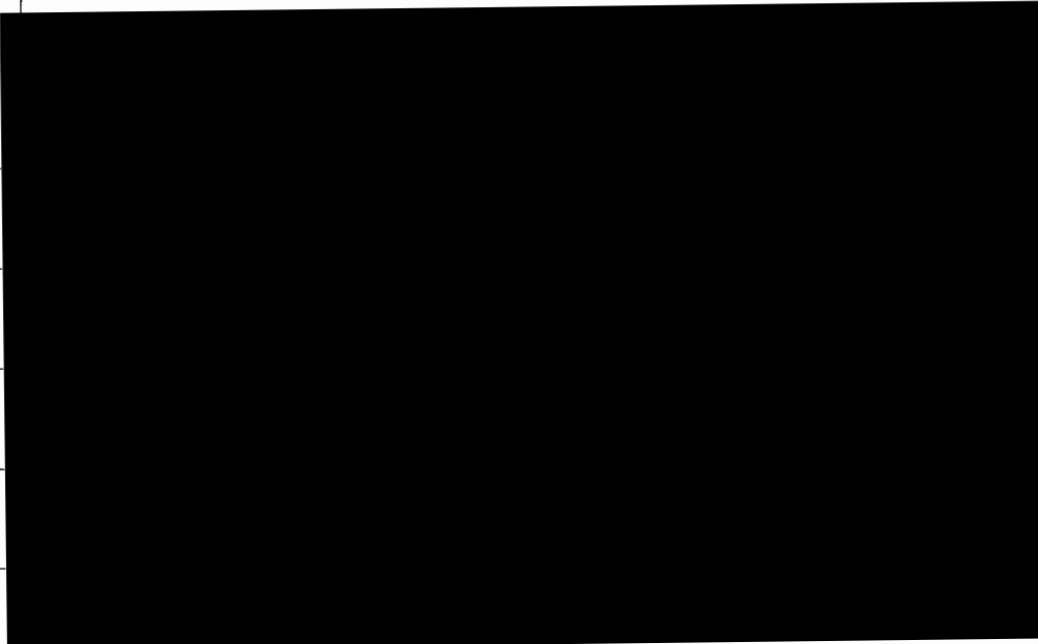
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Alida Lugo	
Roselin Dazs	
Nathalie Papami	
Carmen Valdes	
Angelique Escarano	
Julie Colon	

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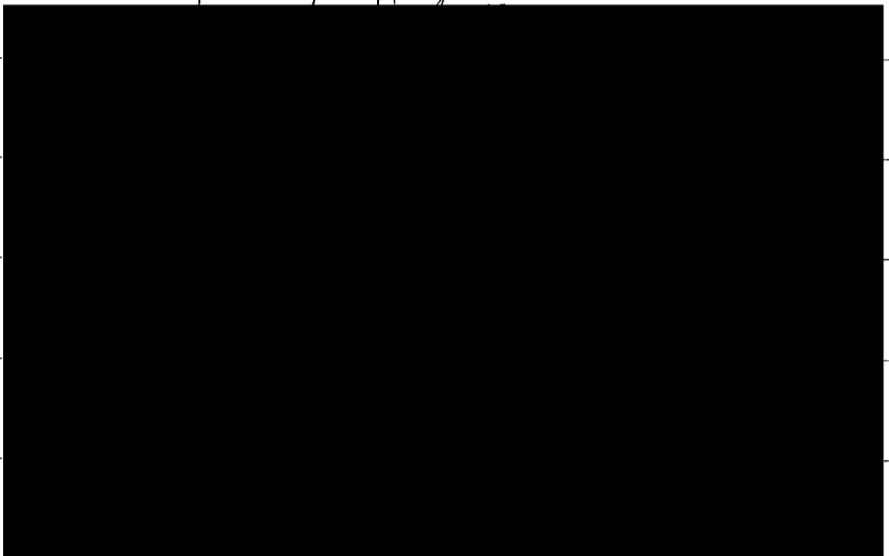
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Manuel Lopez</i>	
<i>Marcelino Fernandez</i>	
<i>Nicolos Rosado</i>	
<i>Mylena Roscio</i>	
<i>Doris Rodriguez</i>	
<i>Gregorio Silva</i>	

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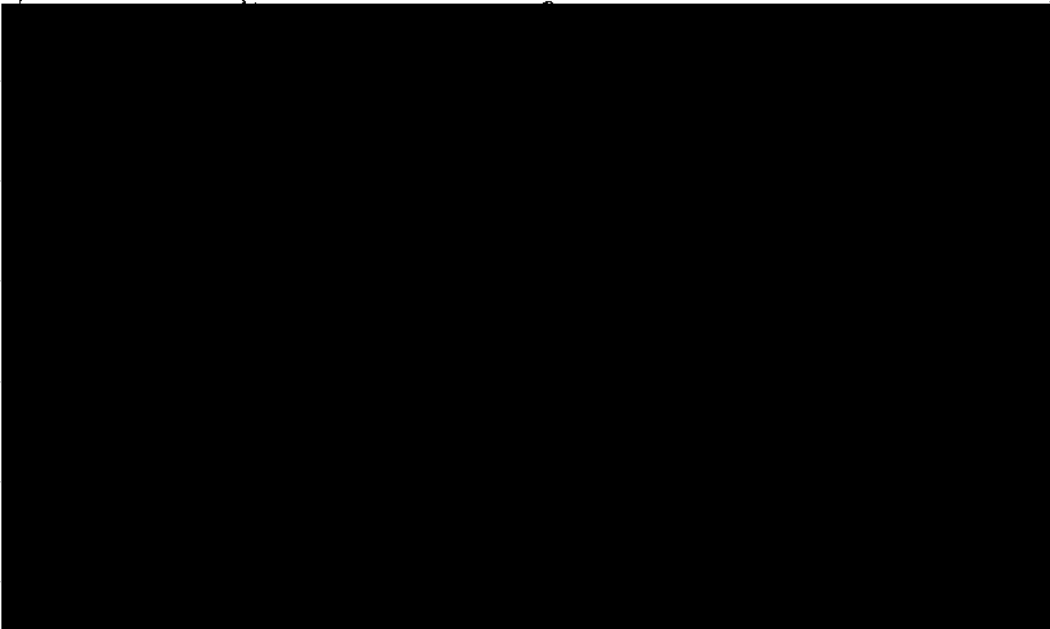
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Ismael Martin	
BENJAMIN FRASQUERI	
CARLOS RIVERA	
ANGEL L. QUILES	
Miguel Rosario	
Torres	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Ana Casta</i>	
<i>Nancy Lopez</i>	
<i>Antonio Dyala</i>	
<i>Maria Feliciano</i>	
<i>Martha Nieves</i>	
<i>Fredeswenda Velaz</i>	

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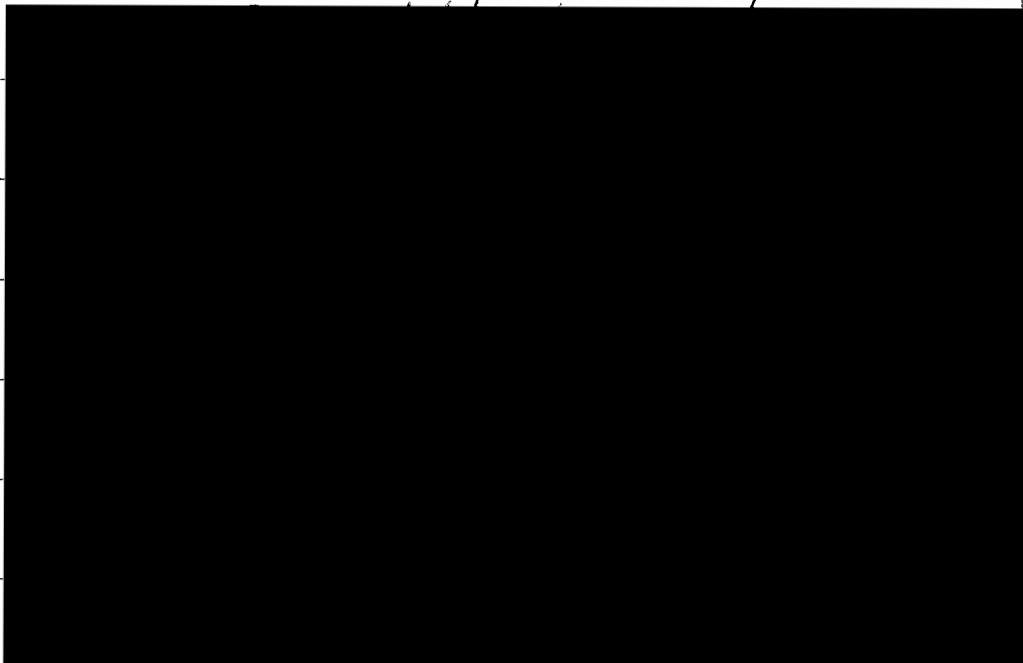
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Jose & Dolores	
Celestin Castro	
ISMAEL RODRIGUEZ	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
MARTA VARGAS KLUNEZ	
DAVID RODRIGUEZ	
Pedro Bedroza	
Luis Estrada	
Adalberto	
Miguel	

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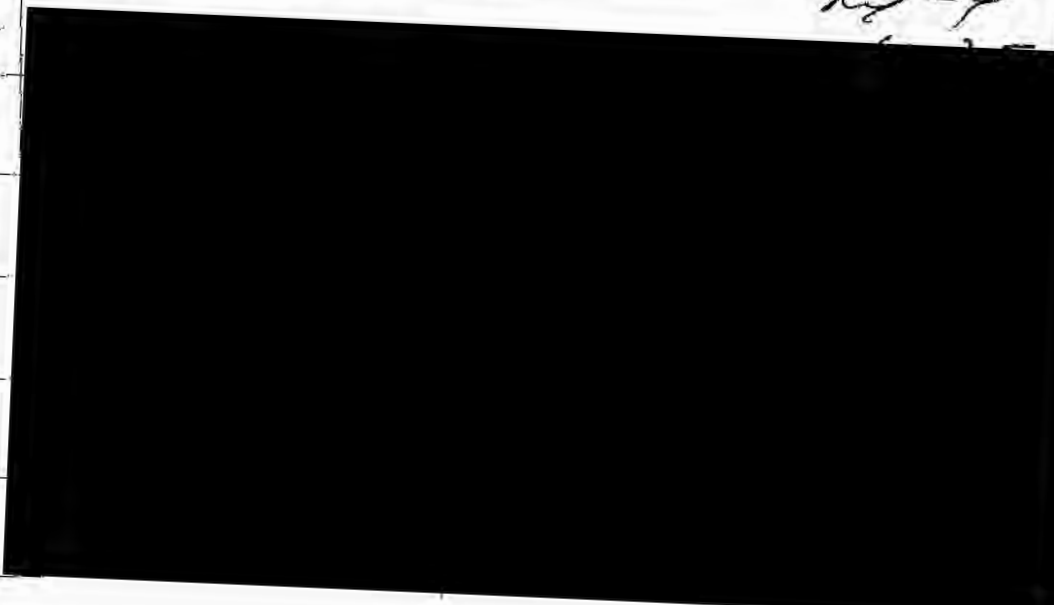
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Charlia Murray	
Rafael Cruz	

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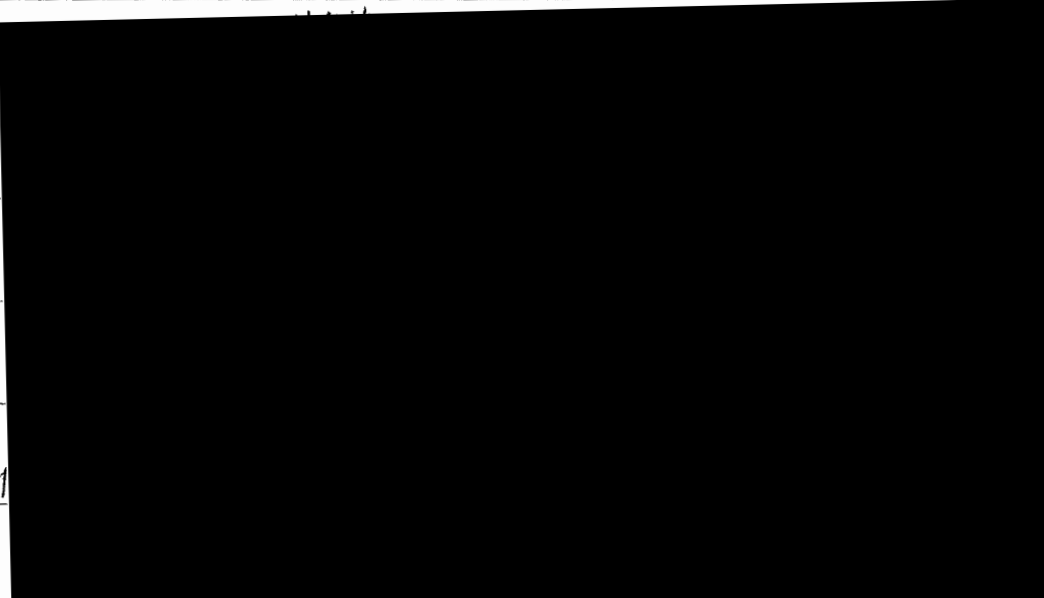
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Leslie M. Zelcer	
Wanda Adams	
Judy Woodman	
Ana Lopez 35	
Graciela Pina 11 E	
Charles Bobb	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Bella Virginia Desbano	
Ms Deloris Lowe	
Rita Wright	
Reina Padilla	
Ruth Owsley	
Constance Faccibene	

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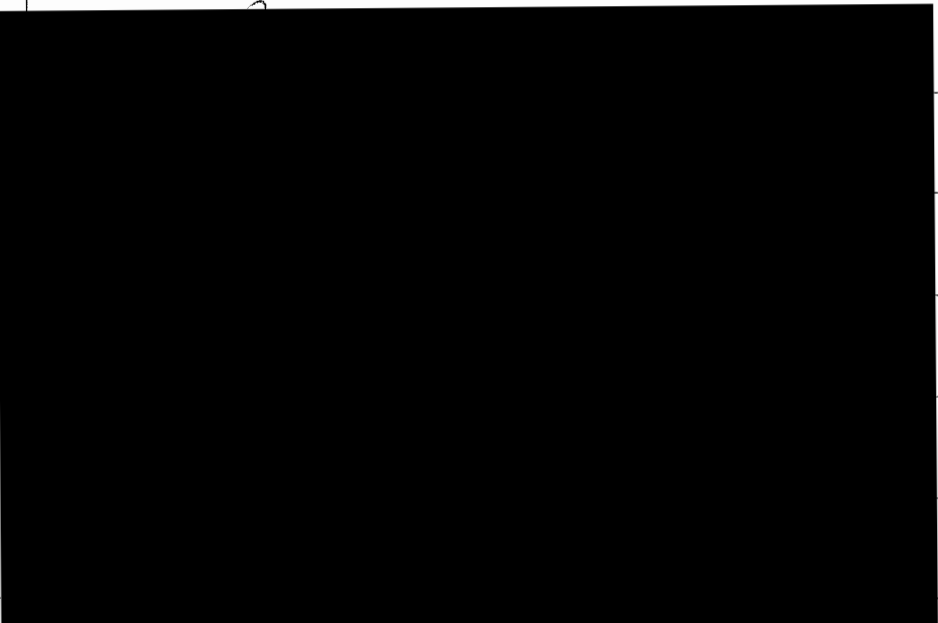
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Jose Ben</i>	
<i>Maria Cabal</i>	
<i>Uthman Kumar</i>	
<i>Virginia Jones</i>	
<i>Quinn Patton</i>	
<i>Clarence Colbert</i>	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Eulogio Matena	
Carmen Canion	
Julio De Jesus	
Lina Cruzado	
Melanie Gato	
Elaine Minor	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Rodriguez	
Barbara Bledsoe	
Gina Jones	
Bo Qing Jian	
1234 Tien	
LAU W CHAI	


TSIEN Ting Ting

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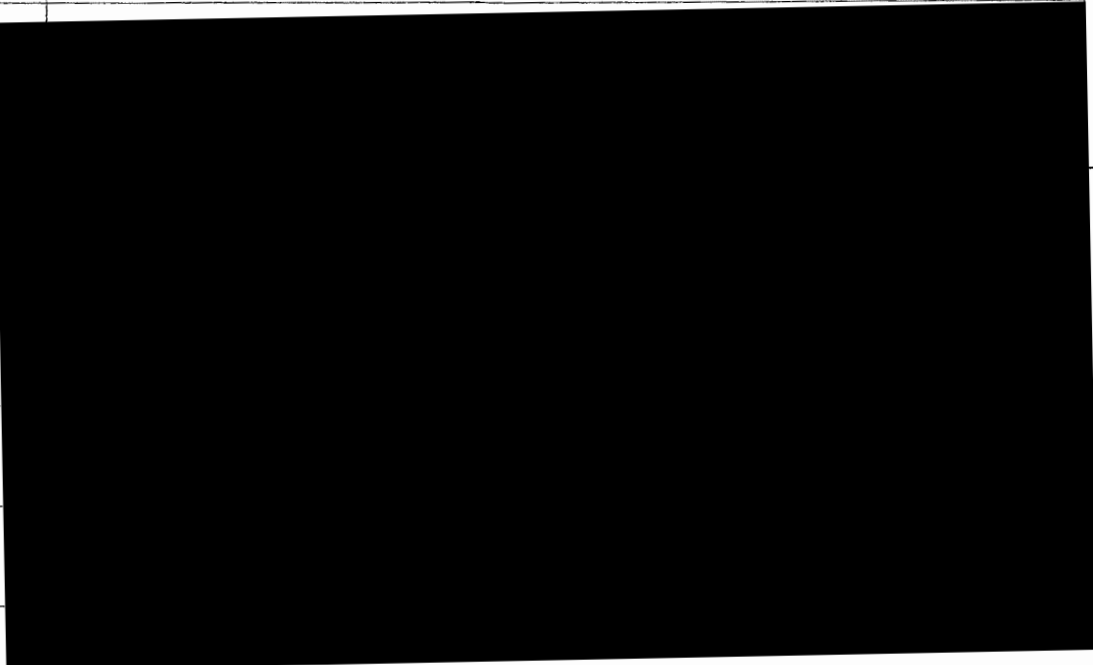
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Roberto Ruiz	
Vivian Zavar 1980 Alton	
Carlota Torres	
Yonita Montañez	
Luz Nieves	
Mauricio Baez	

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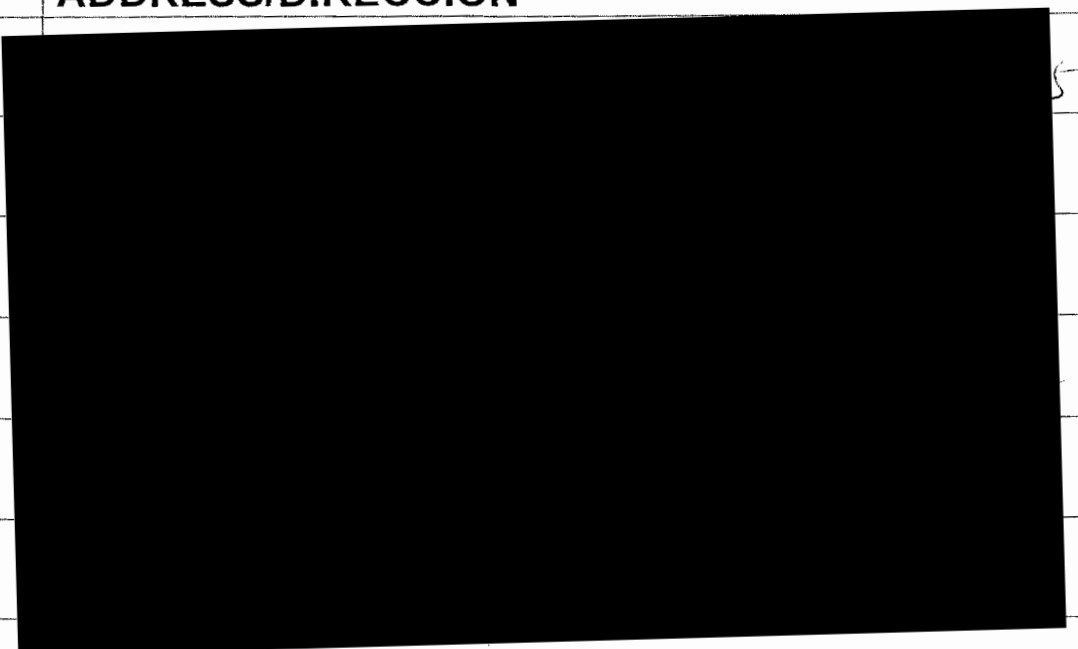
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Helen Filkens</i> HELEN FILKENS	
<i>Noreen Stoute (Mrs.)</i>	
<i>Juan Cepeda</i>	
<i>Ramon Roscoe</i>	
<i>Virginia WATKINS</i>	
<i>Annette Jones</i>	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Maria Rivera 74	
Aria Lucra Zelaya 7 N	
BOYD P. DAVIS	
Carolyn Webb	
William Webb	
Teodoro Besarez 4 L	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Robert Dilligard	
Frehwat Gameda 11T	
Lakoté Selee Apt. 10A	
Josefita Maldonado	
Henry Martinez	
HOFER KANFLI	

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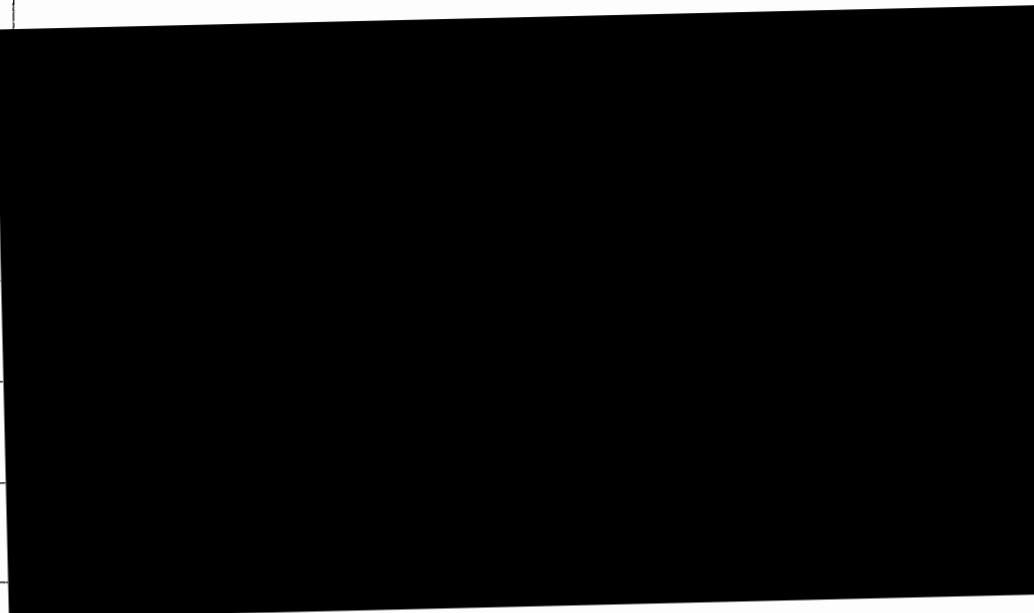
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Herbert Thomas	
Iris Cotton	
Roberto Alvarez	
Maria Joseph	
Mary Williams	
Shirley Hearn	

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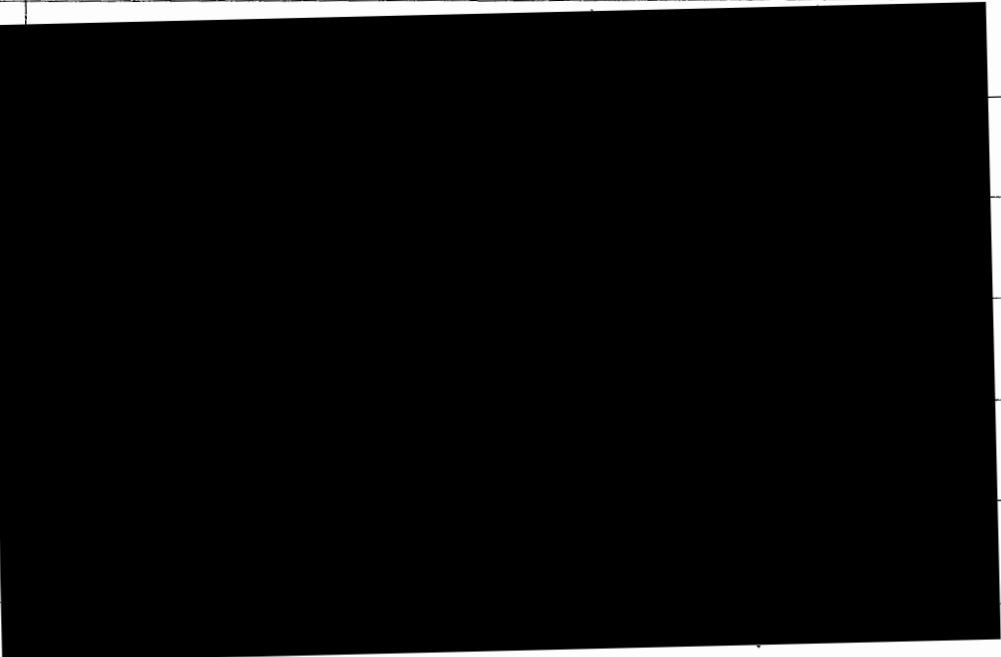
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
TSIEN Tif Ting	
Rosa E Colon	
José María Martínez	
Josefita Maldonado	
Beatriz Díaz	
San Los Lirio	

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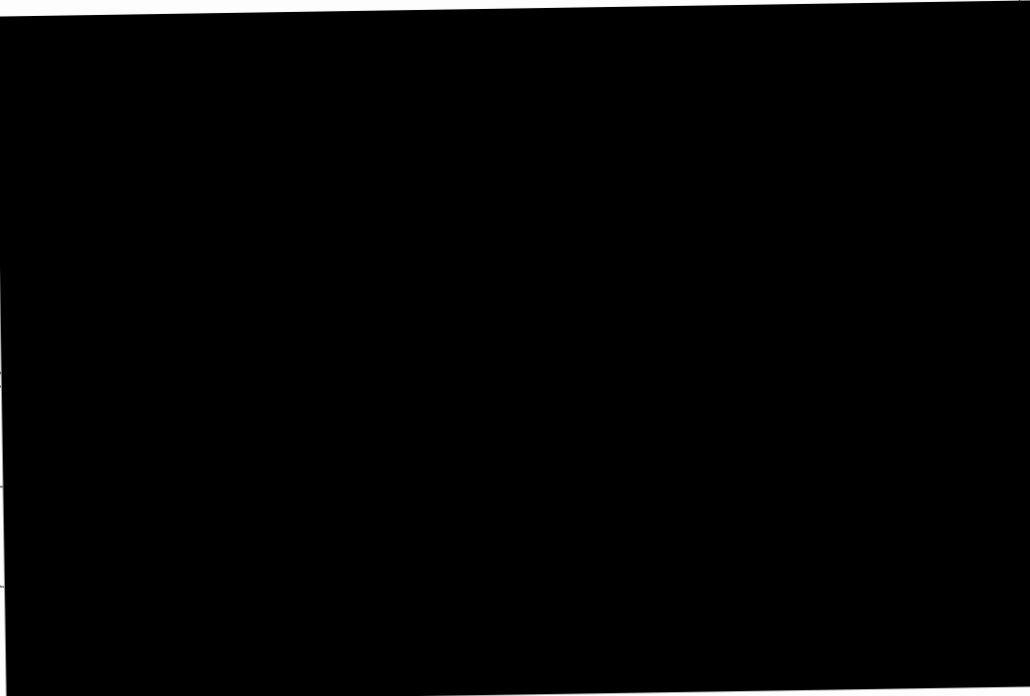
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
ARTHUR T. JAMES	
FRANKIE YOUNG	
DOMINGO DIAZ	
Jose Sanchez	
Hugo Merino	
Lourdes L. Lugo	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
EDITH M. WHITE	
Glenn Plaz	
Rosa M. Borge	
Maria Riera	
Attagracia Perez	
Felicio Paez	

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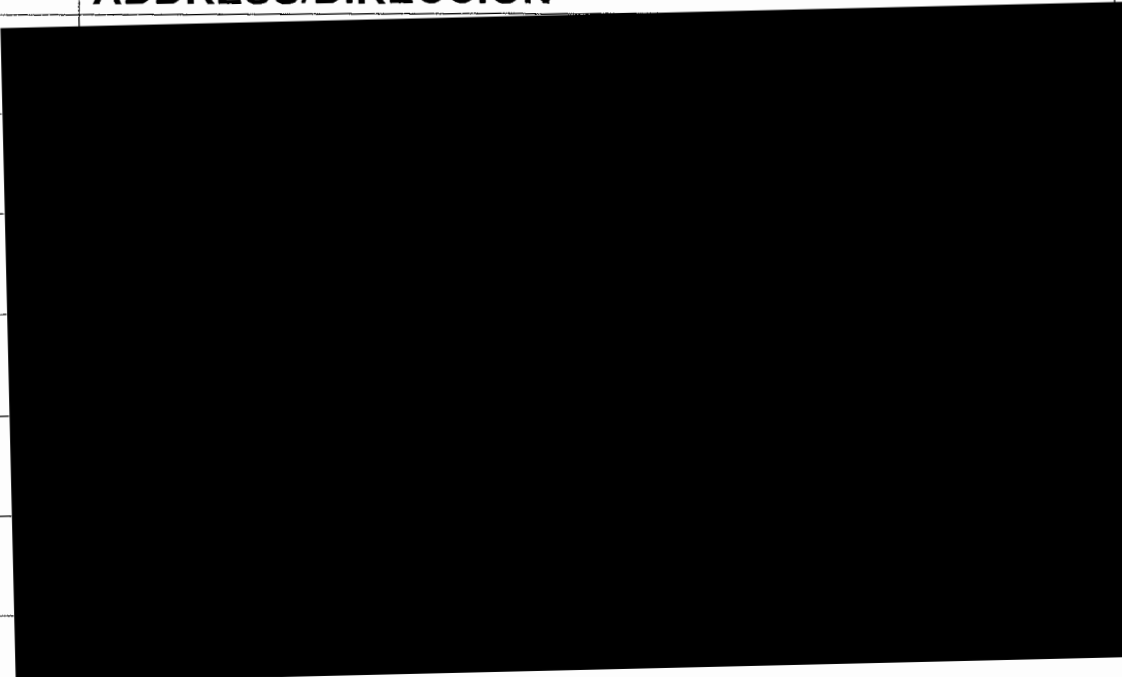
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Edelís Taylor</i>	
<i>Tomas Cabrera</i>	
<i>Harold Benekandt</i>	
<i>Francisco Lucas</i>	
<i>Harvey Becerra</i>	
<i>A. Victoria Hunter</i>	
<i>Benito de Jesus</i>	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Eladio Rivera	
D. Scuri	
G. Rivera	
V.M. Agall	
Felix Caban	
M. Ortiz	

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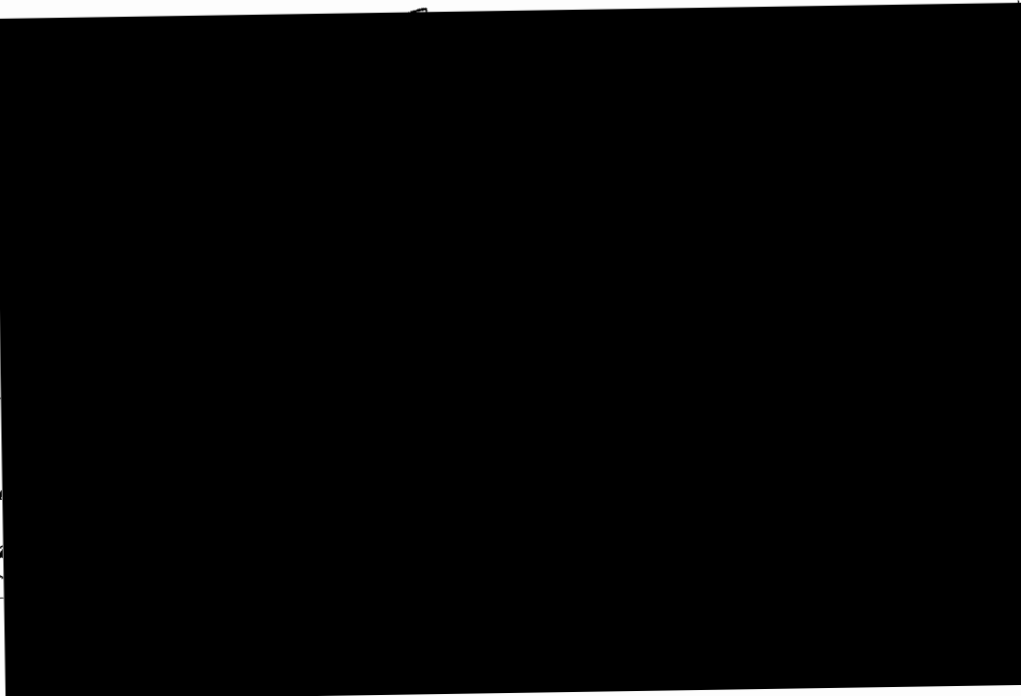
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
RAYMOND O RIVERA	
VICTOR W ELENIZ	
Carmen Torres	
Loganina Linares	
Pablo CAÑO ELARIO	
Luz Rosado	

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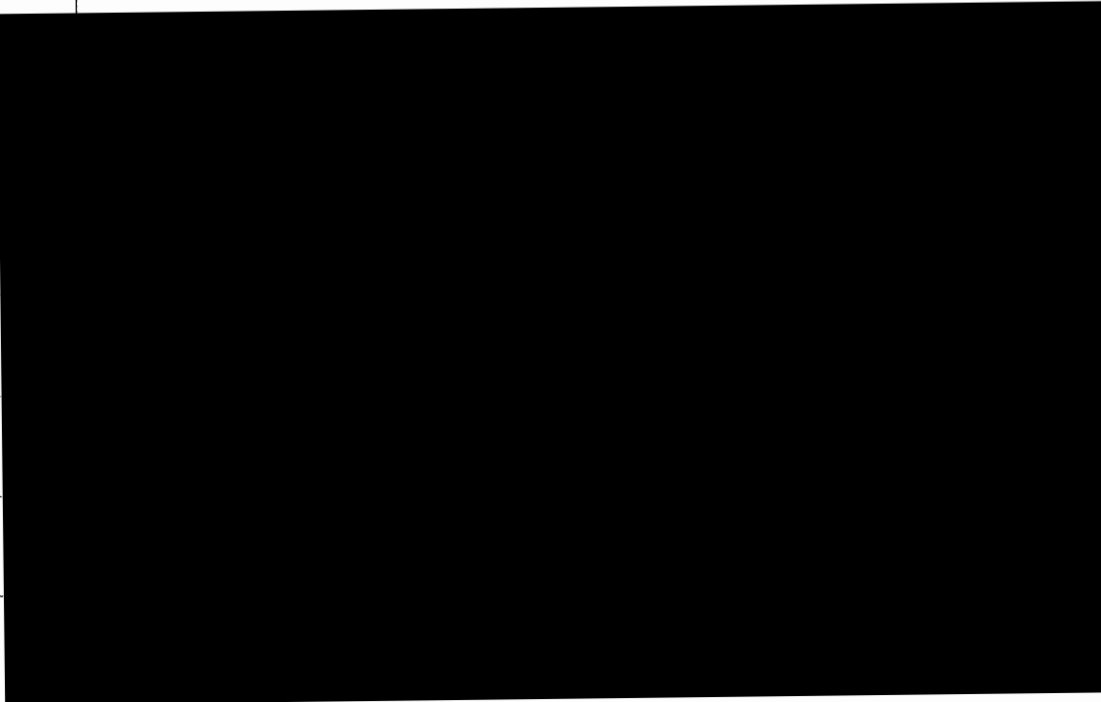
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Lydia Chico	
WASHINGTON ANDRADE	
Charles Akridge	
Angel Guillot	
Emanuel	
Nancy Rodriguez	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
VICTOR MARCANO	
GLADYS VIERA	
JOSE H. TORRES	
CARMEN VALENCIA	
JOSE SANTING	
MARIA ANTONIO	

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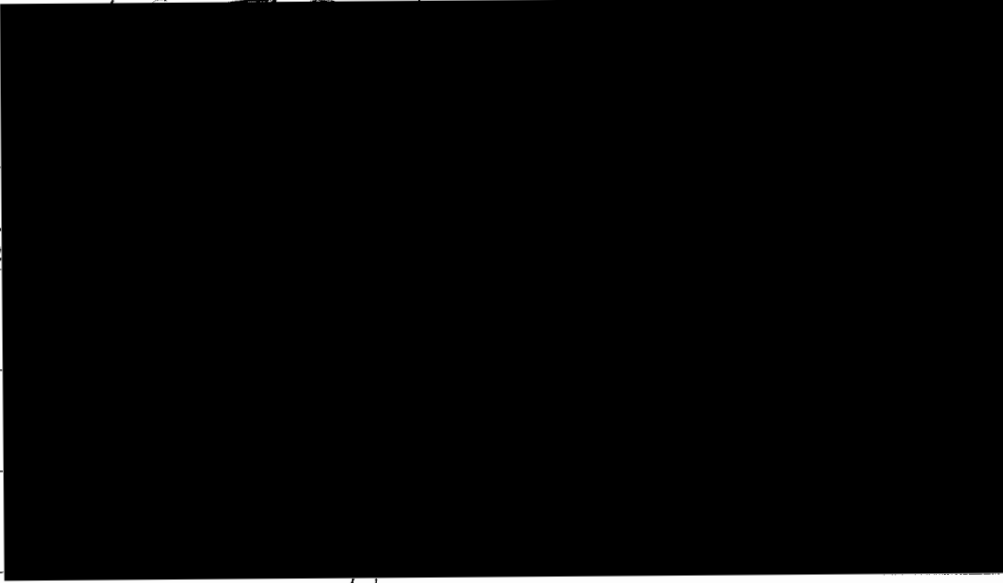
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
EDITH WOODLEY	
Vilma Flores	
Laura Rosales	
Martina Correa	
GLORIA LLIBAN	
Carmen Camino	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
LAURENCE CHANO	
MARY L. BLAKE	
LANCE BLAKE	
Concejo Municipal Cipolita Lantigua	
Grampelina Quinones	
Paula Ternan	

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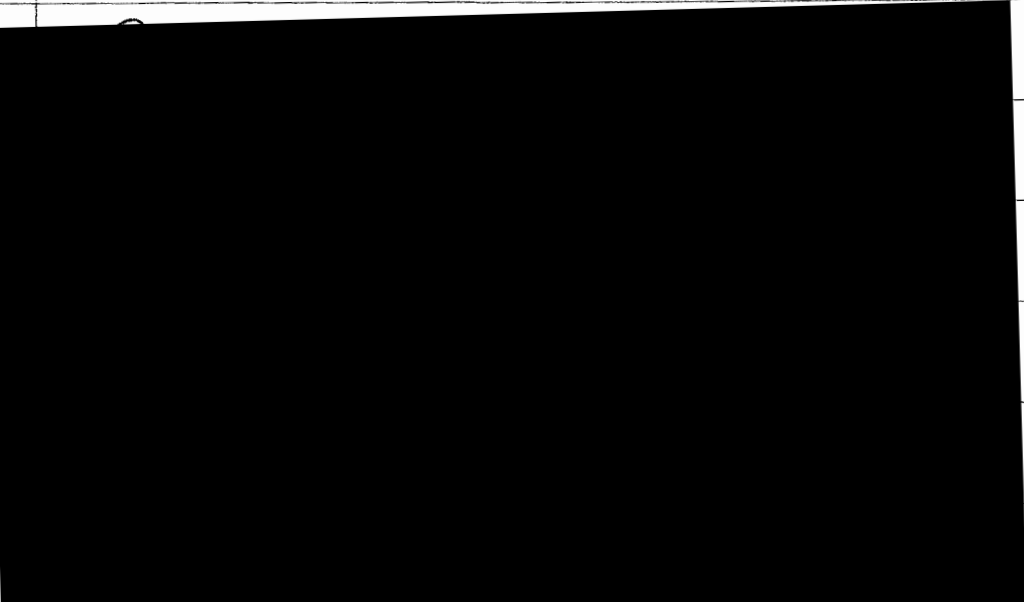
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Juan Williams	
Wilbur Williams	
Falio Gloria	
Gerardo Ruiz	
Angela Dowe	
Hector Sanchez	

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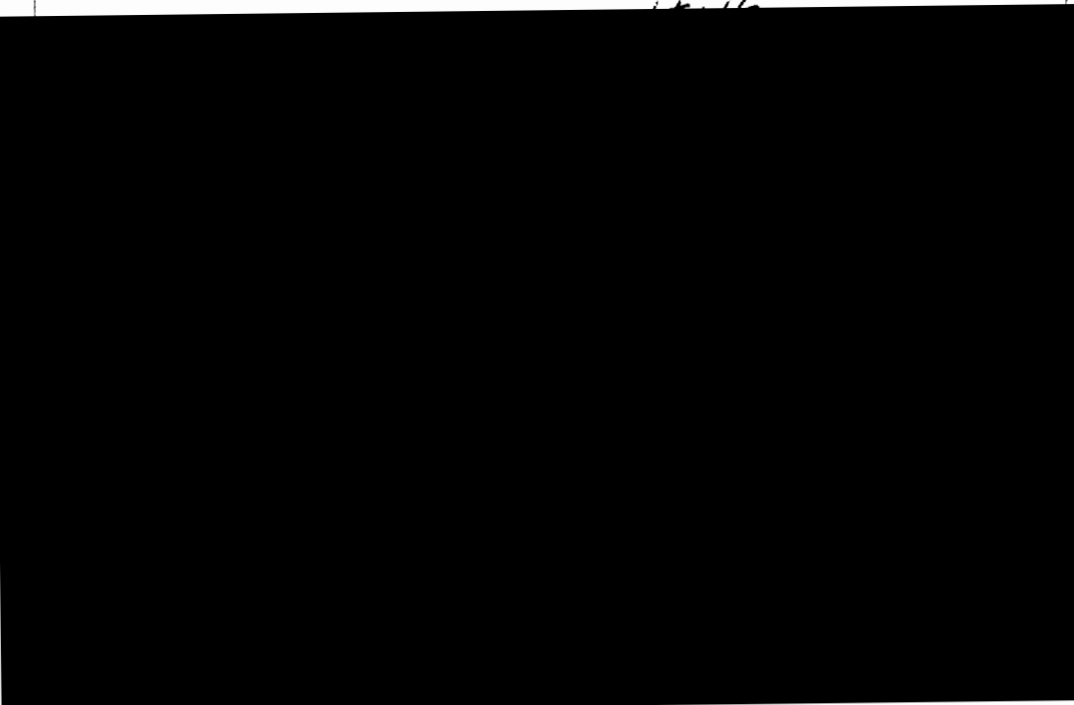
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Gloria Torres</i>	
<i>VICTOR MARCANO</i>	
<i>H. Siqueira Jr.</i>	
<i>Ilivia Duarte</i>	
<i>Norma Arce</i>	
<i>Harriet Green</i>	

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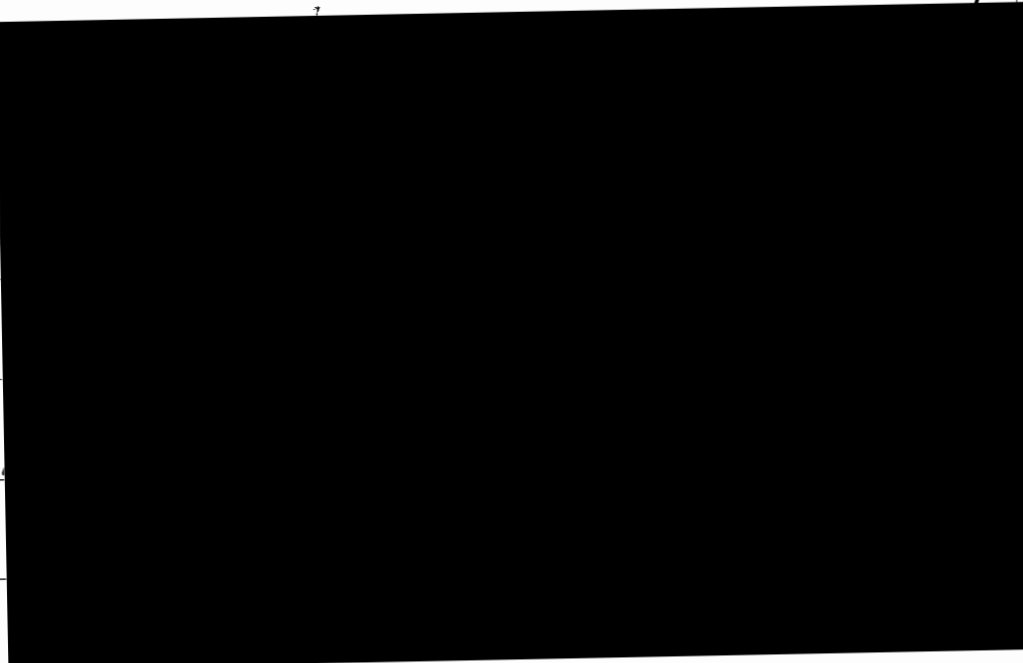
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
GLORIA WILSON	
JOHN GRAVES	
D. CARDONA	
CHARLES ALDRIDGE	
JOHN H. JOHNSON	
Jacqueline Encarnación	

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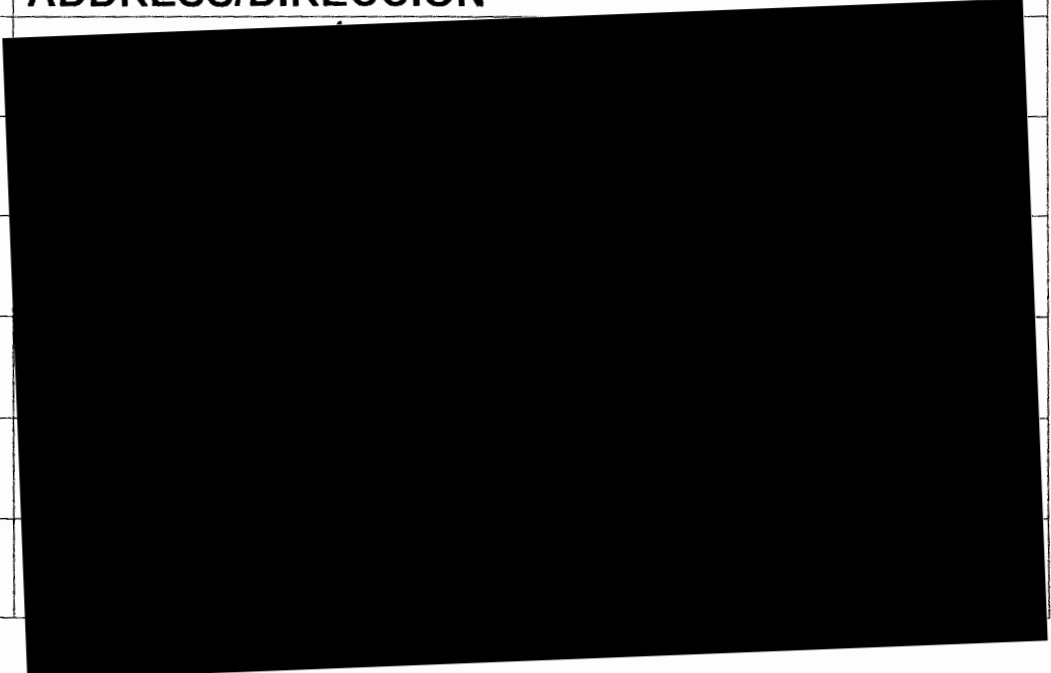
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
LaFleur Jesse	
Rosa Salazar	
Neke Vega	
William Nelson	
Jafar Soto	
Baris Rodriguez	

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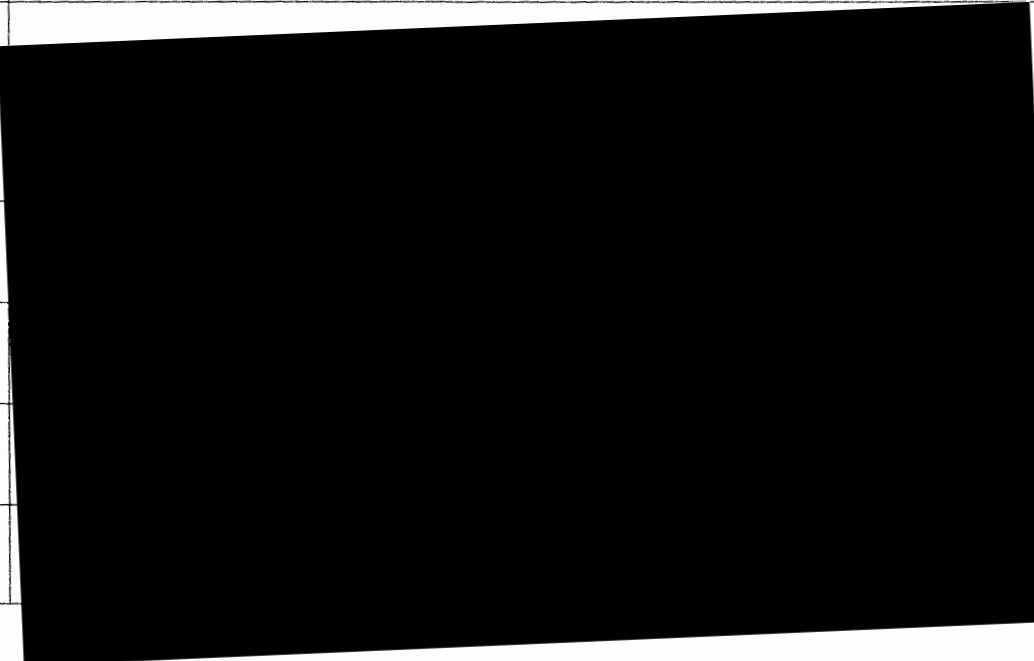
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Maria Anton	
Maguina Encarnación	
Iris Hernandez	
VICTOR MARCAIXO	
Rafael Soto	
José Santiago	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
MARIO CANALAS	
Jonny Steel	
SUSANA ACEVEDO	
Orlando R.	
Laura Torres	
Vito Melendez	

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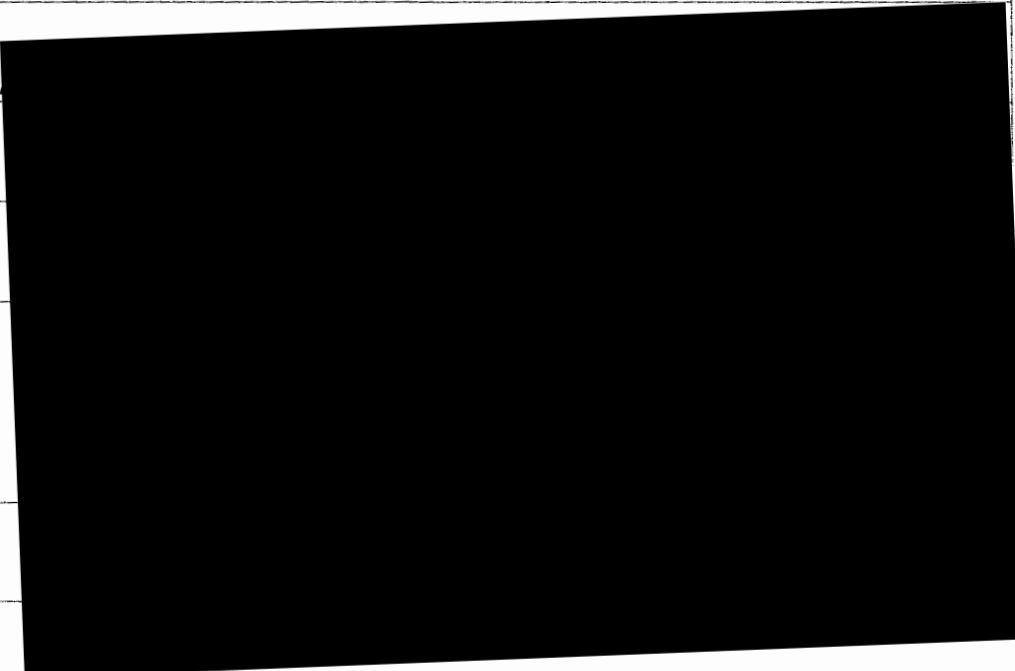
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
MARIA CORREA	
Vilfredo Feliciano	
José Crespo	
Rosa Colón	
Margaret Usón	
Maria F. Gastón	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Carlos Torres	
Peter Vasquez	
Reed Escobar	
José Delgado	
MARGARITA CADON	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Carmen J. Betancourt	
Miriam Ferrer	
Glady's Hernandez	
Samuel Goodman	
Sheree Mullins	
John Ruiz	

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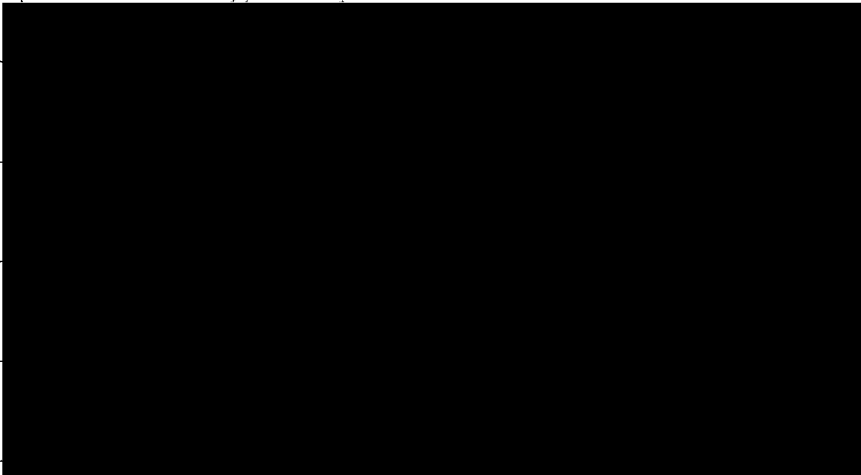
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Sylvia Burgos	
Manny Casco	
Oliver G. Fren	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Guanta Reyes	
Carmen R. Ramos	
Elie M. Diaz	
Carmencita Luna	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Daniel Sr Rivera	
Ramon Colon	
Alejandro D. Alvarez	
Willie Tiro	
Jose Perez	
Maria Cotto	

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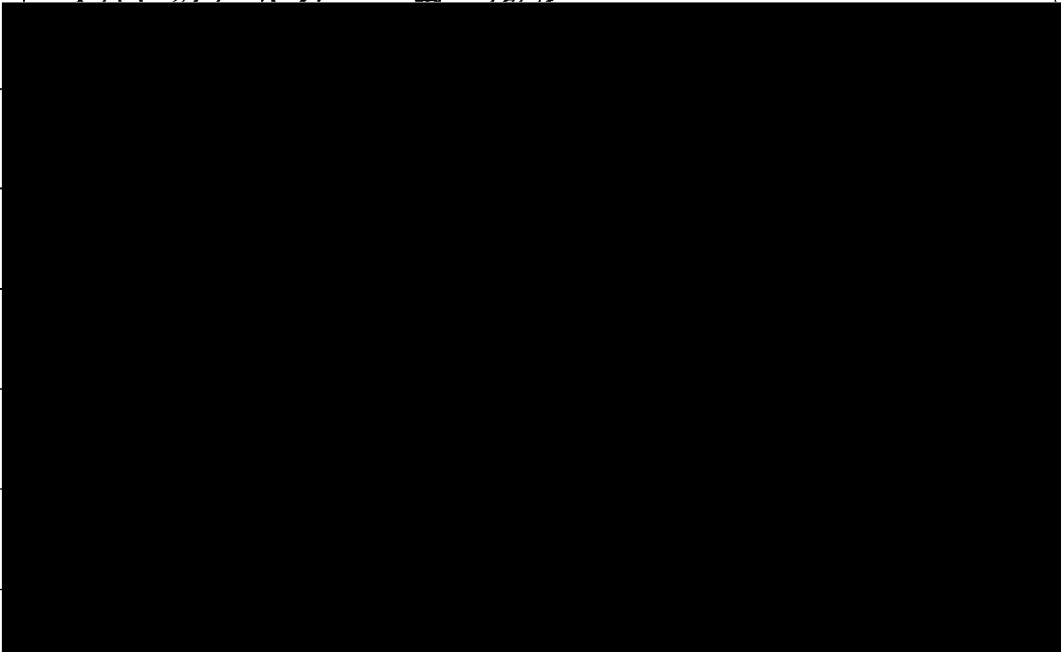
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
ELBA BOMILLA	
MARIA ANTON	
SAKA RODRIGUEZ	
Lisandra Marrero	
Miriam Pertaña	
BOBBY G. HALL	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Juan Santos	
EREMIO HERNANDEZ	
Dina Avikhán	
Nancy Mejías	
Doris P. Pabon RN	
Lusette Lopez	

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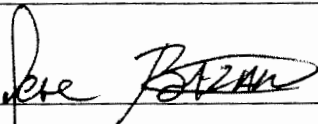
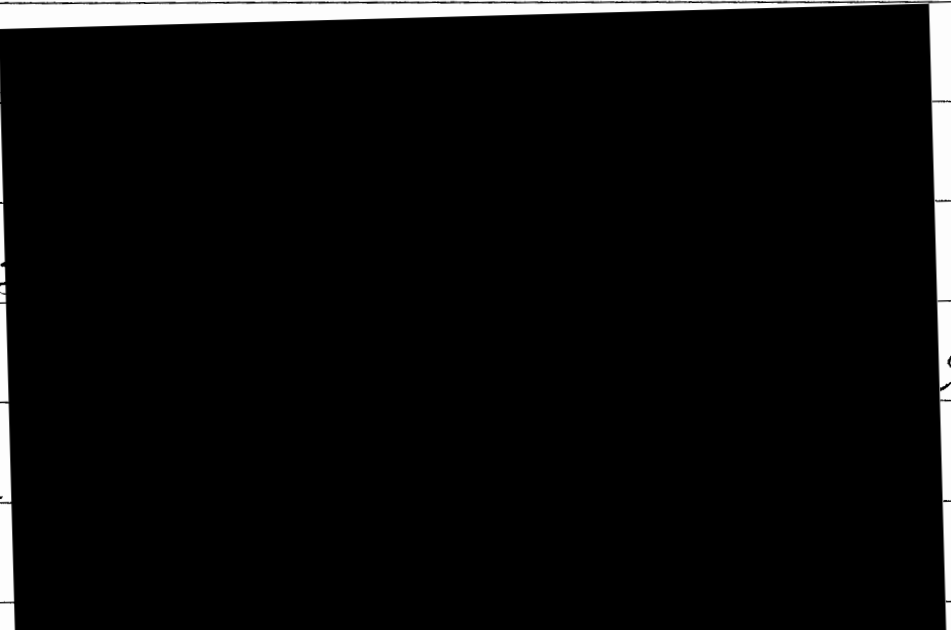

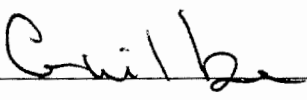
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Antonio Figueroa	
Rose Ruyra	
Andrés Echavarría	
VICTORIA HERNANDEZ	
Norberto Torres Jr.	
Angelo Colón 2	

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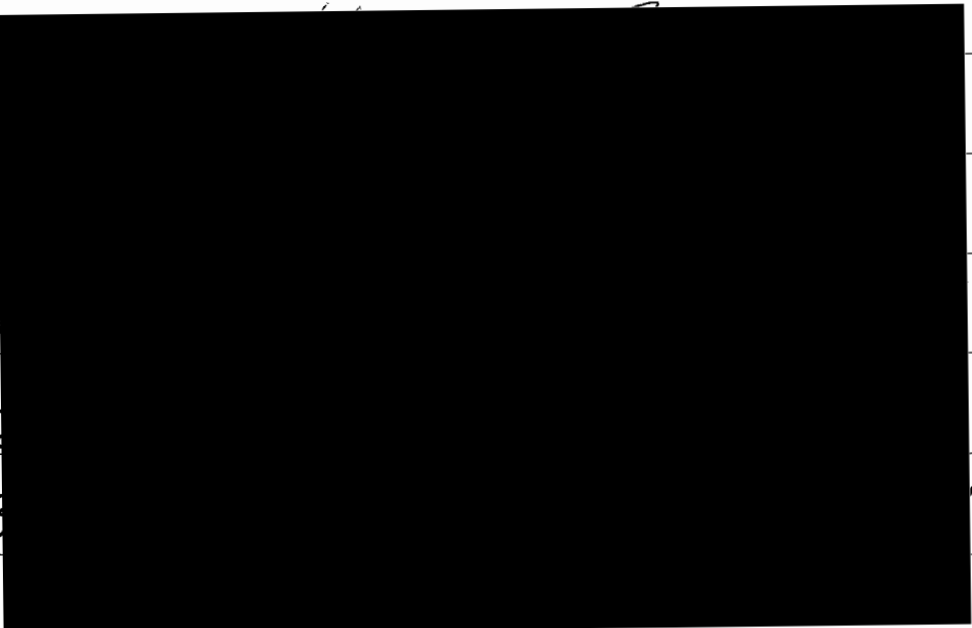
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
JOSE BAZAN 	
ROSA JIMENEZ 	
HECTOR BURGOS	
FRANCES MALDONADO	
Roberto Guille 	
Rafael Caraballo	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Jorge Basciguitos	
Miriam Martinez	
Jose' Montero	
EDUARDO CATALA	
Manny Garcia	
Rogel DIAZ	

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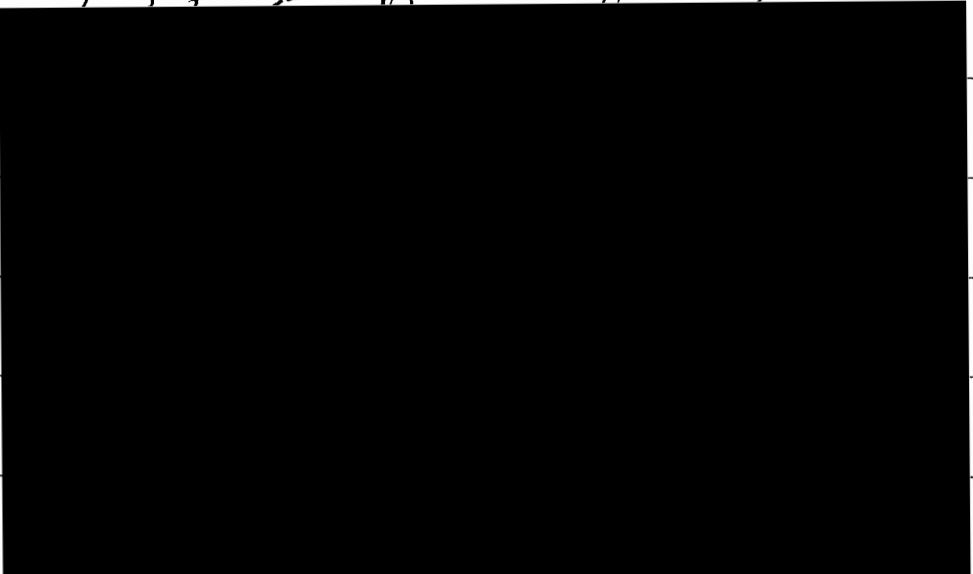
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Carlos Cedeño	
Miriam Ferrer	
Maria Amadeo	
Enrique Molina	
Wink/John	
JOSE LOPEZ	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Belmonte-les 3-3	
George Faut	
Jason Tamar	
Senwifer Suarez	
Charles Ray	
Niko Elias	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Millie Rosa	
Emilio Torres	
SANTOS M. VILELLA	
LUCIA CURET	
ANTHONY DEJESUS	
Joseph RIVERA	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Ramona Rodriguez	
Betty Obregon	
Luna, Gervasi	
Evelyn Martinez	
Roslin Reyes	
Maria Jesus	

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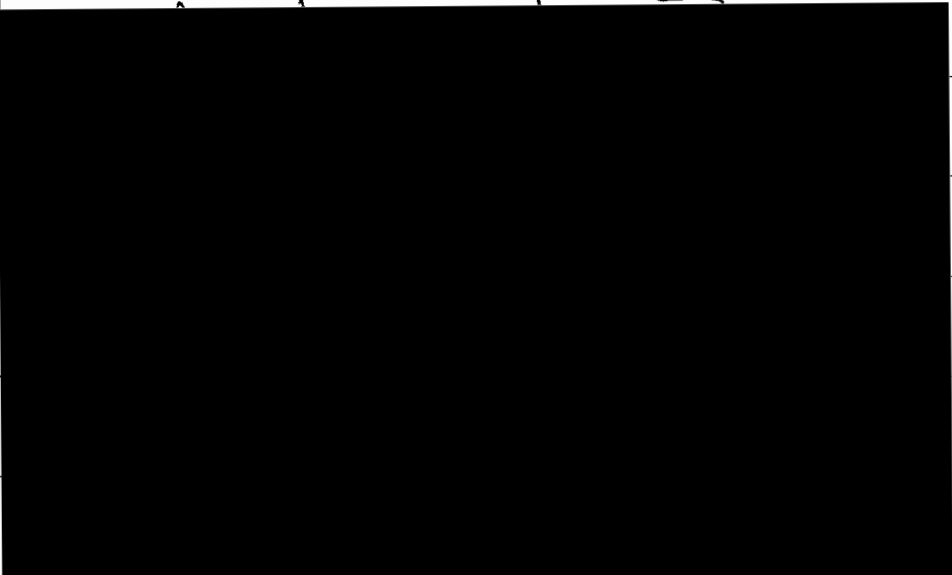
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Luz Garcia	
Nelson Guzman	
Victor Fiet	
Jose Diaz	
Elizabeth Amador	
Rafael Garcia	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Carlos Marrevo	
JOSE VARGAS	
Milagros Valentin	
Freda Cantus	
Carmen Moreno	
Joh+copi	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Wilfredo Alvarez	El Barrio
Orinda Alvarez	'
Juan Alvarez	'
Mildred Reyes	'
Eduardo	'
Venus Ortiz	'

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
JUAN BATISTA	
Luis JANCIEZ	
Milacros Lebron	
MARIO Trizarry	
MARIA RIVERA	
Michael McPherson	

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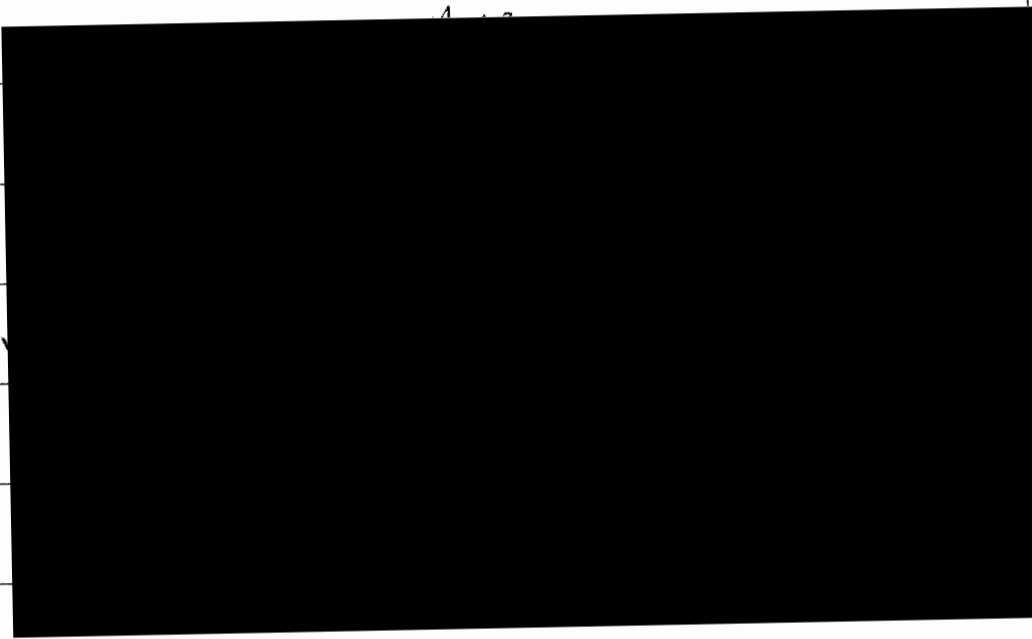
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Amell M. Callahan</i>	
<i>Pepe Allende</i>	<i>B</i>
<i>Liz Rivera</i>	
<i>Liz Rivera</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Heriberto Rivera</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>P. gho</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Quila Ruiz</i>	<i>47</i>

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Ismael Rivera	
JOSÉ LÓPEZ	
Juan Morales	
Rebecca Viter	
Diana Martinez	
Jose B. Martinez	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Arnela Perez	
V. Puerto Rico	
José Carlos ARAA Spillio	
Lydin Santiago	
Trilla ? Jose Lopez	
Maria Rivas	

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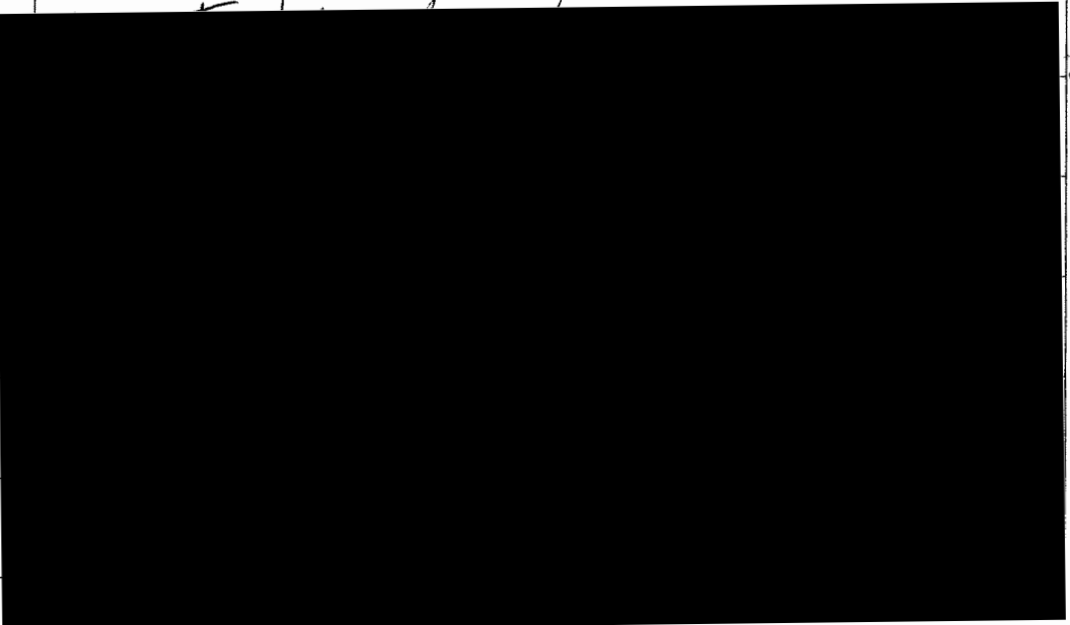
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Jackie medona	
DAMARIS Reyes	
Quico Colares	
Lynette Soto	
Carlos Reyes	
Merceda Cruz	

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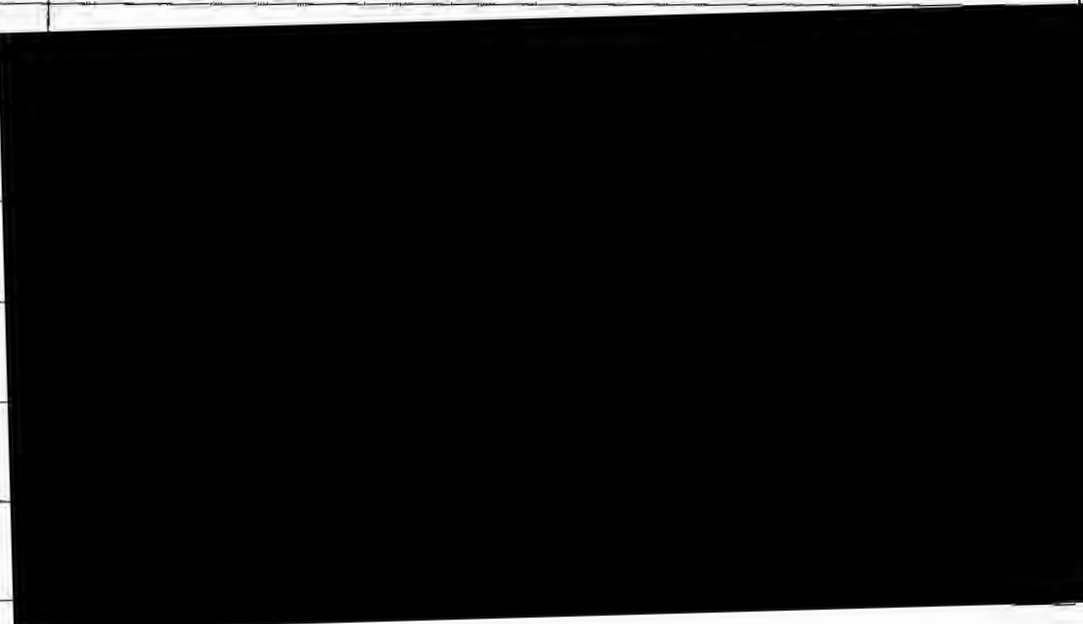
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
MAURICIO CORNETO	
Agustine Ayala	
Rosa Rosario	
Dora Perez	
Rose Mary Rivera	
ERWIN V. TORRES	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Mena Francisco	
Anais Ward	
Richard Milver	
ra medina	
RDESA1VAREZ	
ia Cornejo	

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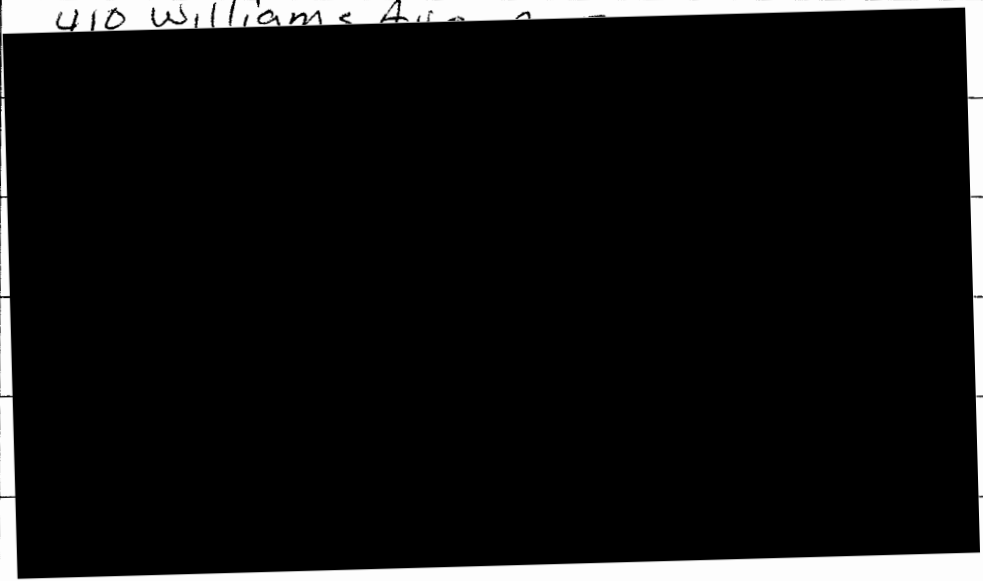
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Eli - Luis Rosa	
Ruth Robles	
Iris Morán	
Aida Montero + Jose	
Bertha Lomax	
Hilda Ortiz	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Francisco Rodriguez	410 Williams Ave 
Ana M. Garcia	
Rachel Oquendo	
Susan Z. Dorfe	
Nydia Roman	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
John ORTIZ	
GEORGE Almeida	
JOSE Alvarez	
Magdalena Ramos	
Manuel Fagan	
Awilda Figueroa	

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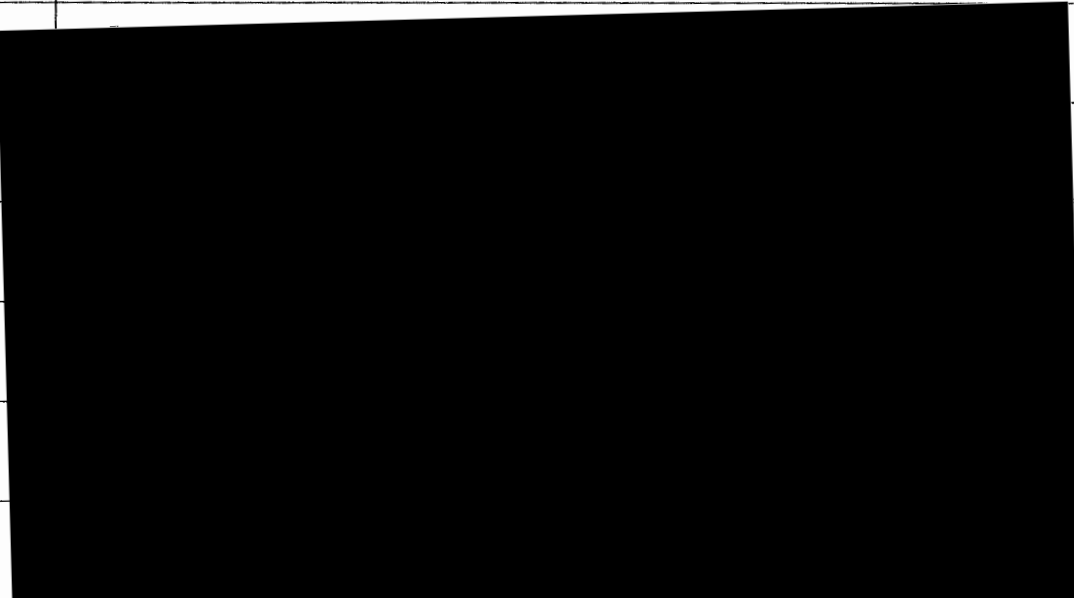
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Nancy Gonzales	
Antonio Ayala	
Month De Levi	
Rosa Collado	
Cismon Rivers	
JOSE CUEVAS	
Juan A. Lopez	

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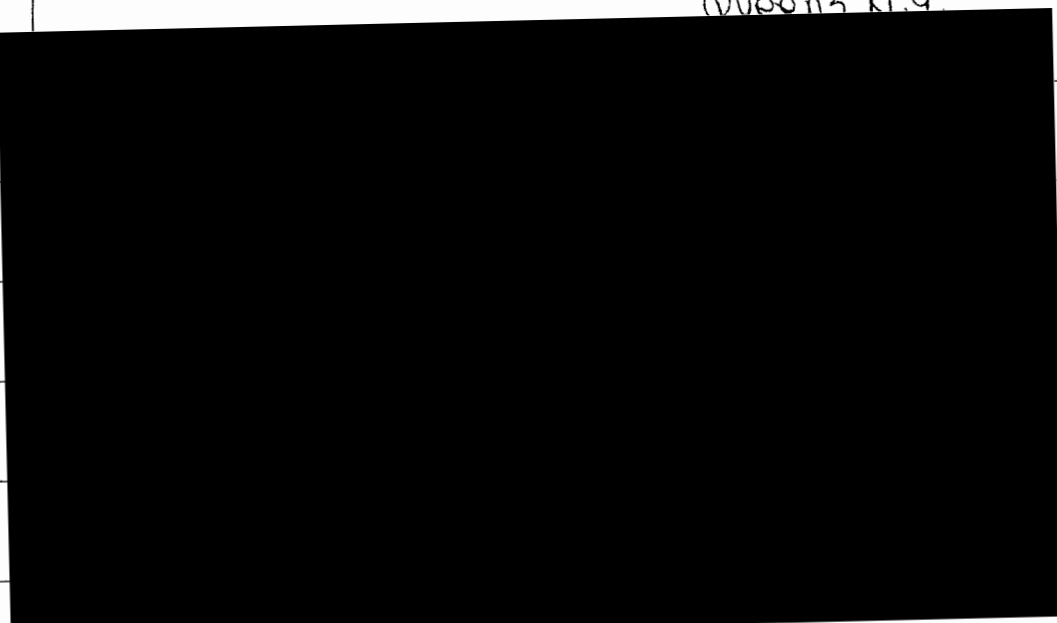
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
NICK Barras	
Martin Faris	
James Bernardini	
Maria Leduc	
Angel Hiles	
Melinda Cruz	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Maximes Porto	Queens N.Y. 
Orlando Santos	
Ramona Marrero	
Ange Ruiz	
Sonia Viera	
Migdalia Mendez	

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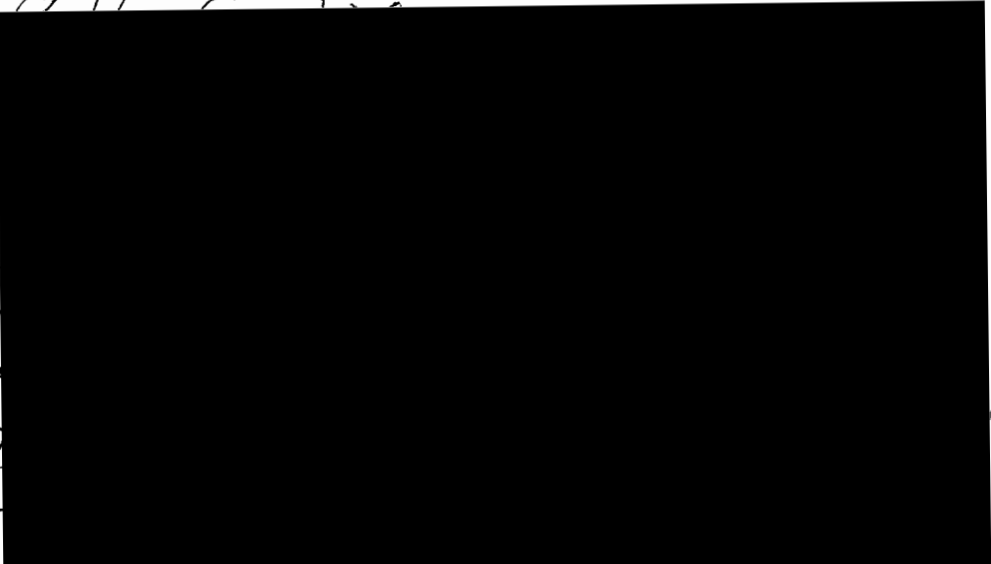
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Alme Figueira	
Rogelio Rivera	
Ena M. Adorno	
Yazmin Ayala	
Ramon Luis Adorno	
Abille Rivera	

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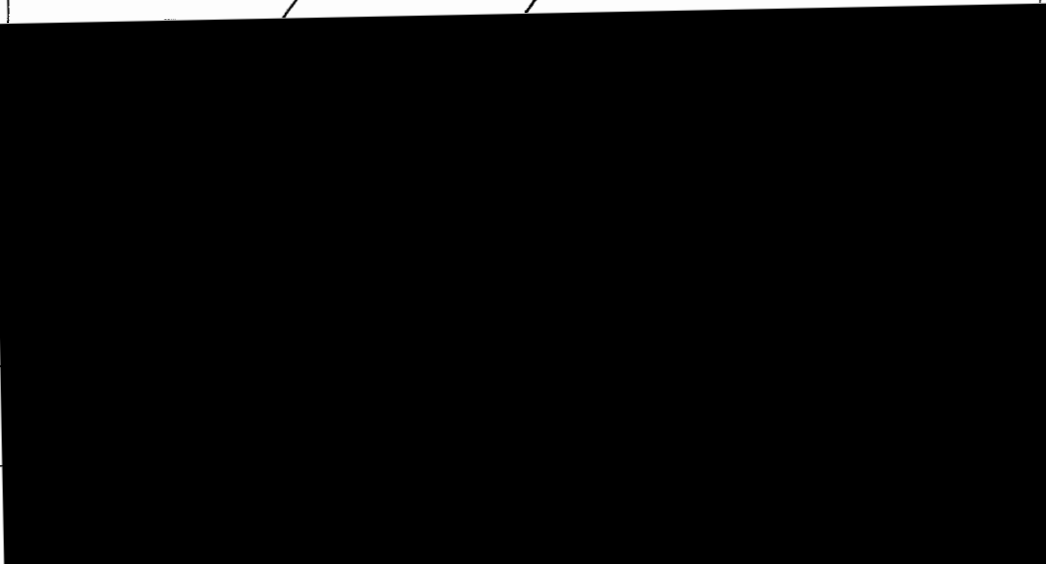
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
ANGEL Rodriguez	
Maria Figueroa	
Alberto Acosta	
K. Stone	
M. Alvarez	
M. Colon	

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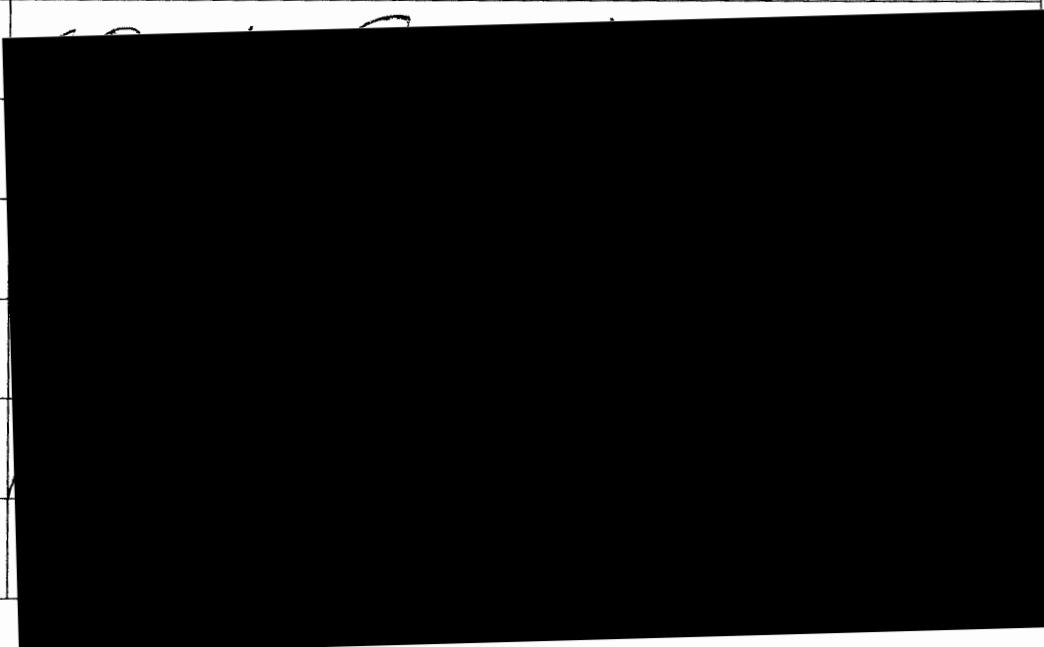
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
ANA ADORNO	
Aida Soroa	
Mrs. Remberto Flores	
Luis Segura	
Milagros Ruiz	
Felicitas Nuñez	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Elias Herrera</i>	
<i>Desiree Butnell</i>	
<i>Rita Eagle</i>	
<i>Edna Paez</i>	
<i>Naomi Mercedes</i>	
<i>Naomi Ortiz</i>	
<i>Jose Pacheco</i>	

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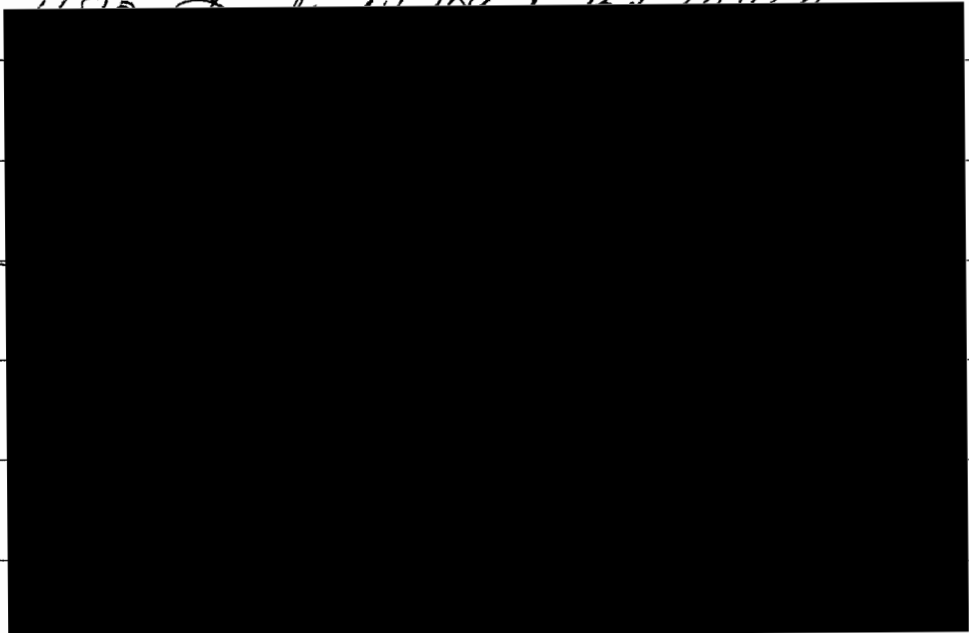
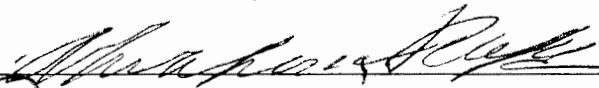
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Frank Lopez	
Lillian Lopez	
Bienvenida Rivera	
Ernesto Gonsalon	
Paula Encarnacion	
Efrain Nolasco	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Nelida V. Cepeda	
Ana Burgos	
	
José Cruz	
Ray Higuera	
José A. Cruz	

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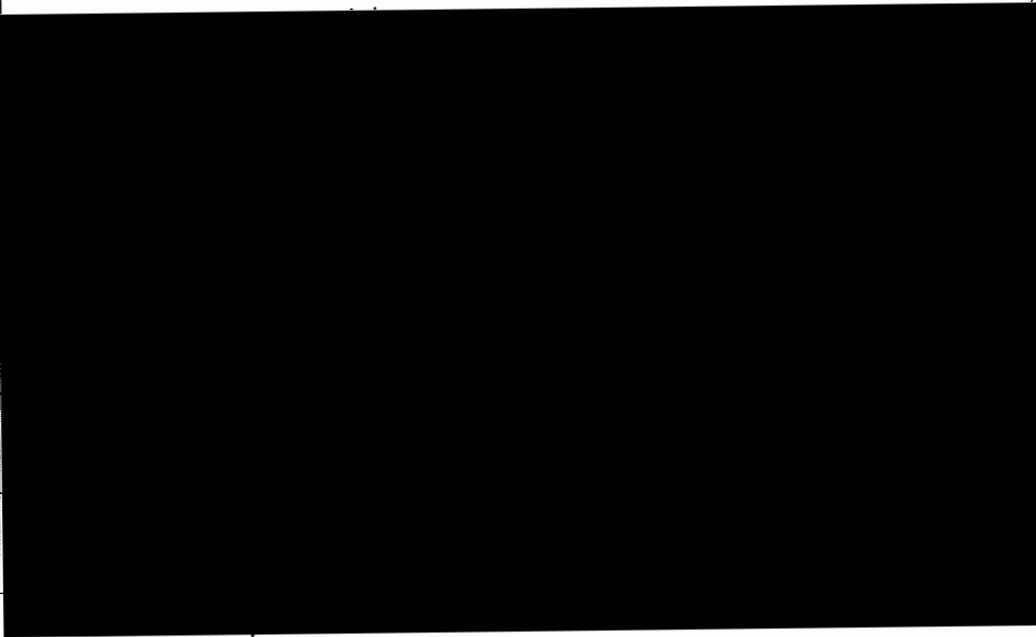
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
William Velazquez	
Don Perz	
Ruben Suarez	
John Morales	
ANTONIO MALDONADO	
Leticia Maldonado	

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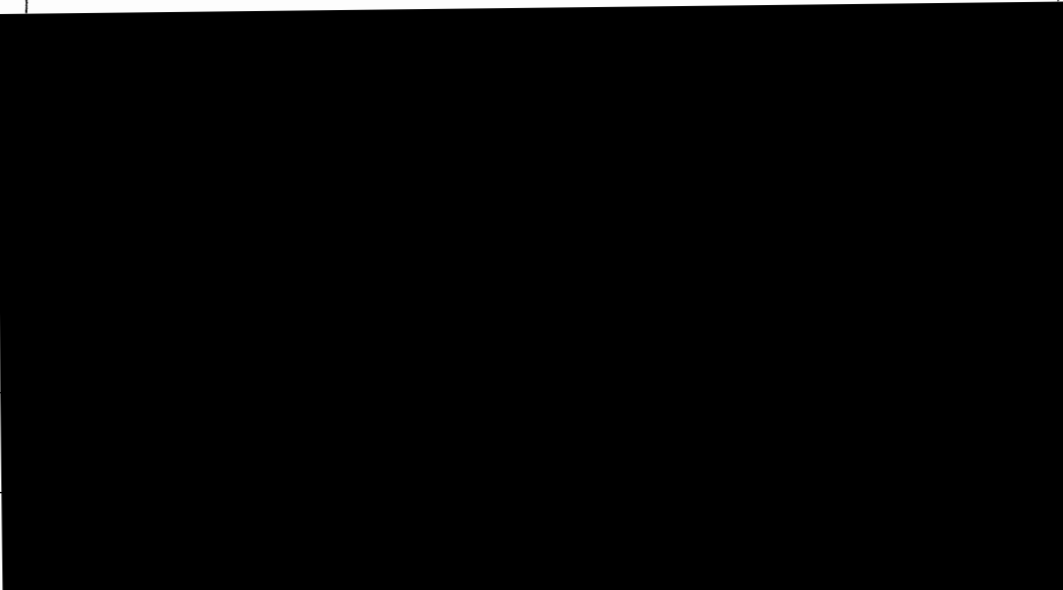
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Sonia Rodriguez	
Alfredo Guerrero	
MARGARITA Medina	
ANGEL RENE APT 4H	
Barbara Algarin	
Rosie Rodriguez	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Grizelda Morales</i>	
<i>Harry Gomez</i>	
<i>Olga Ponce</i>	
<i>Rudolph Casuso</i>	
<i>Esther Rodriguez</i>	
<i>Yolanda Ruiz</i>	

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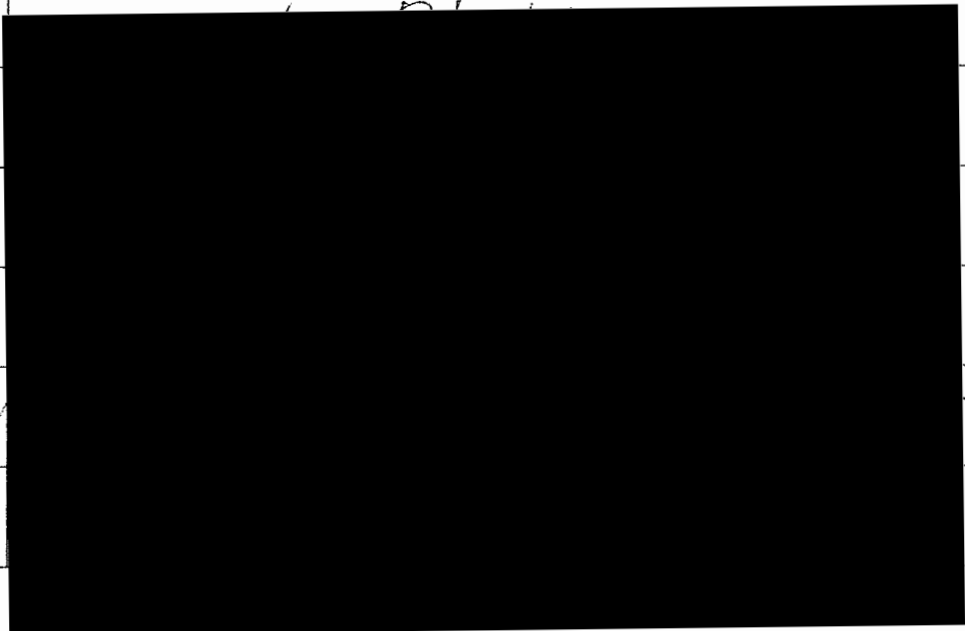
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Isabelina Soliman	
Cons. Orellana	
Maria Cruz	
Gerardo De Jesus	
Luz Martinez	
Sandra Ortiz	

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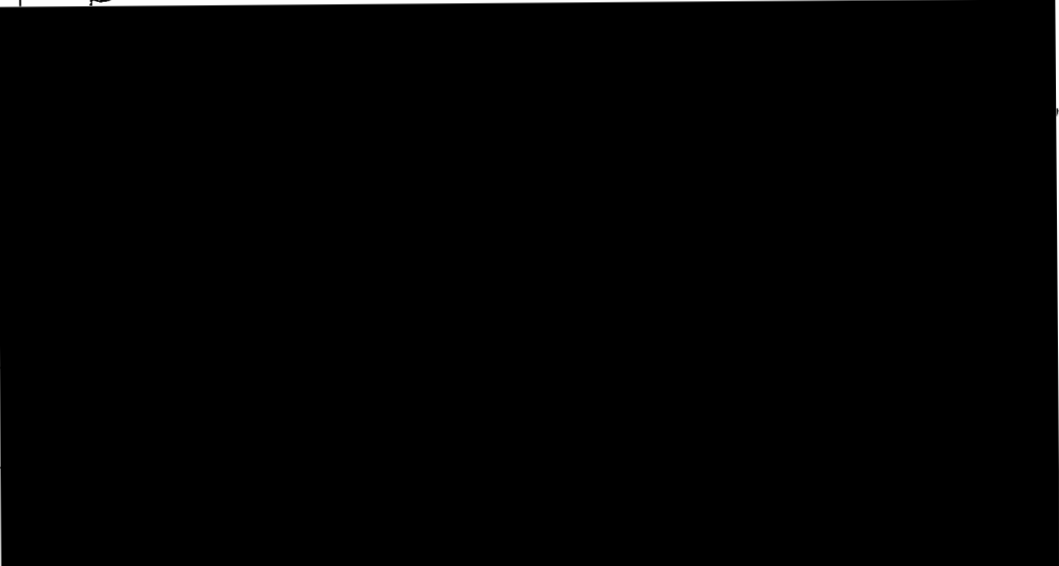
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Myhron Natta	
RENÉ RODRIGUES	
Millie Maldonado	
Carla Singh	
Lepha King	
Luis - Ar - Rivero ✓	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Carmen Torres	
Ida Lamy	
Aixa Simonetti	
Dora Rodriguez	
EASTON VICTOR	
Maria Reyes	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
CARLOS CAMARERO	
Carmen Ruiz H	
REYNALDO RUBIO	
ALVADA PÉREZ	
Elida Arayo	
Epi Vazquez	

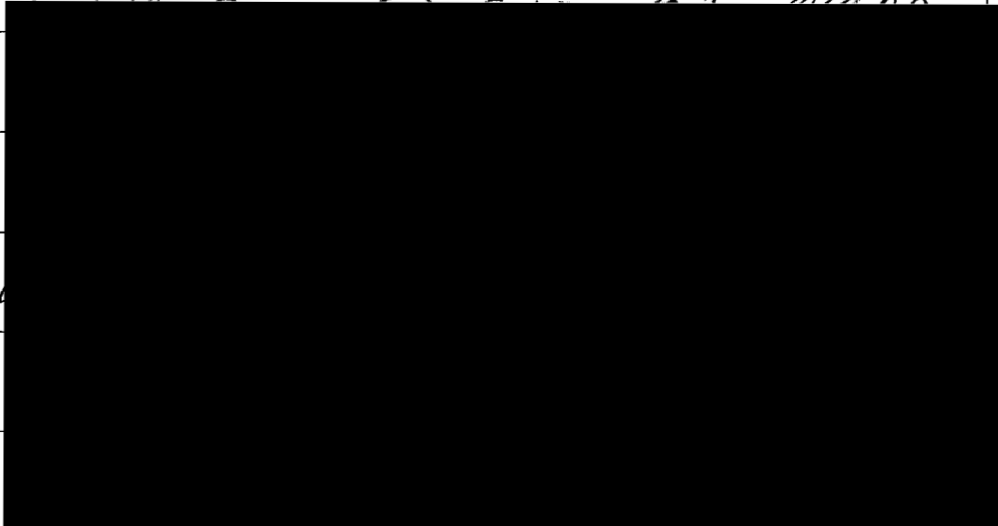
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Lucas Barla

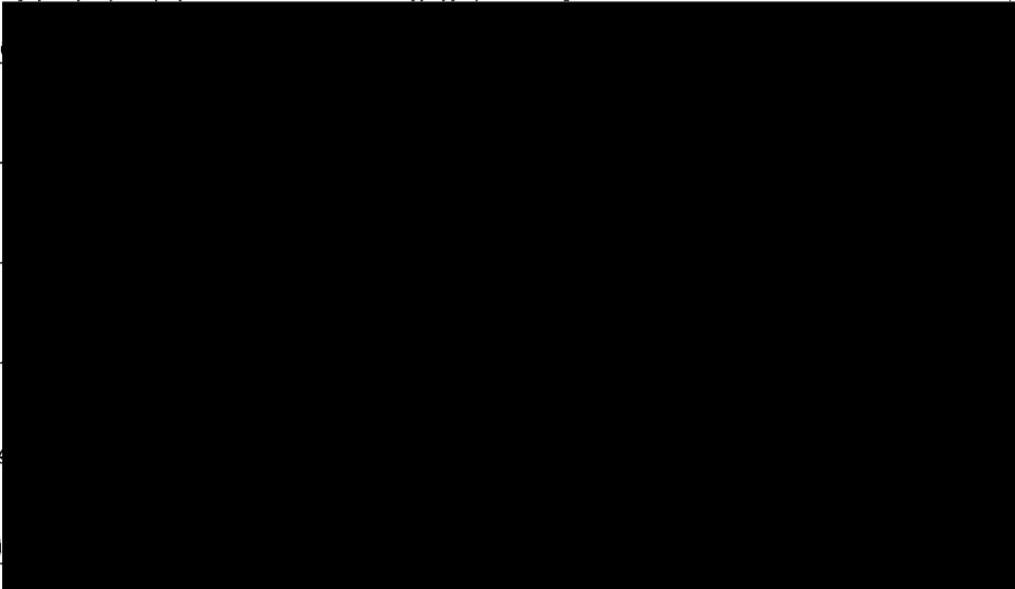
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>William Hernandez</i>	<i>120 E 15th St, NYC</i>
<i>Alexander Bernado</i>	
<i>Victor Herrera</i>	
<i>Ivan Ocampo</i>	
<i>Rafael Bonilla</i>	
<i>DeLa Gonzalez</i>	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Mary Matias	
Ana Rufat	
Juan Torres 2415-57th Ave	
Epifania Viado [REDACTED] 66	
Norma I. Alemany	
Miguelita Leguella Sanchez	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Felito Burgos	50
Luis GARCIA	1
Isabel Cruz	4
Lehiatad Almará	3
Benjamin Rosario	2
Marqueta Cruz	4

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Mia Ramirez	3-
Wanda Rodriguez	19
Yaditha Alejandro	0
Thyana, Isai	10
Jose Soto	1
Antonio Velez	22

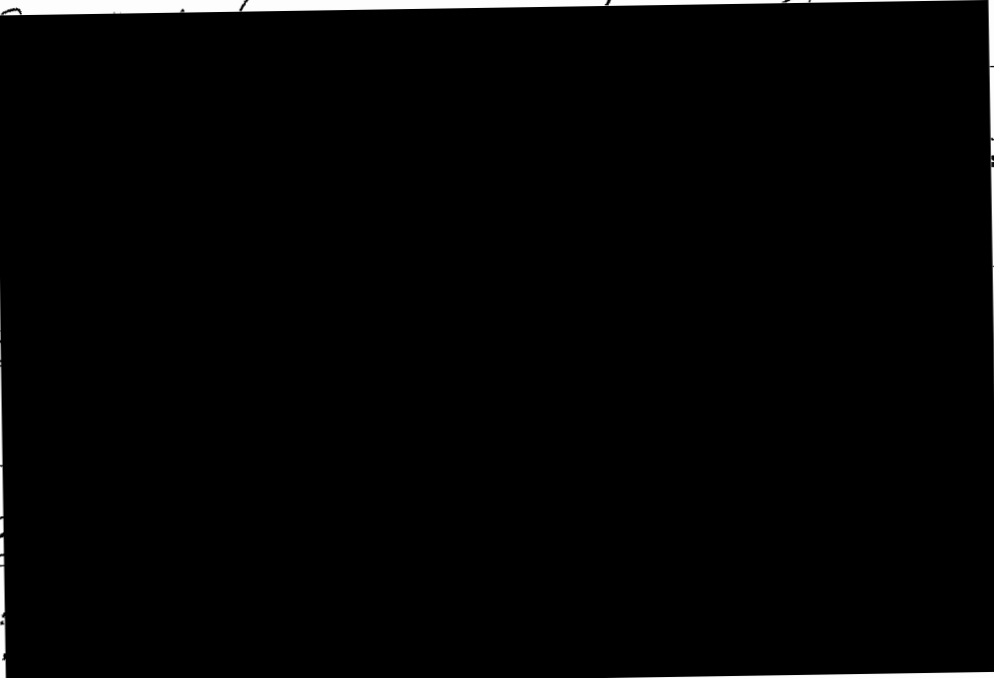
Jose MARCELO Lopez

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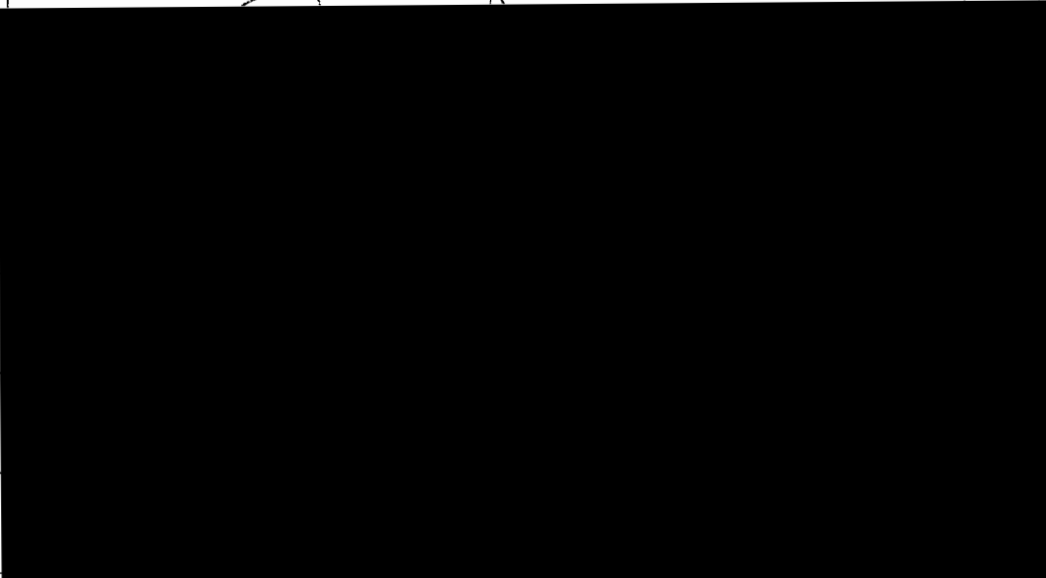
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Julien Vado	
Rosa Velazquez	
Rosa E. Colon	
Grace Ramos Medina	
Vincent Carr	
Graylin Ayala	
RAYMOND GONZALEZ Raymond Gonzalez	

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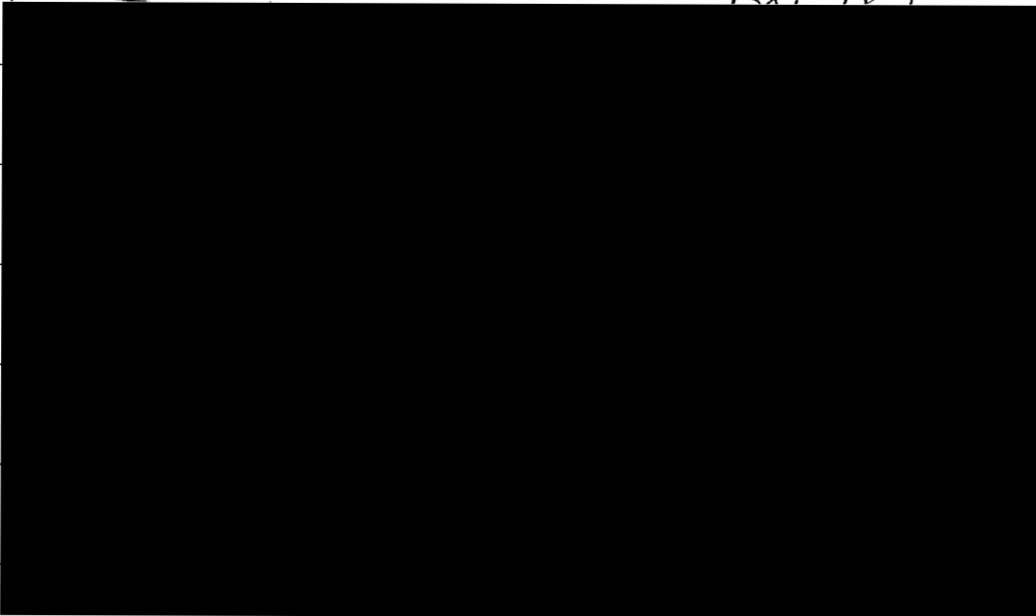
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Alberto Martinez</i>	
<i>Jose Batista</i>	
<i>Eugenio</i>	
<i>Luis Perez</i>	
<i>Carlos Rodriguez</i>	
<i>Isabel Benavente</i>	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Ismail Berceadoni</i>	<i>Bronx</i> 
<i>Willie Gonzalez</i>	
<i>Nancy Gonzalez</i>	
<i>Suanita Gonzalez</i>	
<i>José Cruz</i>	
<i>Marguito Bethwell</i>	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
John Rosado	
S. Roser	
Isabelita Ortiz	
Chris V...	
J.R. Mendez	
Rafael	

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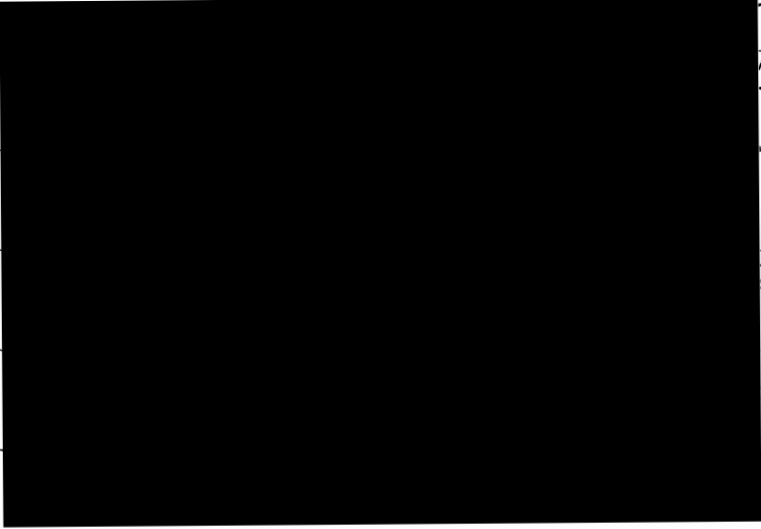
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
MIGUEL LLANOS	
ANA CLASSEN	
Enelyn Rivera	
Maria Rivera	
Candida Osorio	
Ornel Osorio	

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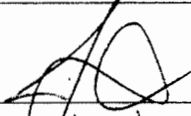

NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Gloria Ferrer	
Helen Tiahm	
Evelyn Mercado	
Ernesto Alvarez	
Magdalena Ramos	
Yordana Alvarez	

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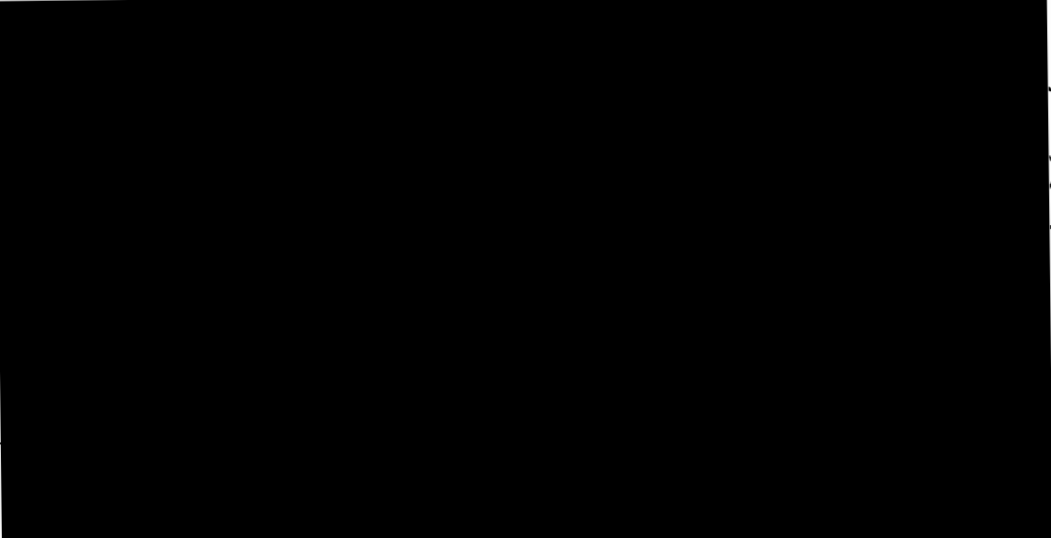
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
	
Anthony P. [unclear]	
Lisseth Reyes	
José J. Manáleon	
MULTI ROSA	
Enaida Lopez	
Diane Robles	

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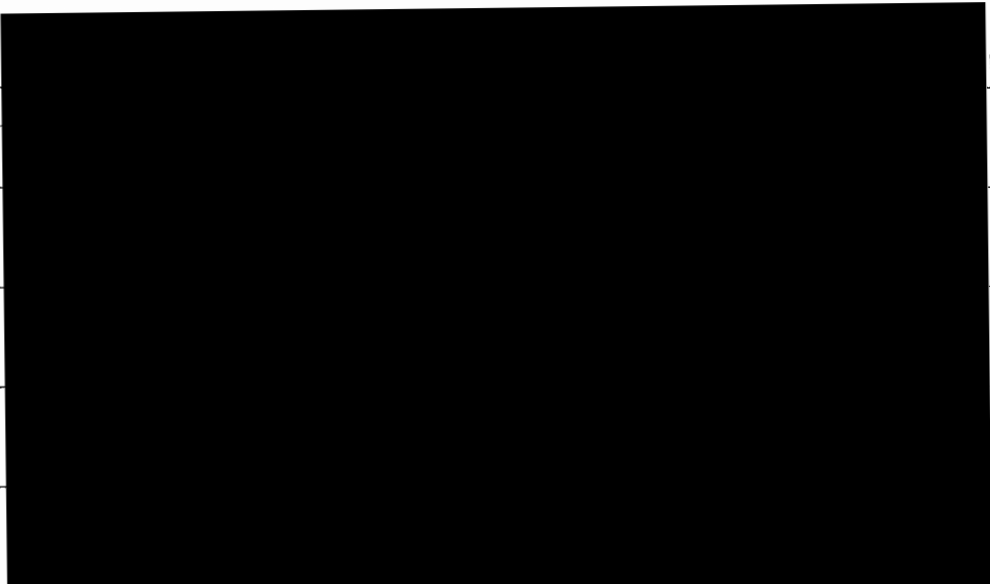
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Janet González	857 E 120 St / El Barrio
Carlos Escobar	
Angel Escobar	
Erica Allende	
Miriam Escobar	
Luis Escobar	

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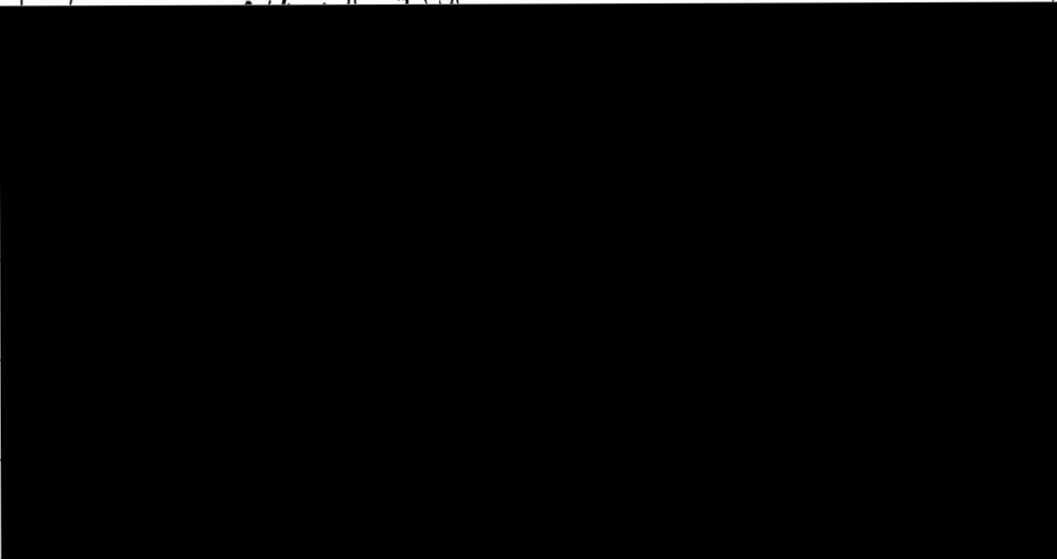
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Roy Rodriguez	 462
Louise J. Cruz	
Victor Rosario	
Jorge Nunez	
Jaime Sánchez	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Linda Santiago	#52
RAFAEL VALDEZ	
Frank Ponce	
Ros Vazquez	
Luis Gonzalez	
Carmen Parrilla	

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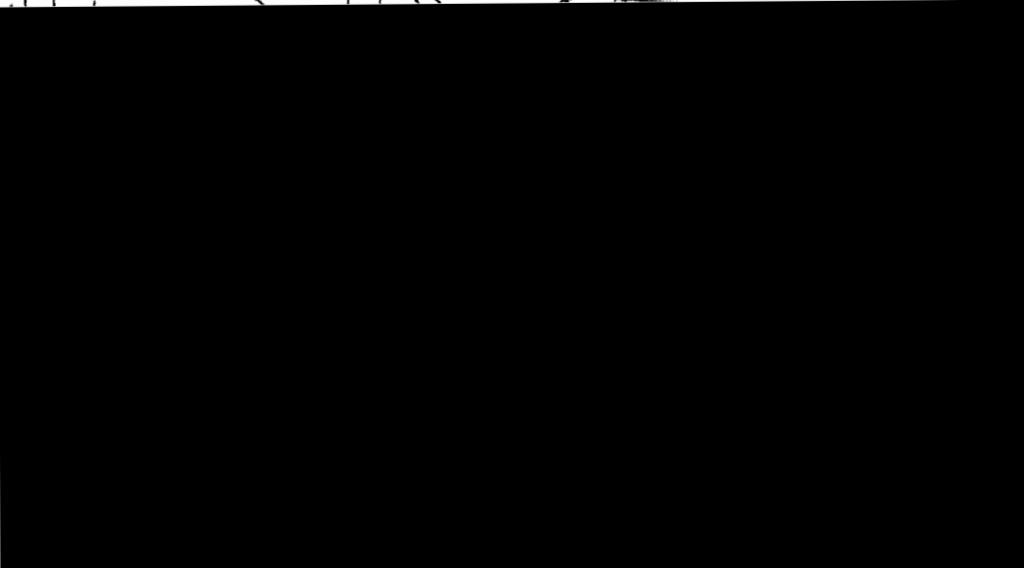
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Page E. Gonzalez	
Andre Gonzalez	
Bianca Abadia	
Maria Morales	
NATASHA NOZUAGA	
LOETTE JELEZ	
MARIA VARGAS	

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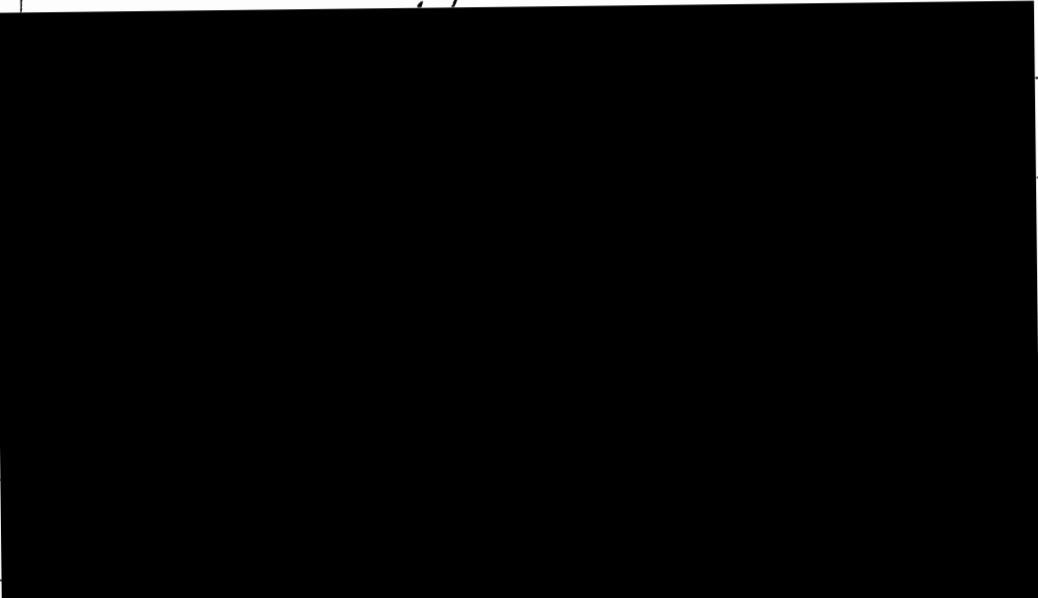
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
SUSAN Melendez	
Evelyn Melendez	
Mary Ann	
Judy Velazquez	
Edwin Rios	
Sonia Viera	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Esther Perez	
Henry Rodriguez	
Alice Ramos	
ARNALDO MARCANO	
Irene Papadatos	
E. Kallan	

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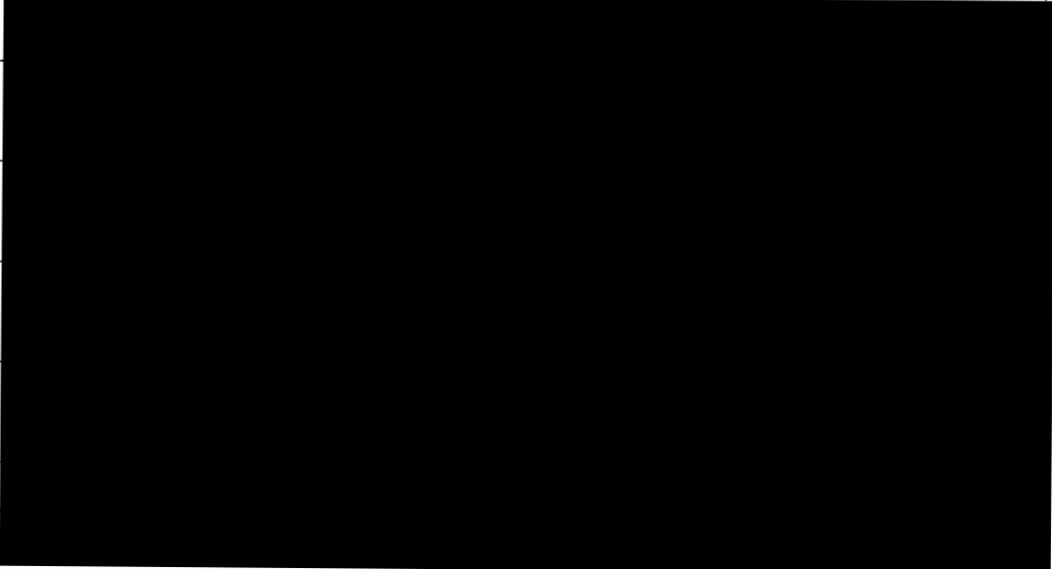
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Anche Ortiz	2 [REDACTED] 7
Manny Garcia	7 [REDACTED]
Jose Luis Cruz	8 [REDACTED]
Sonia Guadalupe	1 [REDACTED]
Chino	[REDACTED]
Enel Rowner	[REDACTED]

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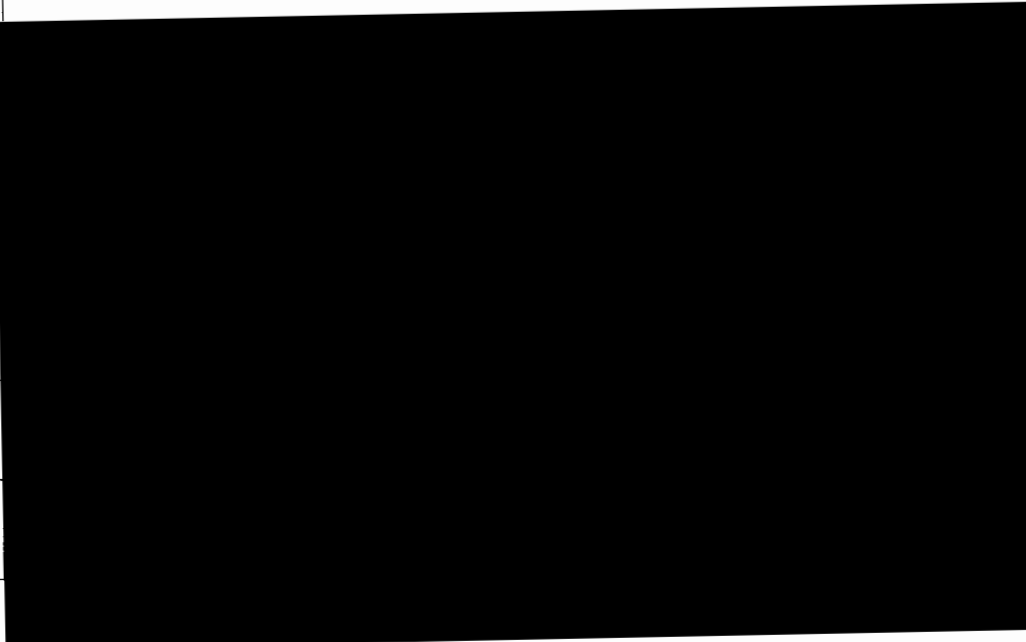
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Sabla Rivero</i>	<i>203 E 113 ST # 11</i>
<i>Ana Cotto</i>	
<i>Willie R. Ruiz</i>	
<i>Elena H. Ortiz</i>	
<i>Mildred Gordon</i>	
<i>Maria Rodriguez</i>	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Wilfredo Santiago	
Aida Pacheco	
Jose Vega	
Risette Jones	
Edgardo J. Toney	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
MARIA CAMPOS	
Gloria Ascenio	
Miguel Figueroa	
Maria Santiago	
CANDIDO Colon	
René Colon	

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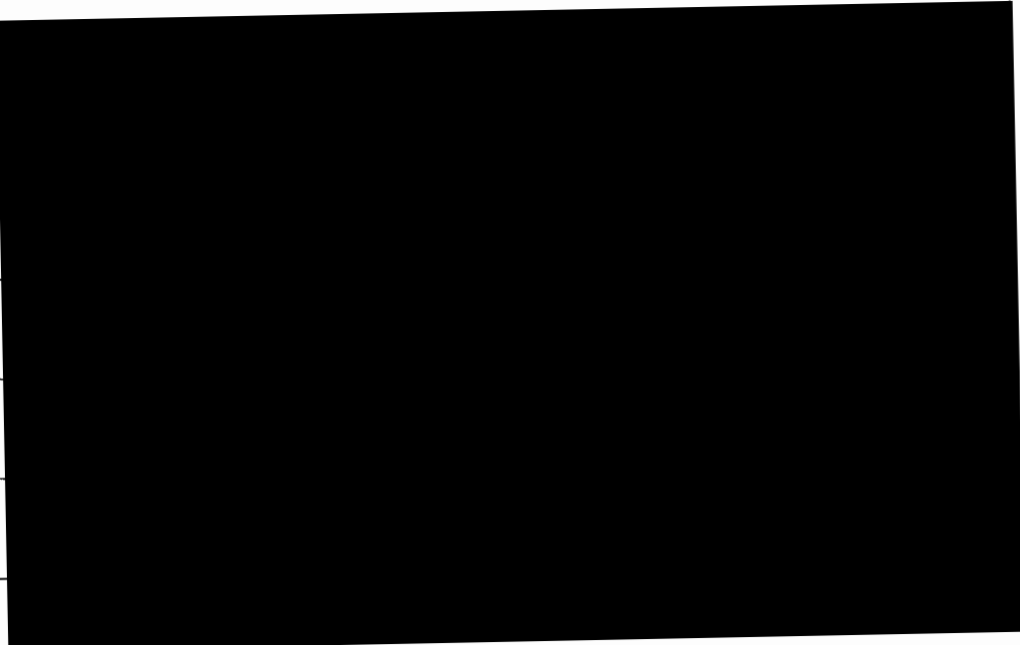
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Yolanda Golder</i>	
<i>Wanda Ortiz</i>	
<i>Víctor Ortiz</i>	
<i>Carmen Cortes</i>	
<i>Yolanda G.</i>	
<i>Dolly Serrano</i>	

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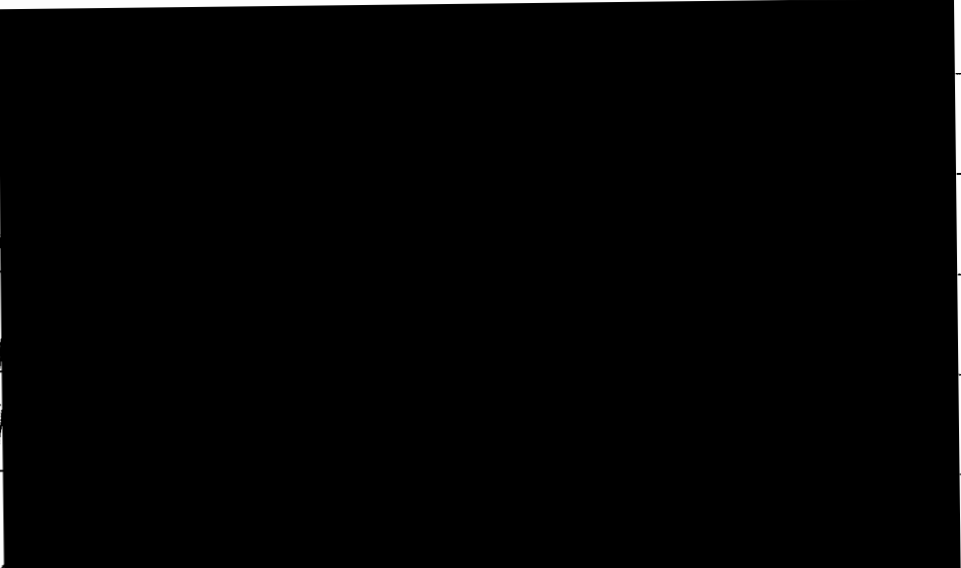
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Janice Jimenez	
El Taino Morro Moorish	
Issiah Mis /g	
Jordan Mula	
Basil Garsela	
Aridriann Gonzalez	

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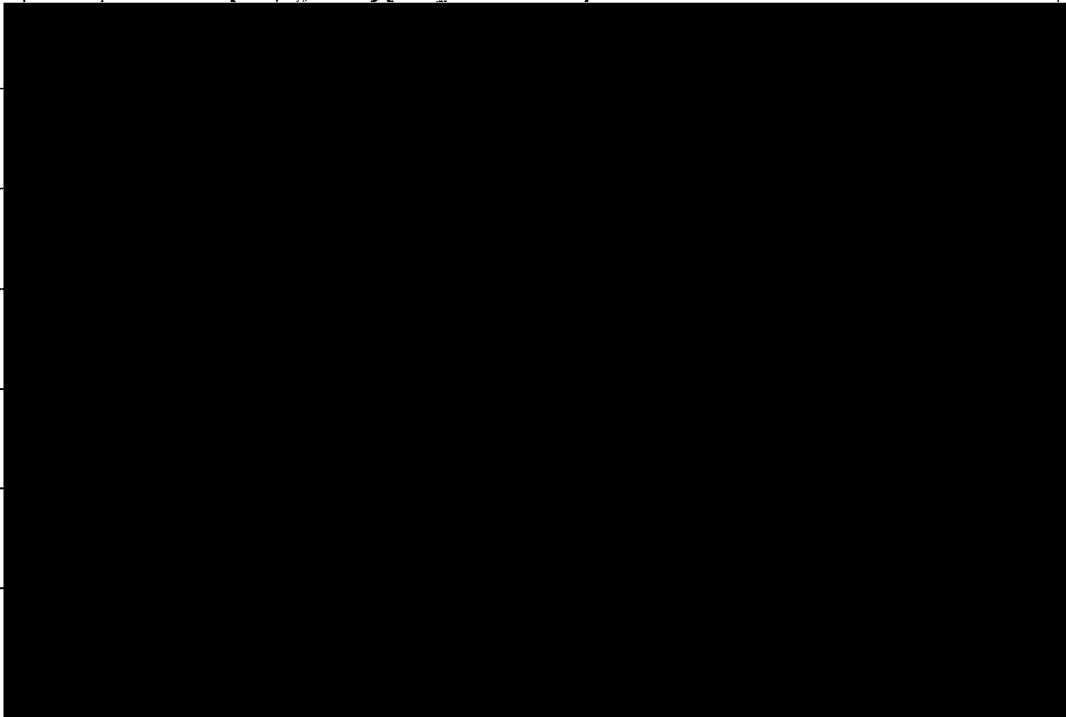
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Luis Martinez	
Elizabeth Alvar	
Joel Rodriguez	
Walfery Diaz	
Grady Somidey	
Felix Elan	

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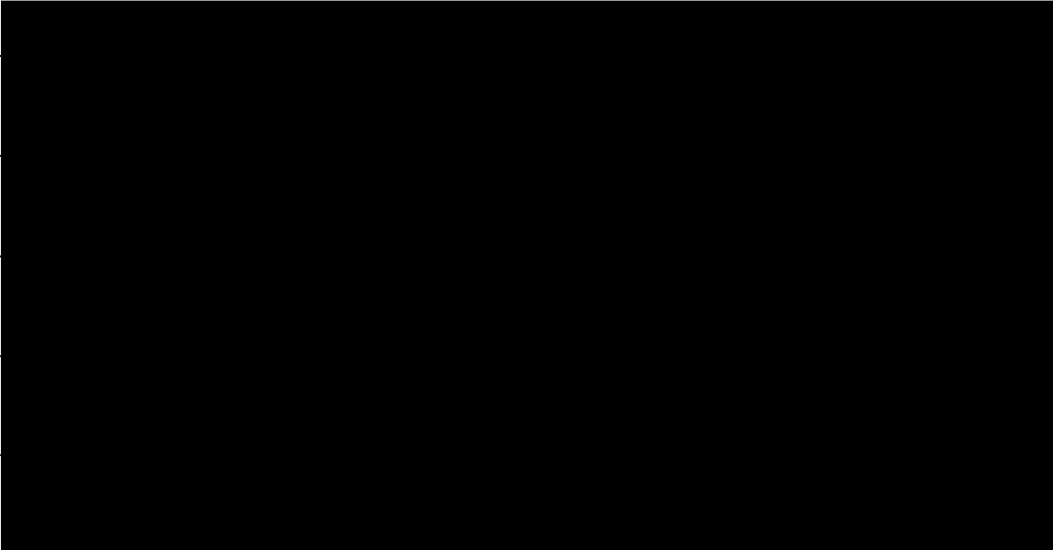

NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Sharon el rey</i>	
<i>Gladys maldonado</i>	
<i>Carlos Cruz</i>	
<i>Esteban Riquelme</i>	
<i>Valentina Garcia</i>	
<i>Gene Bonilla</i>	

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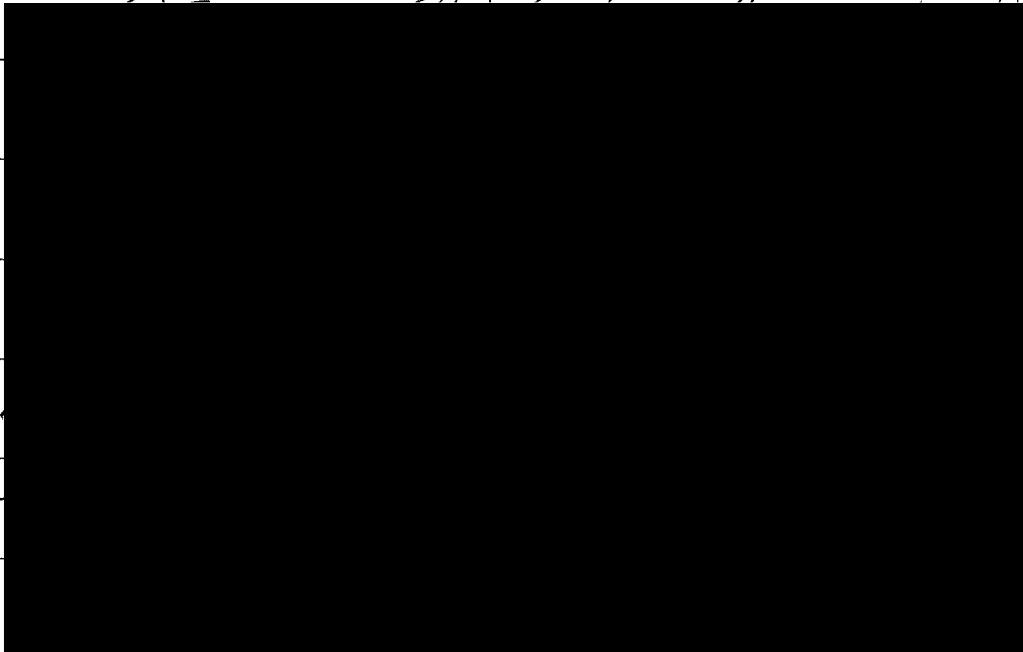
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
	
	
Ramón L. Berrios	
Tommy Baez	
Angelo Rivera	
Andie's Meñder	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Stephen Fonta</i>	
Angel Gonzalez	
Jose Cruz	
Mynor Mangat	
Juan Mangat	
Kevin Mangat	
Alex Vega	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Juan Rodriguez	
Dolores Golder	
Santos Liz	
Felipe Marquez	
Felix Lopez	
Janet Villegas	
Dolores Gonzalez	

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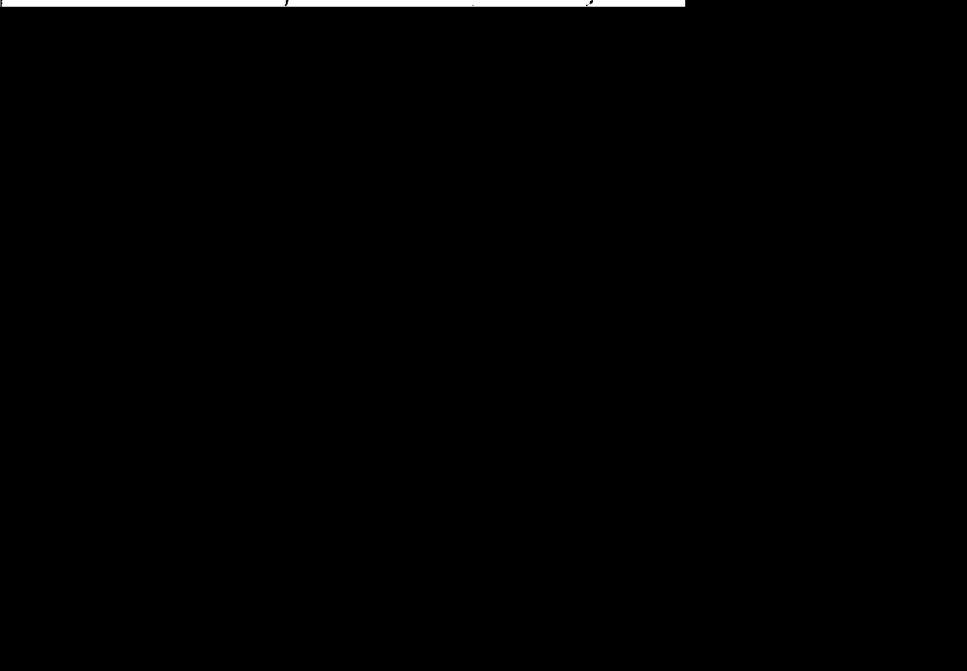
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Henry Hernandez	
Carmen Diza	
Ricardo Palleja	
Sherice Andino	
Judith Davila	
Diogenes Munoz	
Enid Gonzalez	

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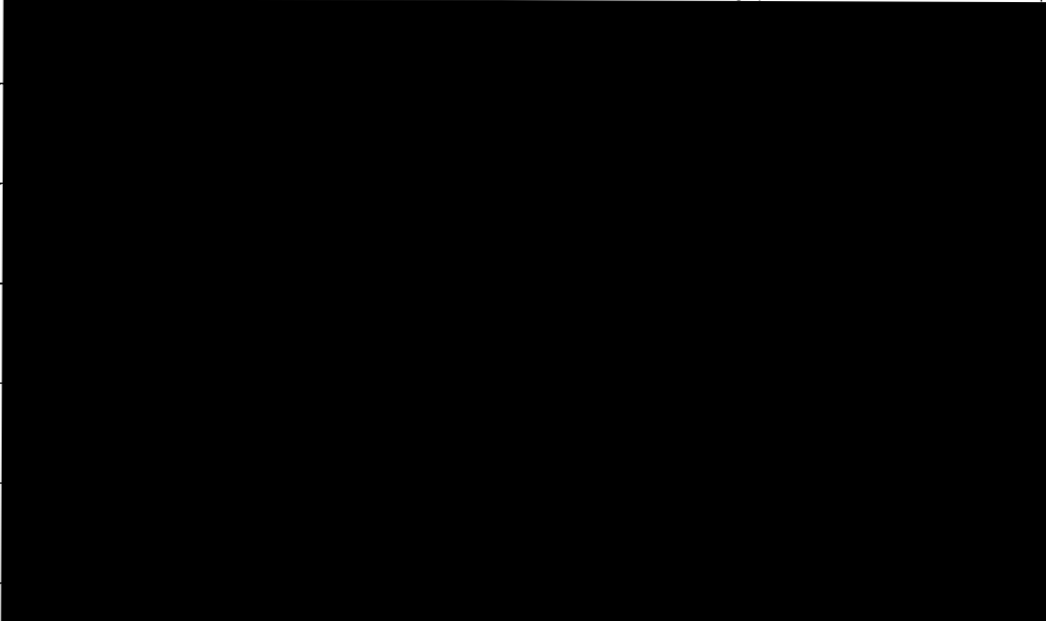
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Vito N. Velez	
"El Morro Taino Moorish"	
Soniz Perez	
DAVID RODRIGUEZ	
Rafaela Velazquez	
Josephine Lesbaca	

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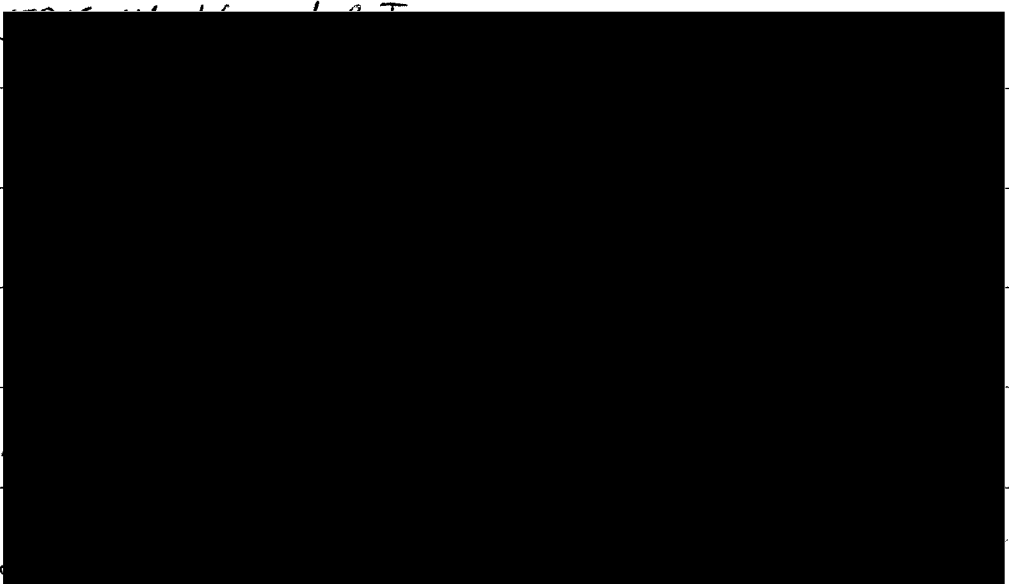
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
MARLON FLORES	
SANTIAGO DE JESUS CASILLAS	
ANTONIO HOFFMAN	
GUILLERMO SANTOS	
Luz Zr Pereira	
Celinda Rivera	

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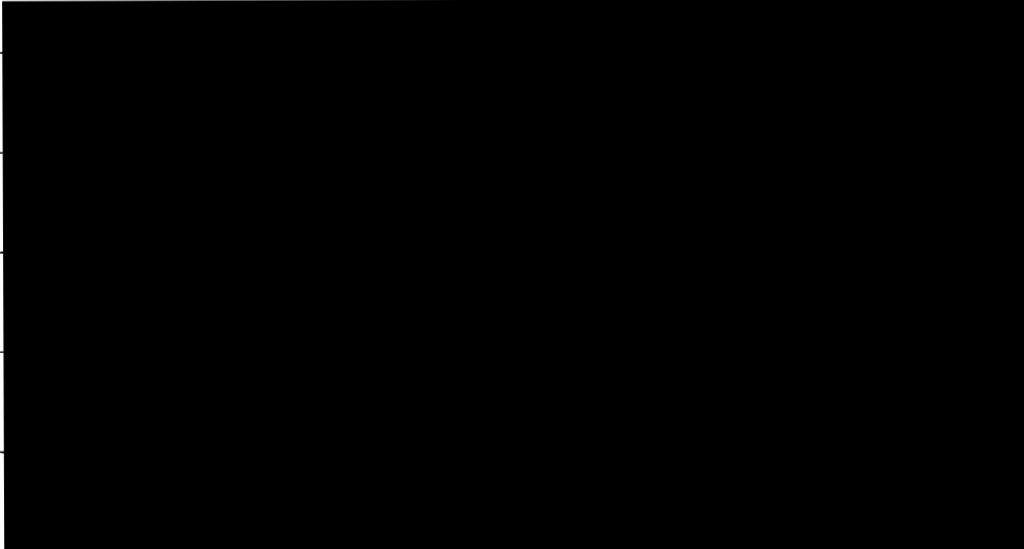
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Victor m. Ferrer Perez	
Ana Echevarria	
Robert Martinez	
Yvonne Jimenez	
Barby Rivera	
Elizabeth Ramos	

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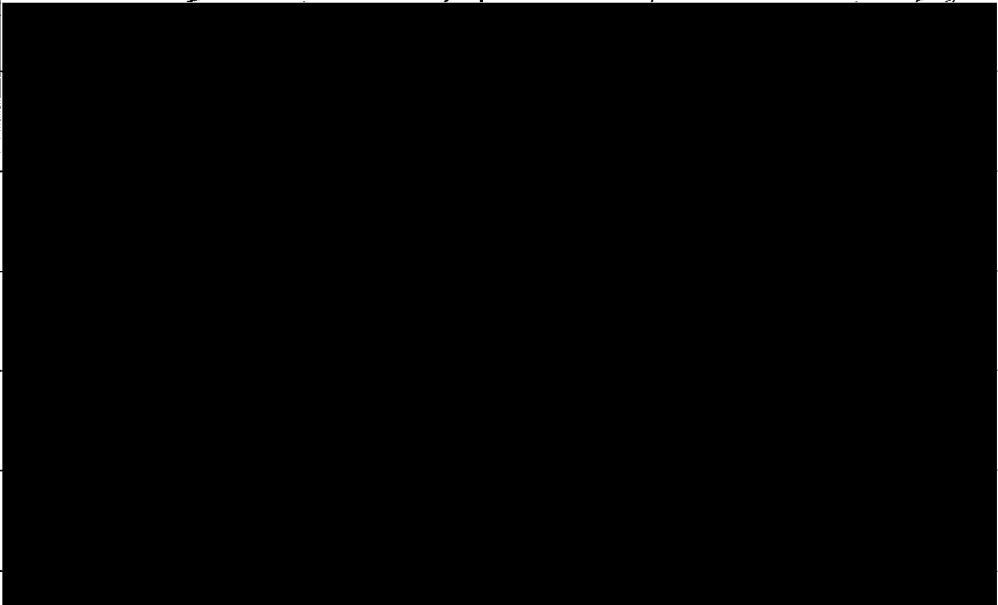
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Carlos M. Otero	
Manny Garcia	
Santa Sorzulez	
Basilio Aguilera	
Hilda Gomez	
Marta Ruiz	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Man Ray	
Ramiro Fentura	
Francisco Nunez	
Rosa Galan	
ESTHER CARRER	
Luisano Clemente	

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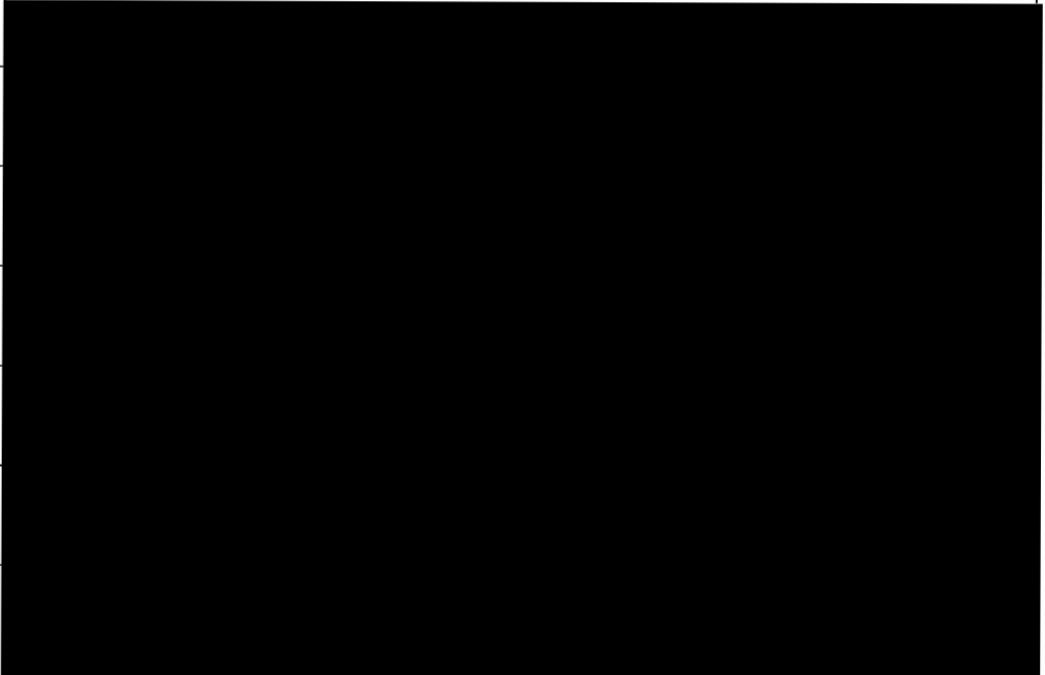
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Carmelo Díaz	
Don Mar	
Marguito Rueda	
Maria Roman	
El Debe	
Hector Ortiz	

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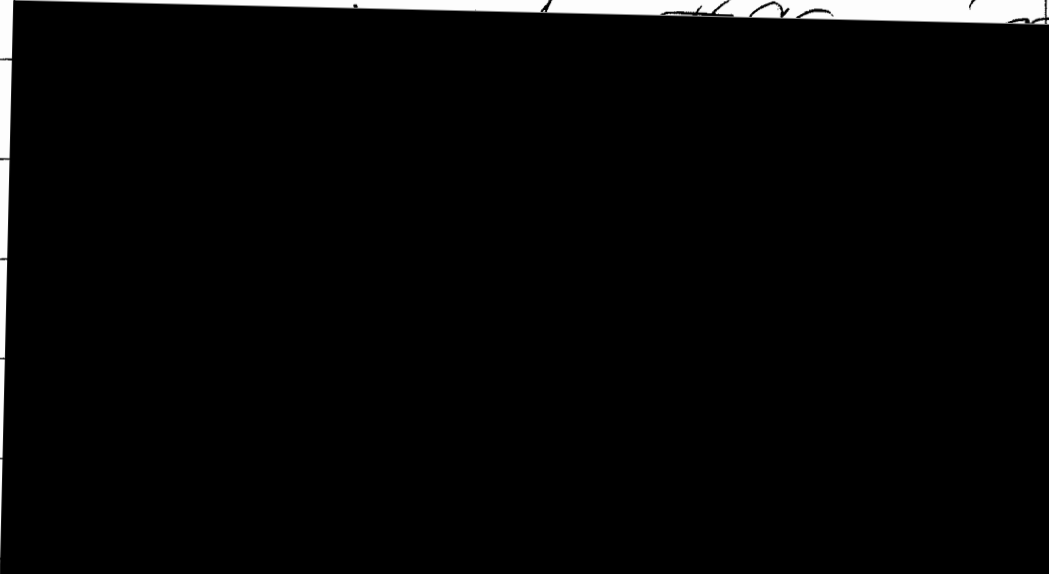
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Luanita Ortiz	
Luz Cruz	
Luis Poyale	
Noemi Benites	
Joseluis Collazo	
Magdalena Lopez	

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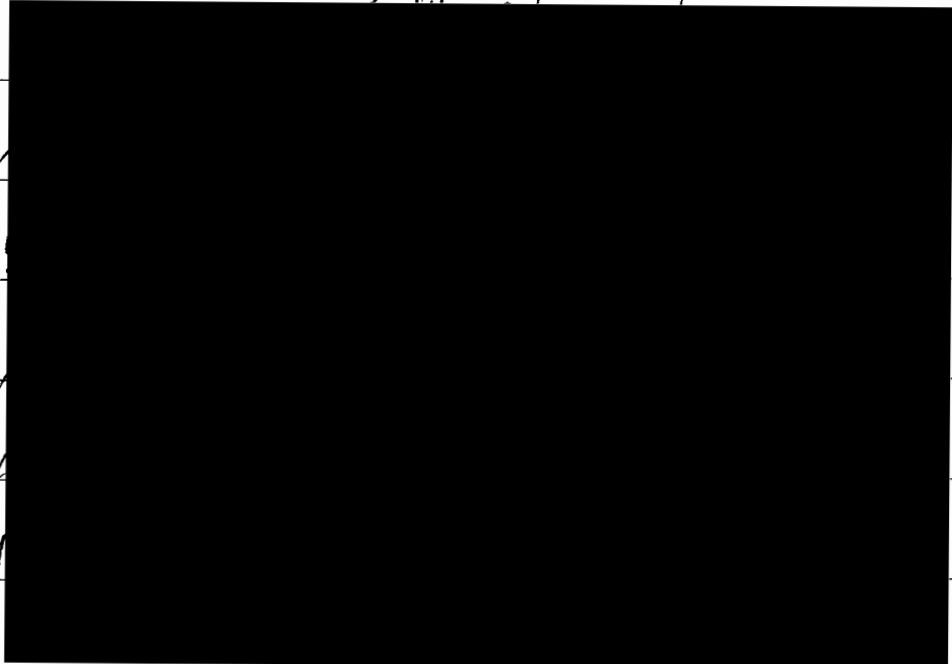
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Jose A. Otero	
Luis Pardo	
Wilberto Legala	
Jose Rios	
Carmin Diaz	
NANCY Mordinez	

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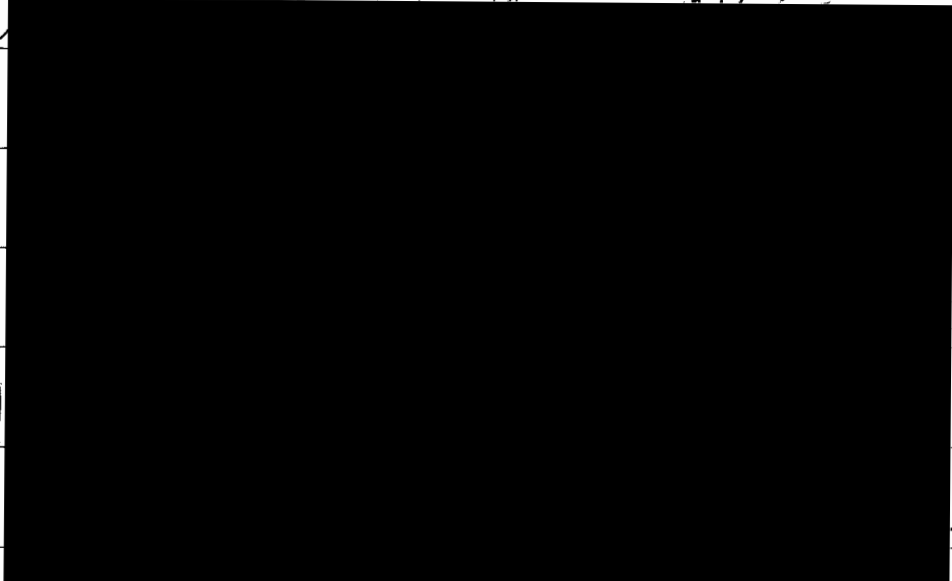
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Maria E. Bulerin</i>	
<i>LUANA PEREZ</i>	
<i>Sonia Ortiz</i>	
<i>Rosa Santiago</i>	
<i>Jose Ortiz</i>	
<i>Rafael Matos</i>	

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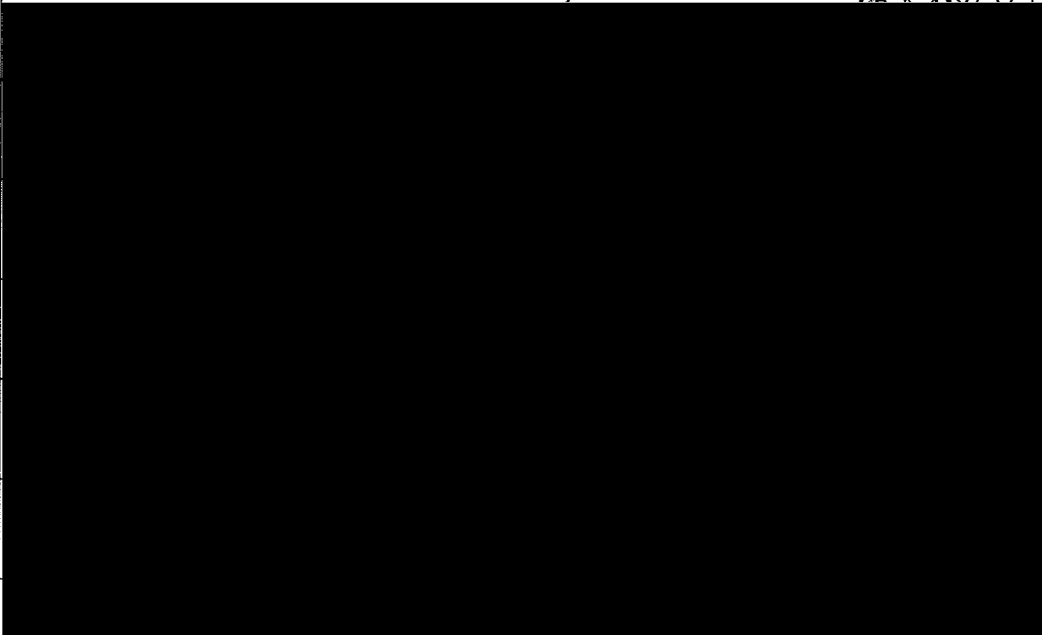
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Juan Gonzalez	
Carol Rodriguez	
Onix Velez	
Charles Conzola	
Beatrice Mangual	
Mabel Moya	

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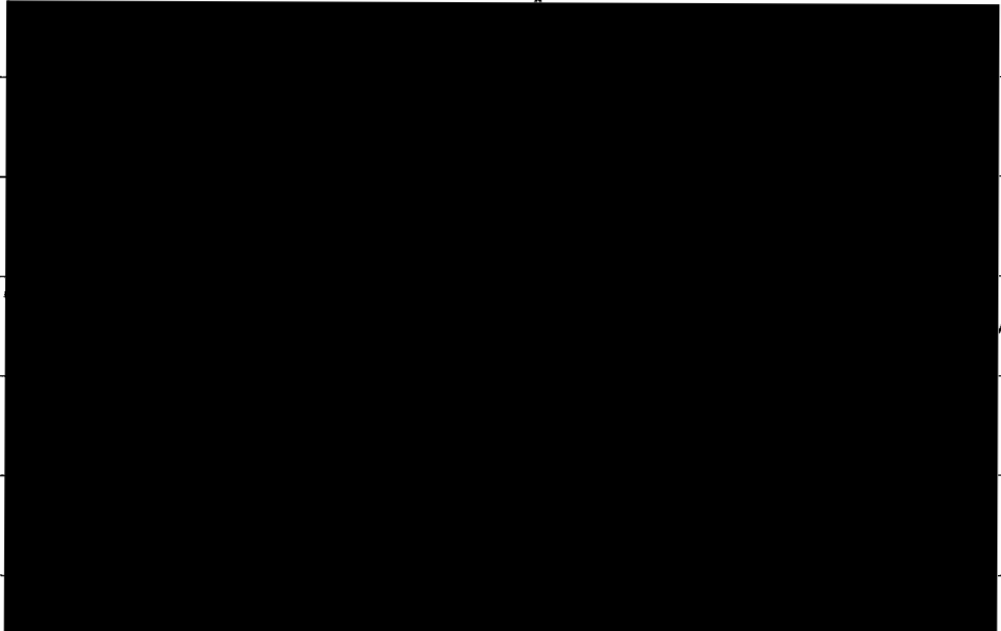
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Enrieta Pineda	
Jesse A. Pineda	
Amel	
Camilo de la Cruz	
E. ESCOBAR	
Y. (Y) A ESCOBAR	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Alpha Calderon	
Rafael Viver	
David Rodriguez	
Ethan Estrella	
Sonya Este	
Judiz Viera	

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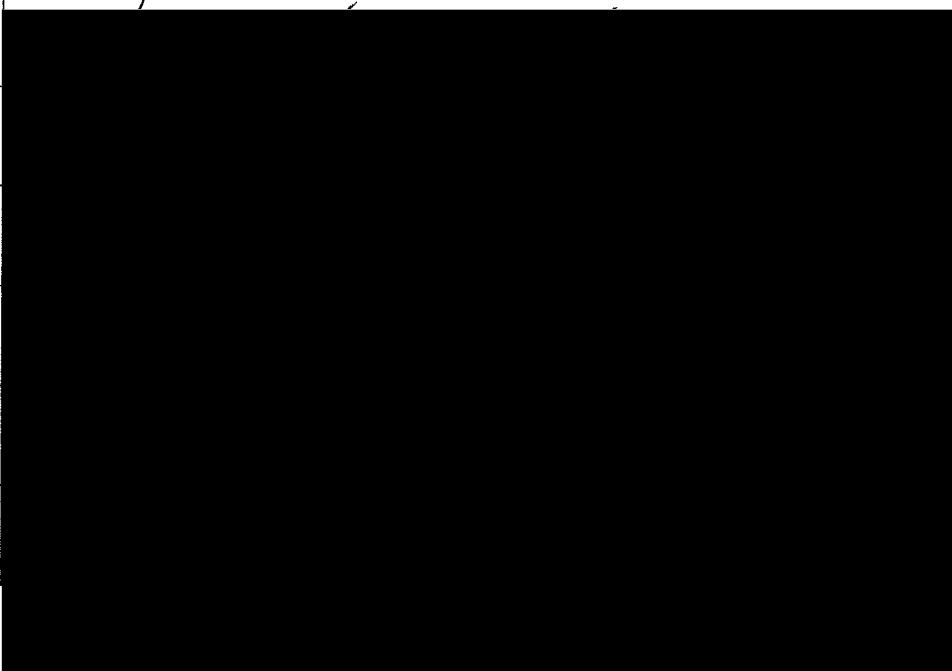
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Joan Moxerrate	
Miguel A. Petyson	
Maguel Rocky	
Mario Rana	
Luis Lebron	
CÉSAR Q. LIVERA S	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
JOSEFA ULTARTE	 1025
Rene Vega	
Ismael Rodriguez	
DIMMA CABR	
XAVIER PEREZ	
Amy Stack	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
B. Seales	
Luis A. Rodriguez	
RAFAEL G. ORTEGA	
José Rodriguez	
SANDALIO QUIÑONES	
Mildred. Lopez	

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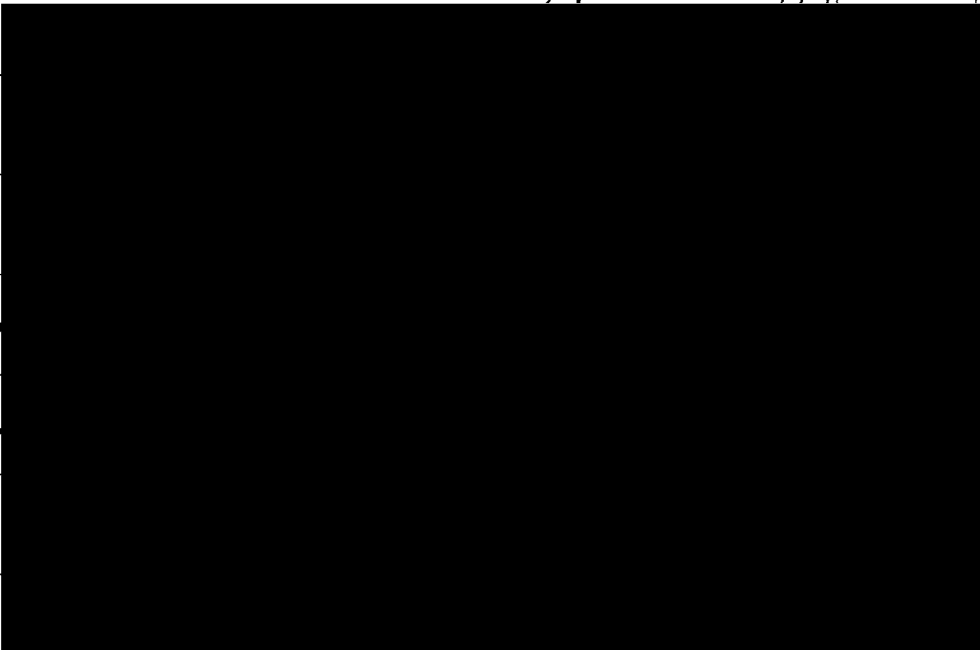
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Mariela Espada	
Silvia Reyes	
Erick Baez	
Jonathan Lopez	
Dominic Ayala	
Darius Ayala	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Juan Reyes	
Viviana Reyes	
Alberto Alvarez	
Carlos Reinoso	
RAUL A REYES	
María Alvarez	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Killy y Angel Arce	
836 Montgomery St	
Brooklyn N.Y. 11213	
Rafael Calderon &	
Frank Palmero	
Linda C. Cruz	

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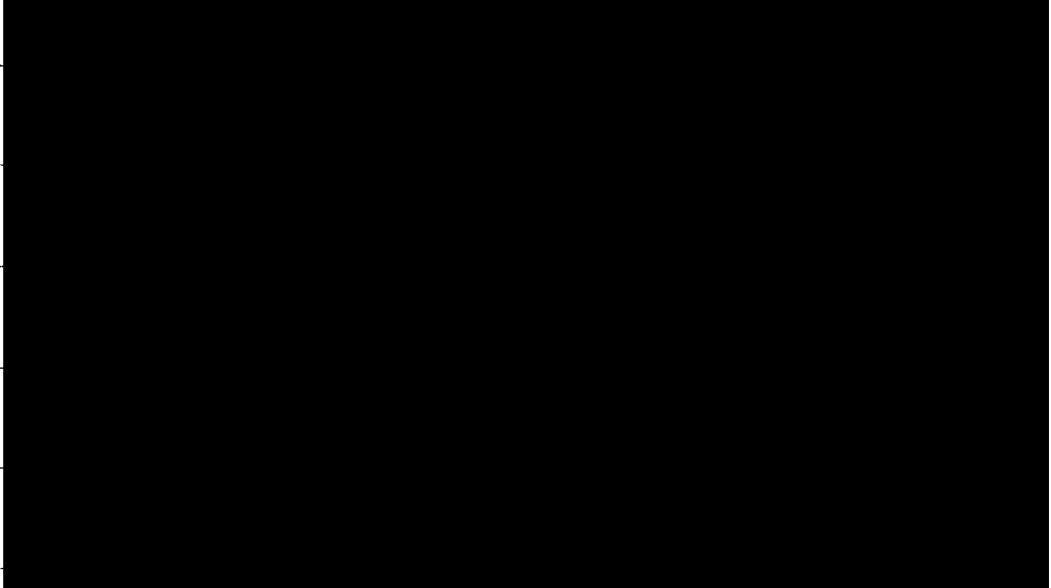
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Michael Ramirez	
MARIO RIZZA	
Carrie Hernandez	
Angel Lacort	
ANGEL GURIA	
Esperanza Barrin	

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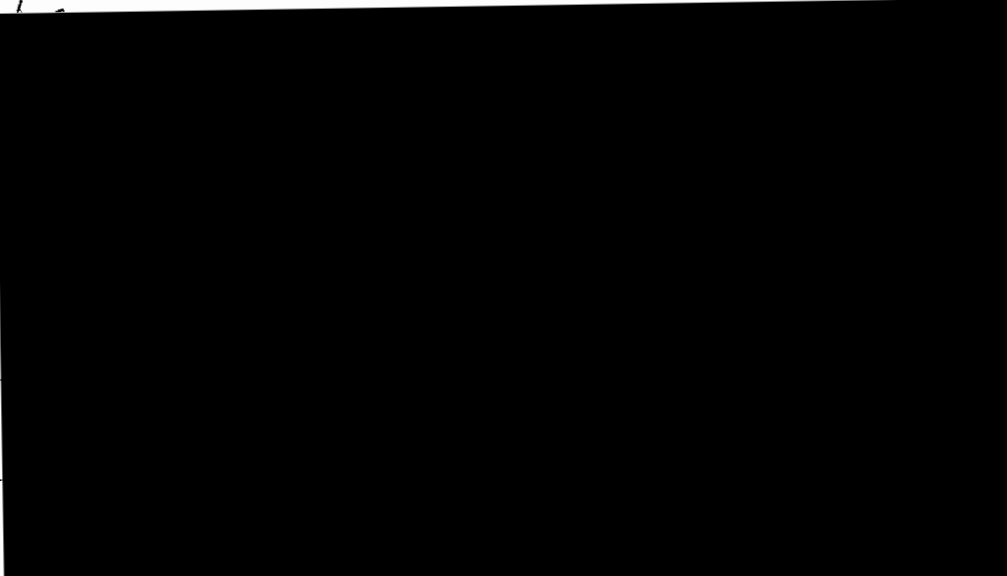
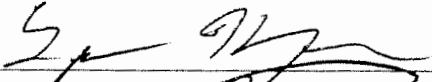

NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Treme Plaza	
Johnathan Ruiz	
Calief Hill	
Carmen Zazario	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Ama Cinteros	
Stephen Marshall	
Amanda Hernandez	
Henry Thompson	
	
	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Mildred Lavery	
Miriam Cruz	
J. Lopez	
Aichroten BAH	
VIRGINIA MARTIN	
Shawn Venable	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Ruth Spry	
Camelo Colon	
Cruzada Wt	
Bollier Jlr	
MD - N. Hiram	
8 - Rose	

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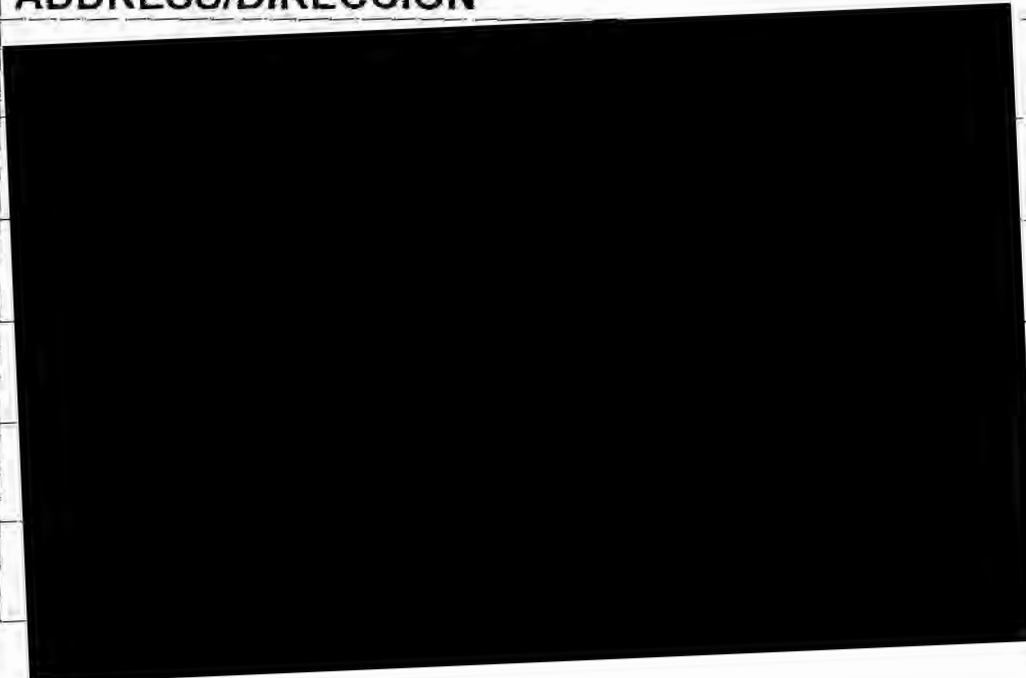
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
11224 Ortiz	
Darren Ayala	
Margarita Rodriguez	
Diego Battista	
Luis Hill	
Alex Taylor	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Kimberly Hill	
Louis L. Minor	
Mary Ward	
Decima Ferra	
James Hart	
Norma Vargas	

Subject: October 4th Districting Commission Hearings

From: Yma Rodriguez ([REDACTED])

To: [REDACTED]

Date: Sunday, September 30, 2012 8:36 PM

Thank you for signing up to testify at the Districting Commission meeting on October 4th at the Arturo Alfonso Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 515 Malcolm X Boulevard, 135th Street, New York, NY 10037 regarding keeping East Harlem's District 8 intact. You are all registered to testify and ready to go!

Below are the two training meetings that have been set up to help organize those who would like some strong talking points and tips on how to prepare for their testimony. Please let me know if you will attend the training. Please encourage others to attend the information/training sessions below as well as the Districting Commission meeting.

1. Monday, October 1st (6:30pm to 7:30pm) @ 58 East 117th Street
2. Tuesday, October 2nd (6 pm to 7pm) @ 1695 Madison Avenue in the Preamble Room

Thank you again for your commitment to East Harlem.

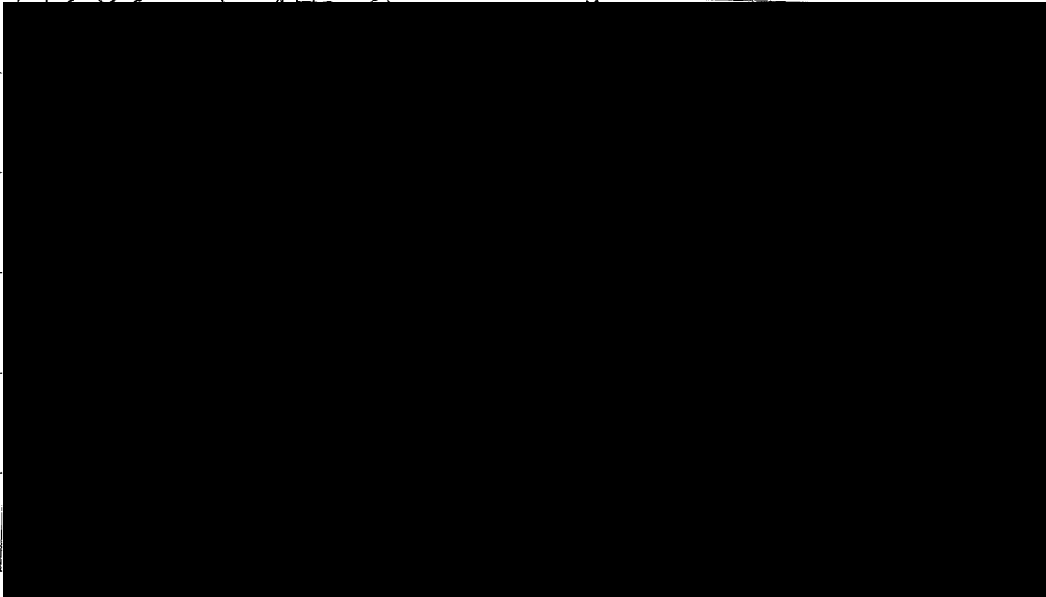
Yma B. Rodriguez, MPA
Puertorriquenos Unidos del
Estado de Nueva York
[REDACTED] Mobile

EL BARRIO'S CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT IS UNDER ATTACK!

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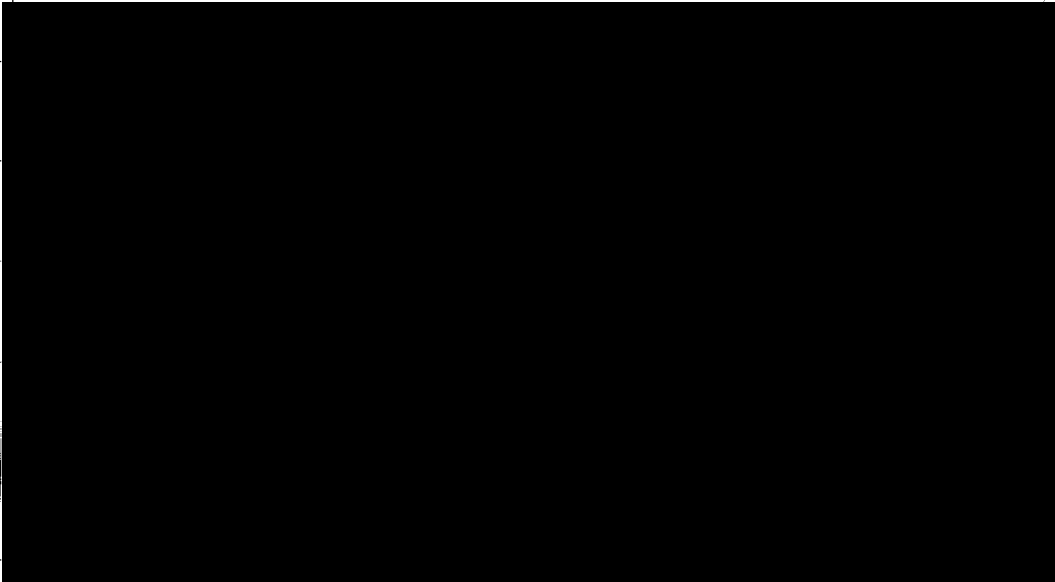
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Frank Perez	
Andrés Rincón & R	
Armando Ramos	
Louis Gonzalez	
RIVERA Jhio	
Jason Cruz	

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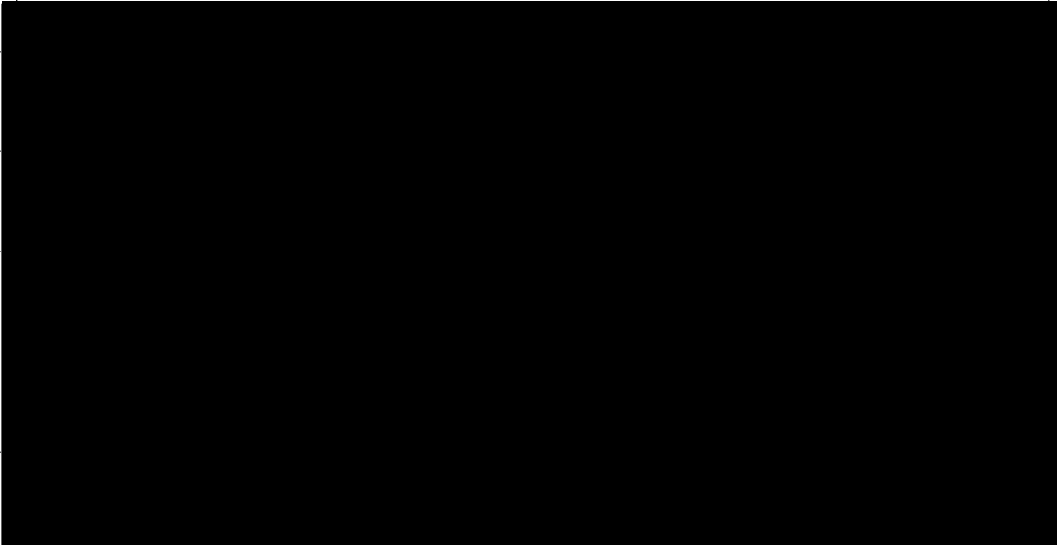
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Diane Negron	
TITO ALVAREZ	
Joseph Reis	
Saben Santiago	
Ilis P. Dominguez	
Jose Carrero	

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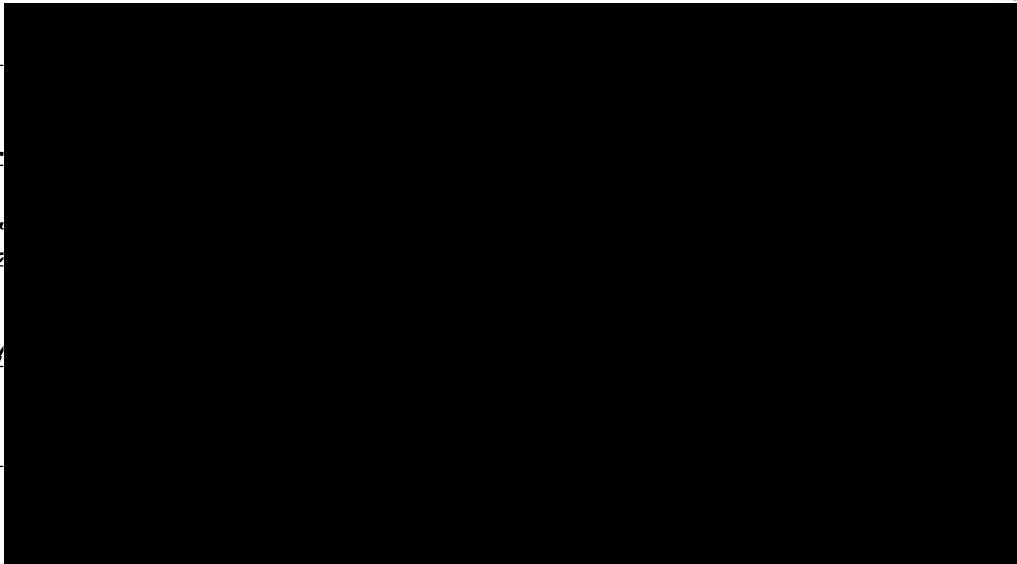
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
IRIS Roman	
Cindy PEREZ	
Lynche Martinez	
Wilfredo M. M...	
Nancy Gomez	
Ramon Flores	

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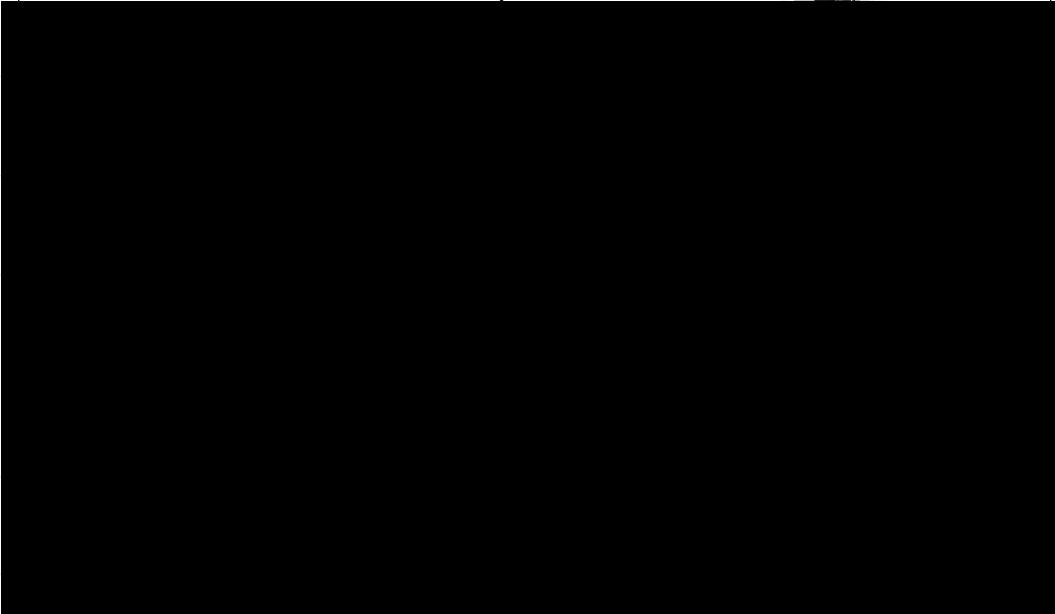
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
115 SYE TOBACCO PAPER INC	
MARGARITA RODRIGUEZ	
MARIA FELIZ	
Robert Santiago	
Maria Ortiz	
Ramon Bravo	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Aharon Cordo	
CAPPELLAN DEL GROCERY	
MIRIAM HERNANDEZ	
Felix Decler	
JOSE MEDINA	
AMANDO SANTOS	

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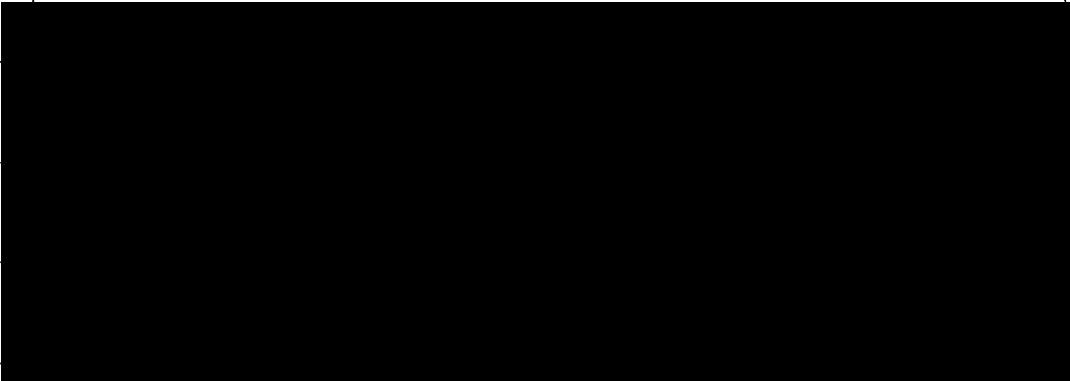
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Nilda Coaxum	
J. BARETT	
Johnny Rosado	
TOMMY ROME	
Milady Rivera	
Lisa Gallon	

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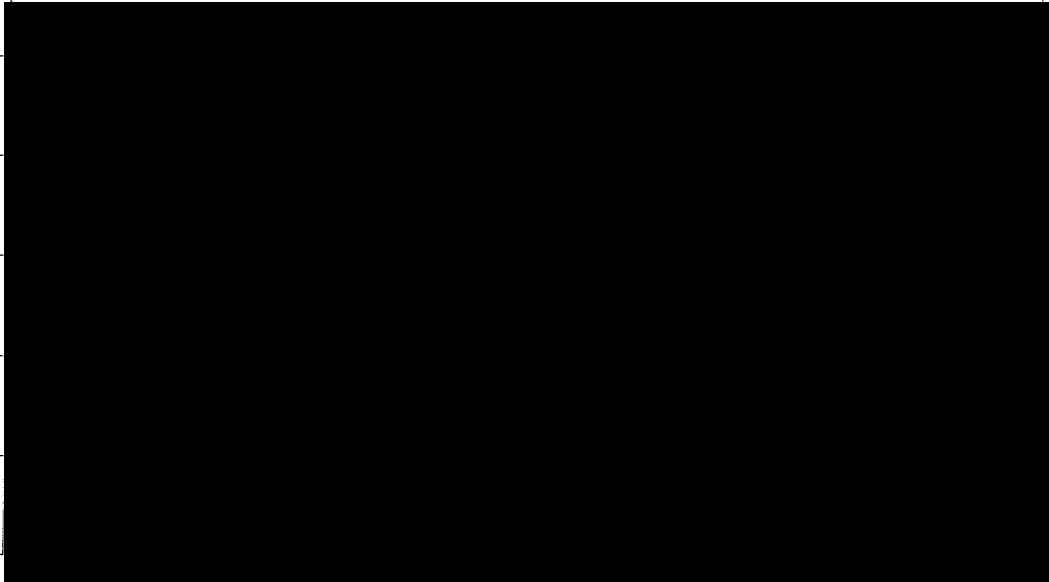
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
JOSE DONET	
SENON RIVERA	
JOHN CARRERO IV	
ERVIN A. SANOQUE <i>Longely</i>	

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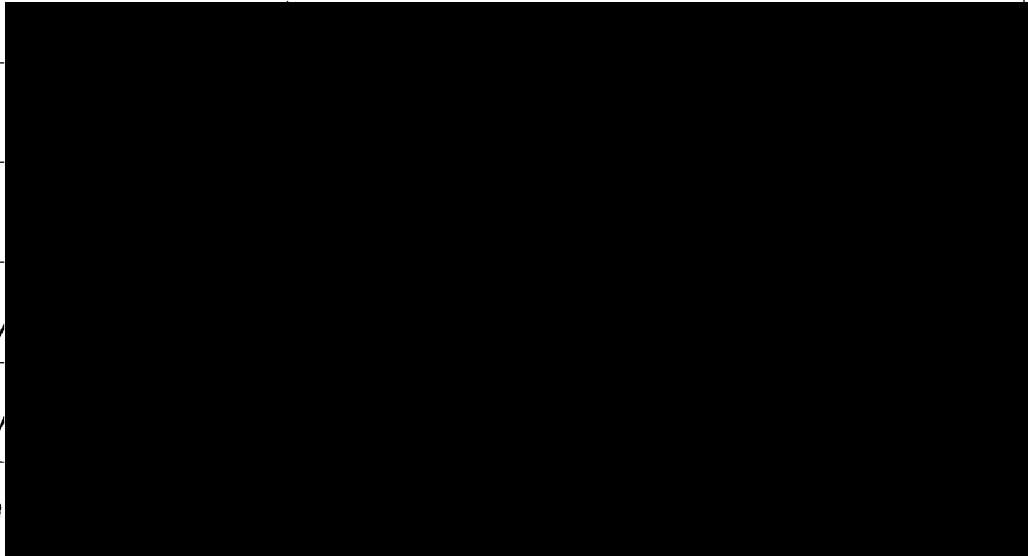
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
José Espada	
Joanna Espada	
Joselyn Espada	
Jose B. Espada	
Angel Vasquez	
Edwardo Martell	

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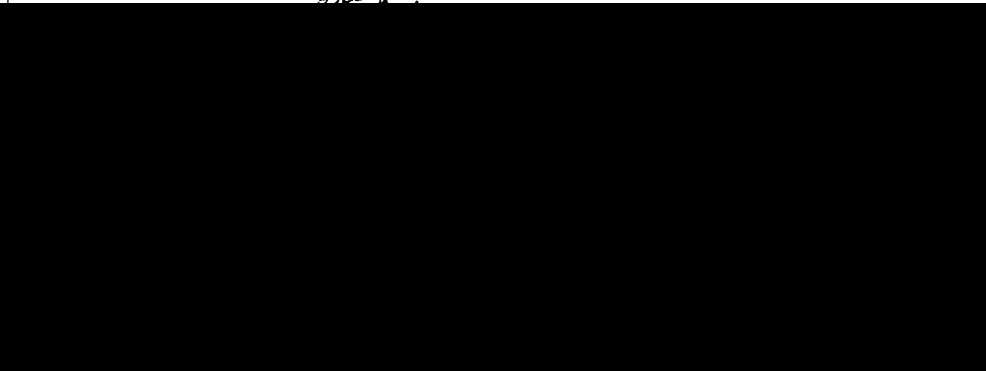
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Primitivo Ayala	
Rodrigo Díaz	
Livio Texidor Jr DR BARRY	
Raul Velez	
Raul Velez Jr	
Tracy Velez	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
MARCOS CEDIÑO	
ELBA BUNILLA	
IVAN COLÓN	
EDWIN MARCIAL	

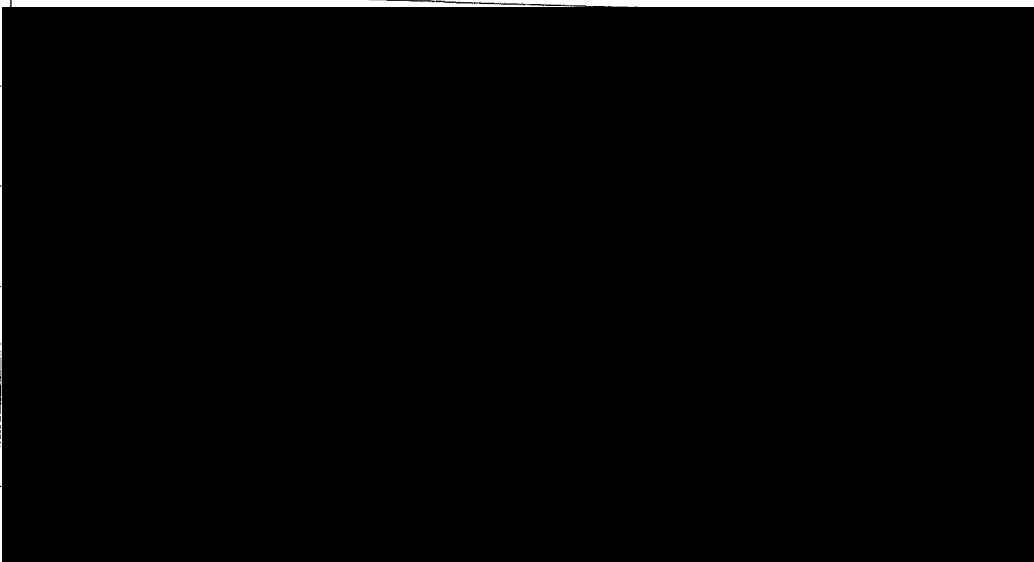
Teatro Moderno Puertorriqueño
181 E. 111 St.
New York, NY 10029

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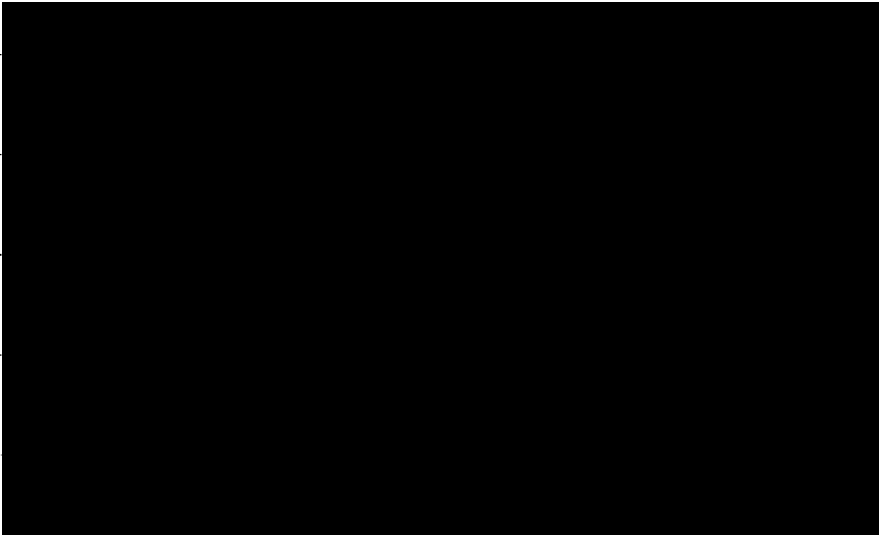
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
LORRAINE KNOX	
Mia BEL (C.V.M)	
Sonja Torres	
Angel P...	
SAMMY GONZALEZ	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Janet Santiago-Pexach	
Germelo Pexach	
José Hernandez	
Samuel Díaz	
David Funes	
Willie Ortiz	

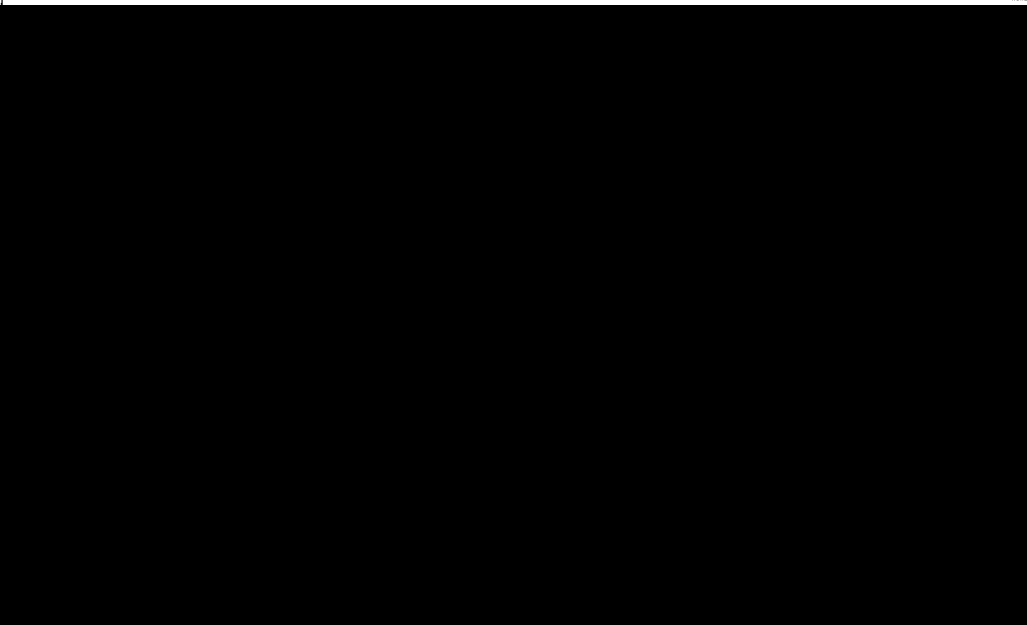
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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Shaylee Ramirez	
Julia Colón	
Miguel Rivera	
Phil Ruiz	
Carney Carrillo	
Tahan Hama	



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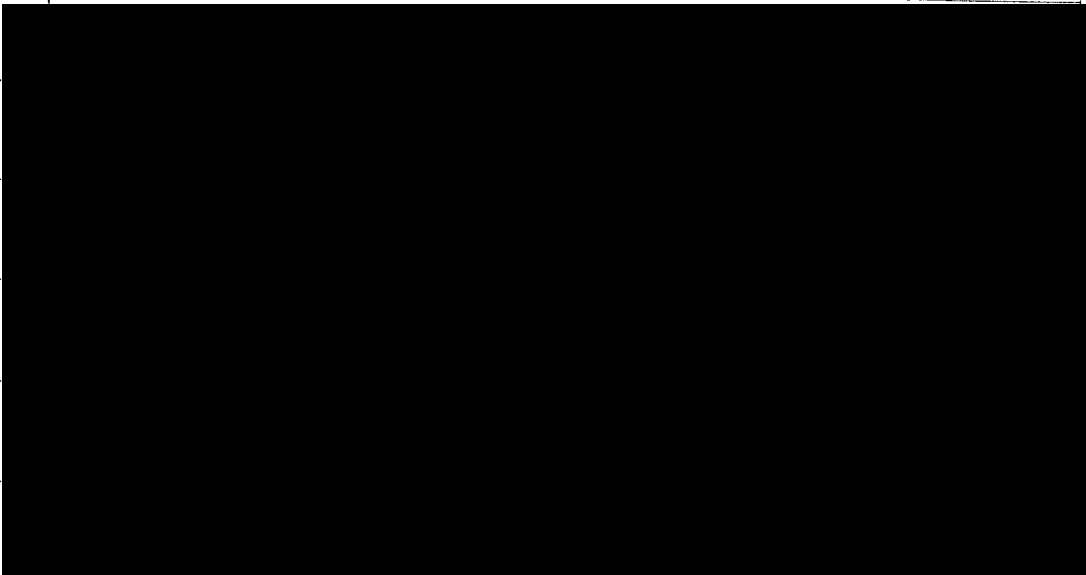
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
G. Garcia	
Ramon Cortijo	
Rodriguez, E	
Froy. W John	
Antonio Feliz	
Carmen Mateo	

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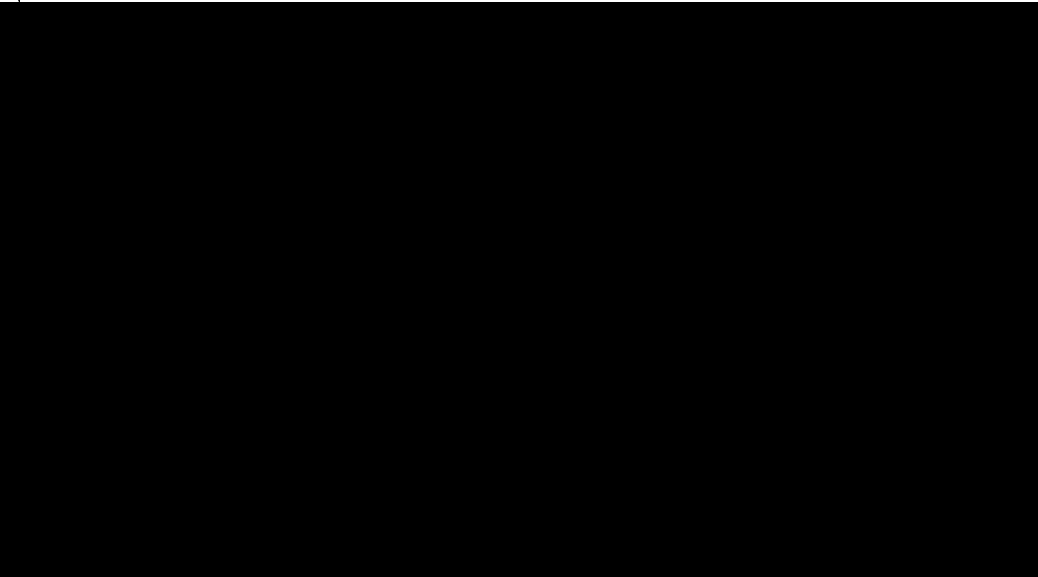
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Humberto Prieto	
Phil Otero	
José Ferrer	
Rafael M. M.	
Nelson A.	
John R.	

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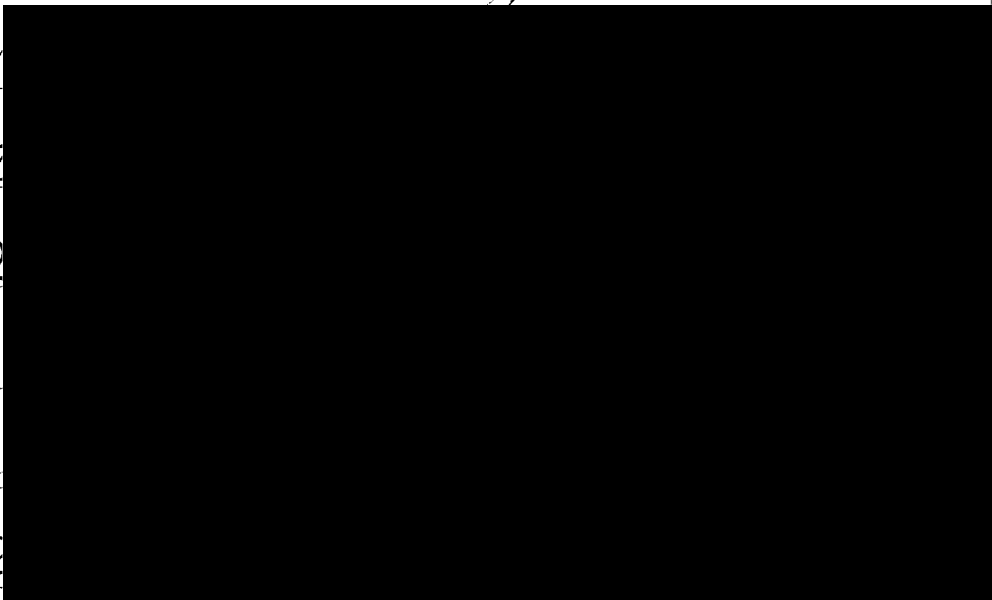
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Misael Palaza	
Santo Domingo	
Jeroni Reyes	
Benny Flores	
Yago Dantes	
Milagro Cital	

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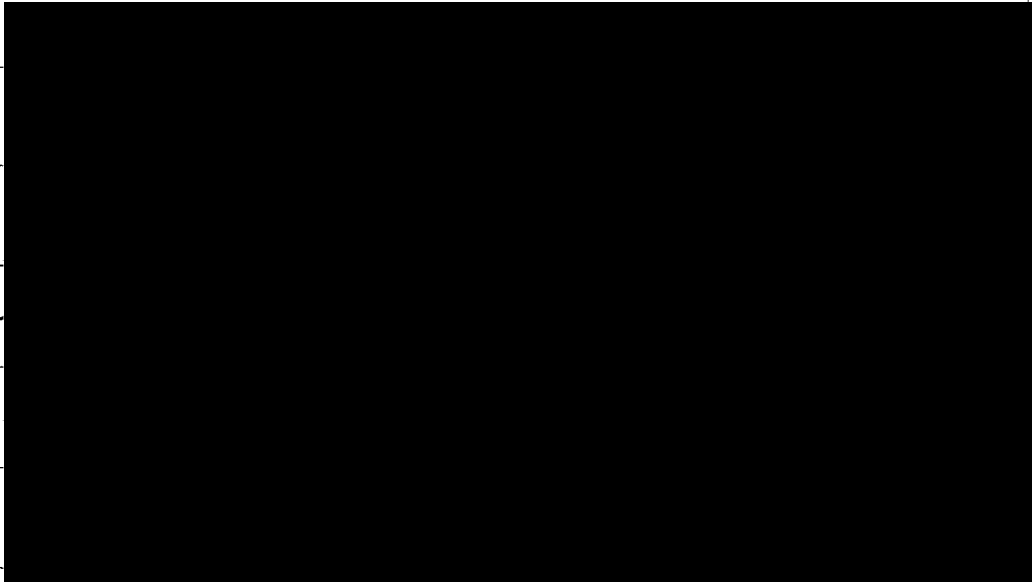
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Freddy Rivera / Freddy Rivera	
Luis Aguado	
Bernilda Velez	
Ana Guerrero	
Mami Rio	
Ana Morales	

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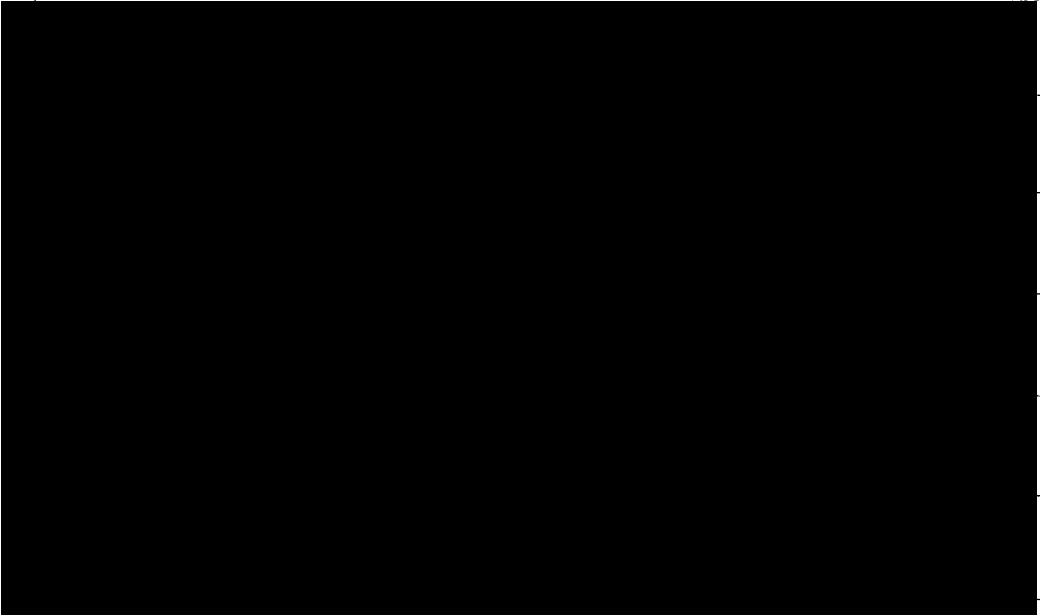
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
FRANCISCO LOPEZ	
JOSE DIAZ	
Heriberto Castro	
Roberto Perez	
Denise Ramon	
Millie Nieves	

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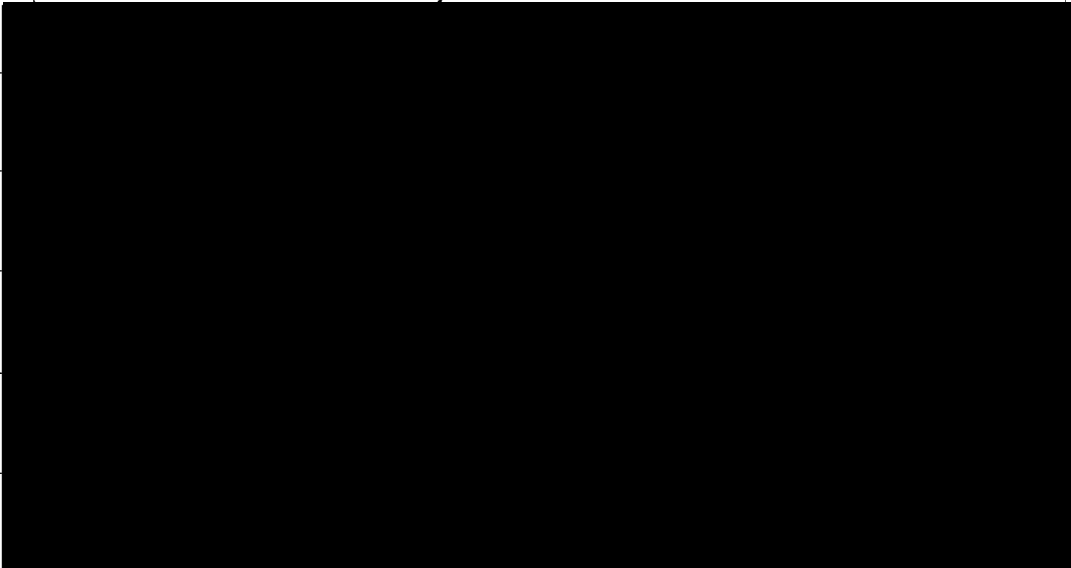
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Jesse Torres	
H. Aheem Stearn	
H. Rocha	
T. Johnson	
N. Cortes	
Janet Gonzalez	

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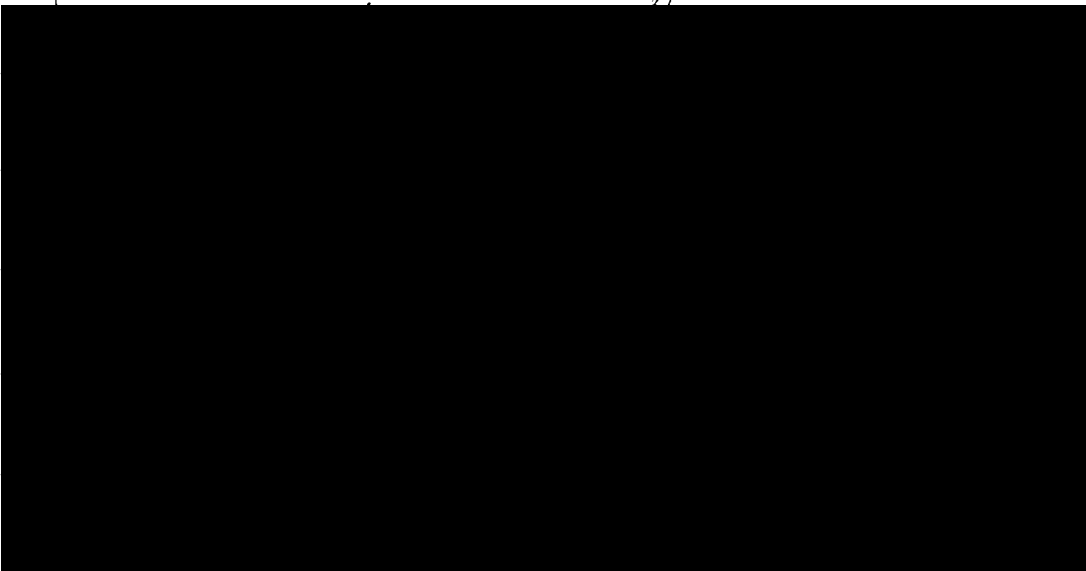
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Yisela Ayala	
Isabel Gonzales	
Nelson Gonzales	
Carmen Perez	
Jaguar Chubb	
Duke S. L.	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Carmen Castro	
SUSIE HICAGO	
SWANN STURDY	
Prudencia Cortez	
Maria Figueroa	
Luz D Estrada	

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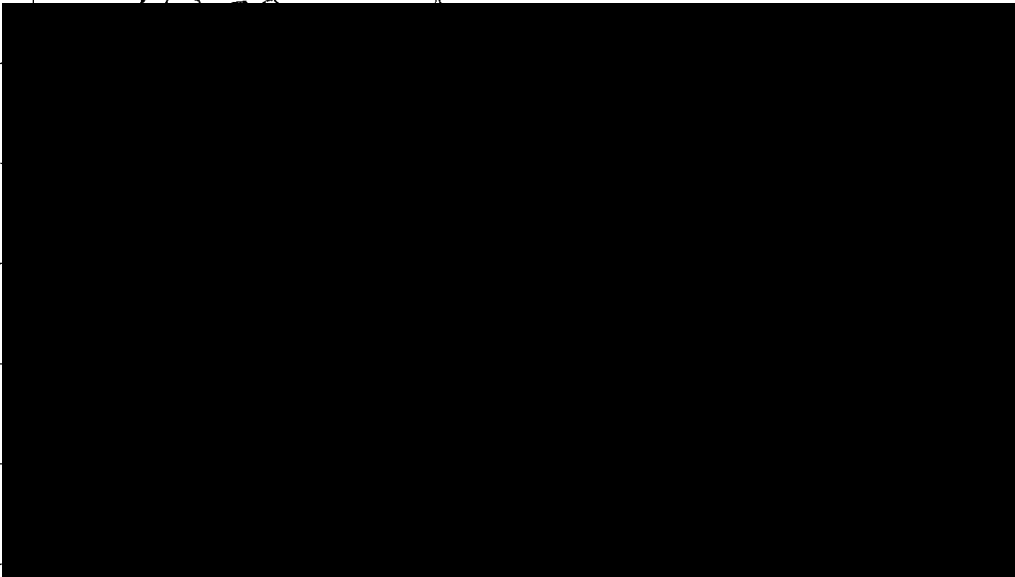
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Lainie Mangione	
Vivian Rodriguez	
RONALD PALACIOS	
Carlos Figueroa	
CARMEN FIGUEROA	
Magaret J. Day	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Marta Klat	
Heide Beaumont	
Delbrag Ramos	
Jolanda Viz	
Denise Valdez	
Maria Ortiz	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Luis Valdivia	
Brent Dill	
Christina Garcia	
Wendy Melancon	
Randy Melancon	
Randy Rodriguez	

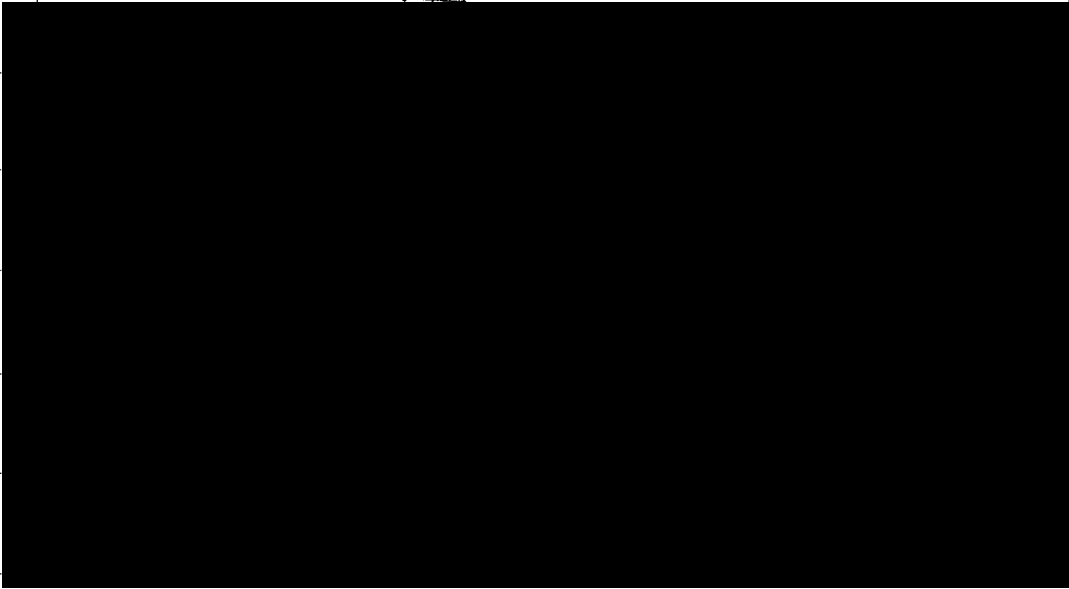
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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Rosellina	
Ether Almeida	
Dres Cruz	
Victor Cortes	
KAREN VALENTINE	
Nicole King	

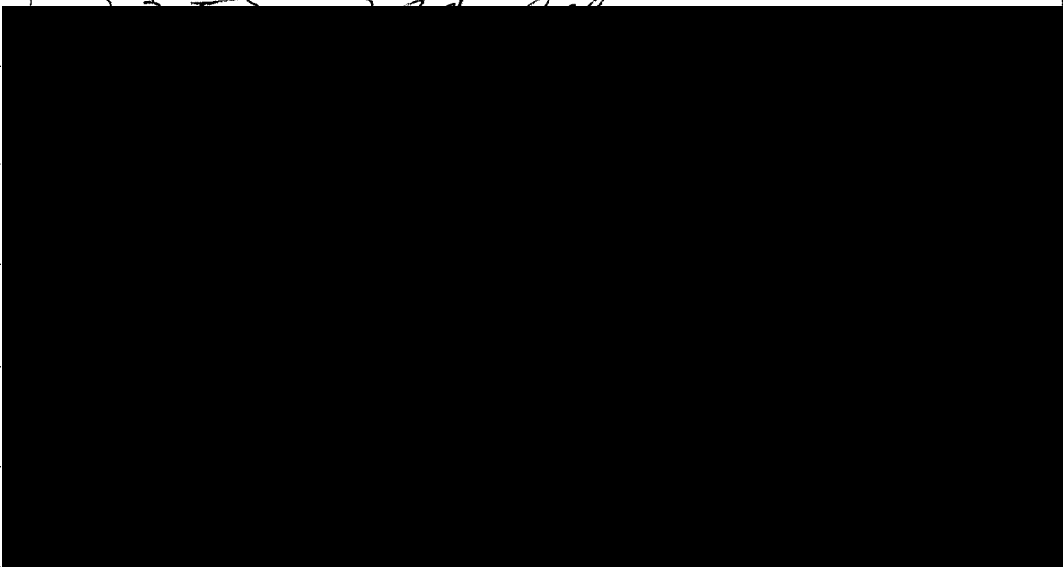
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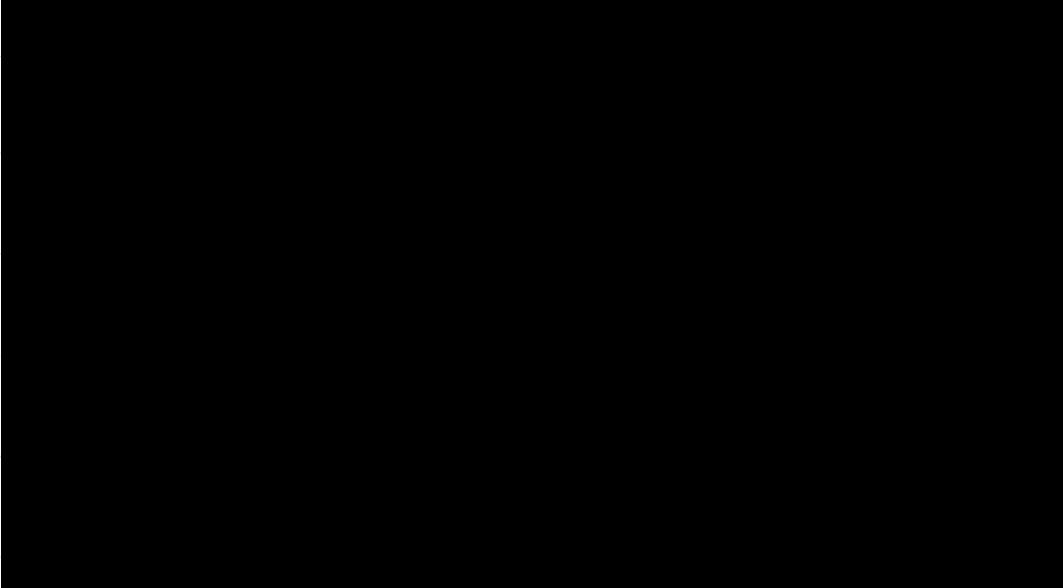
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Francisco Torres	
Luis Peña	
Geno Velasco	
Raul Rodriguez	
DIANA DELGADO	
Luis Lopez	

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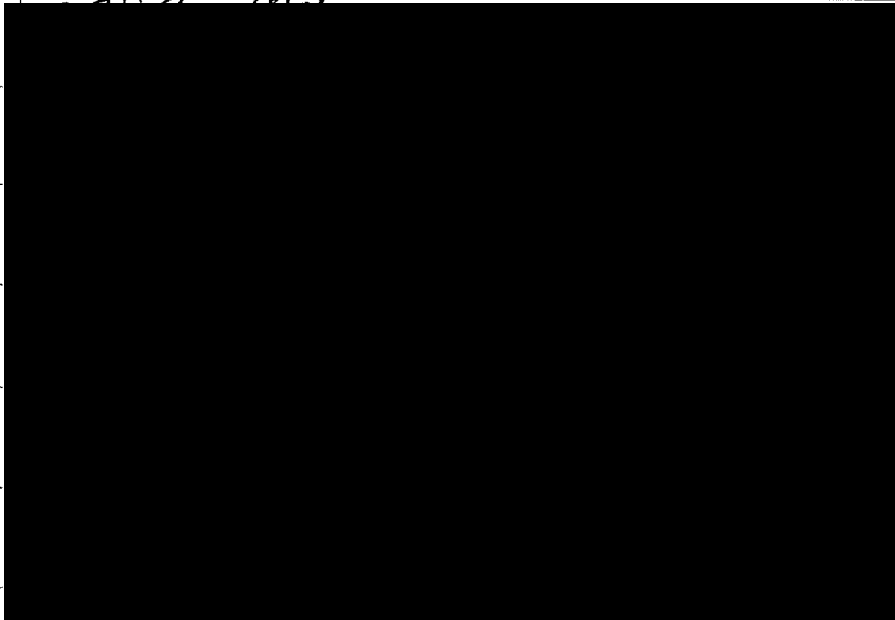
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Francisco Castiglia	
Wanda Vazquez	
Melida Zapata	
John Vargas	
Nora Hernández	
Choufete Amador	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Betsy Berrios	
Jeannette BERRIOS	
Richard BERRIOS	
Jaime Valentin	
Samie Hughes	
Rafaela Brown	



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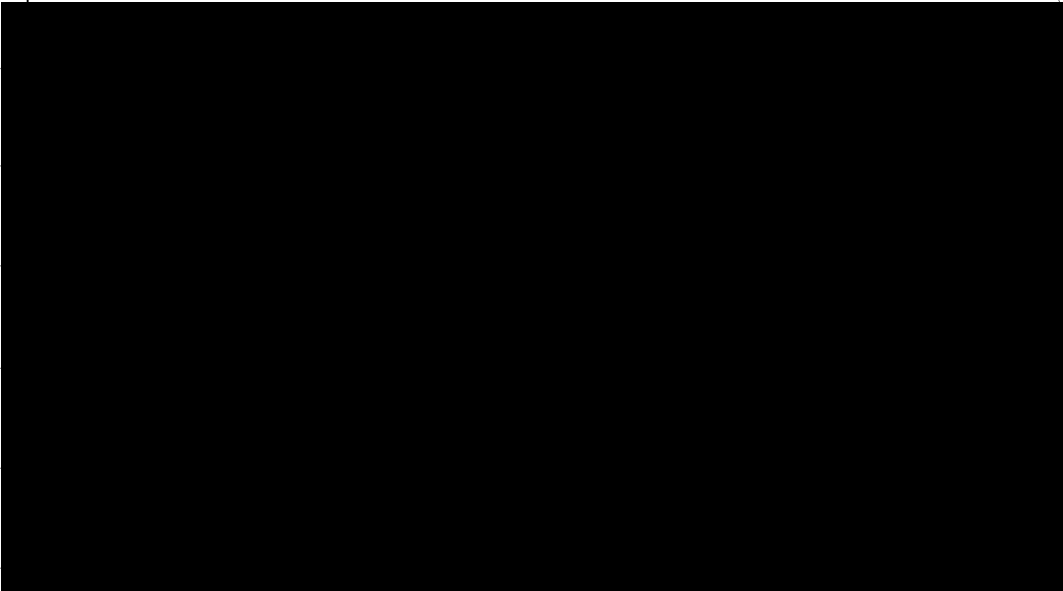
Figure 1. The effect of the number of trials on the number of correct responses. The number of correct responses was plotted against the number of trials for each condition. The number of correct responses increased with the number of trials for all conditions. The number of correct responses was highest for the condition with the highest number of trials (10 trials) and lowest for the condition with the lowest number of trials (2 trials).

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
SAM ONE	
Blanco	
Yorline Santana	
Rosa German	
Leticia Castro	
Bladys medina	

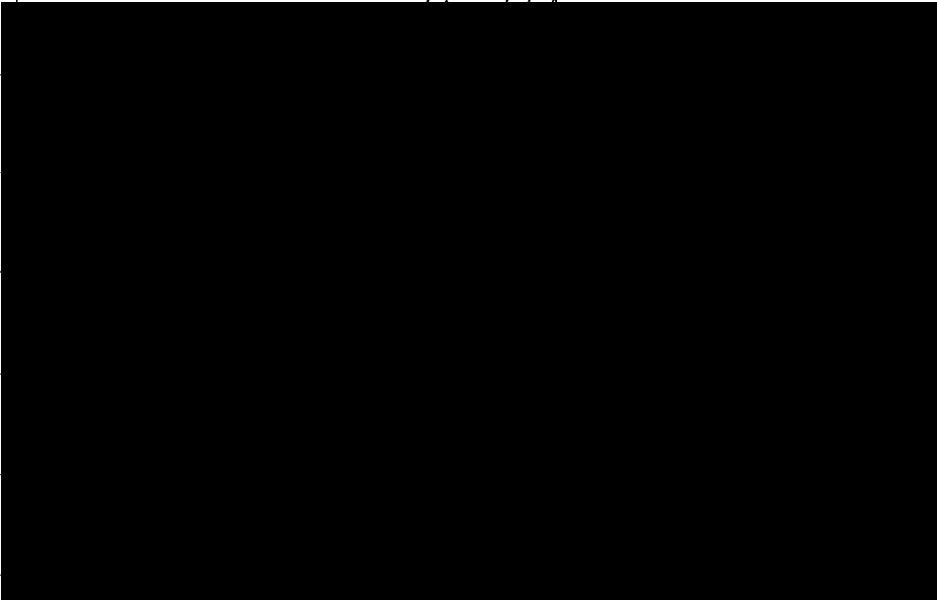


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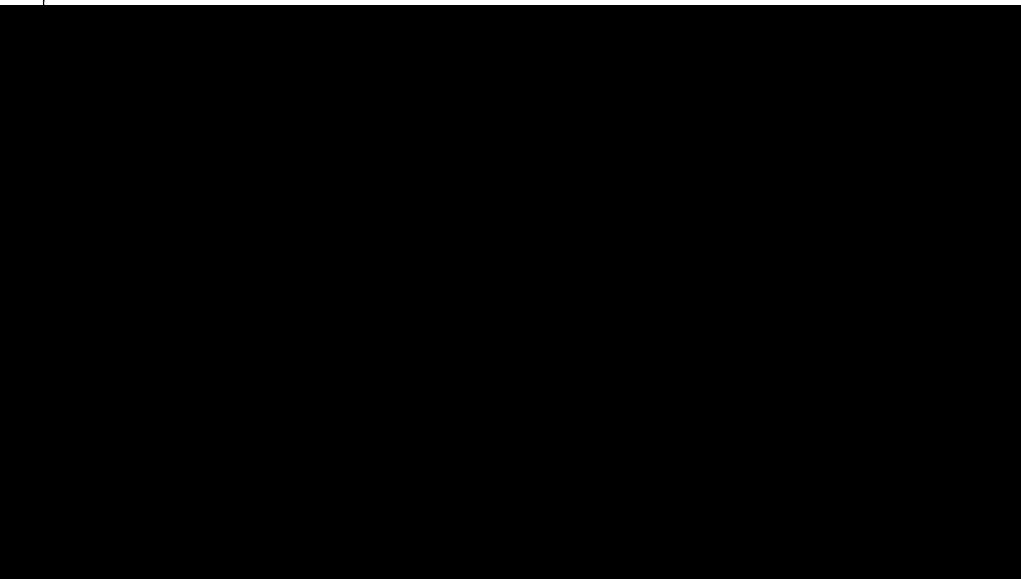
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Hiro Mendez	
Alexandro Mendez	
Alexandro Mendez	
Eleanor Rivera	
Belen Mendez	
Ramona Ortiz	

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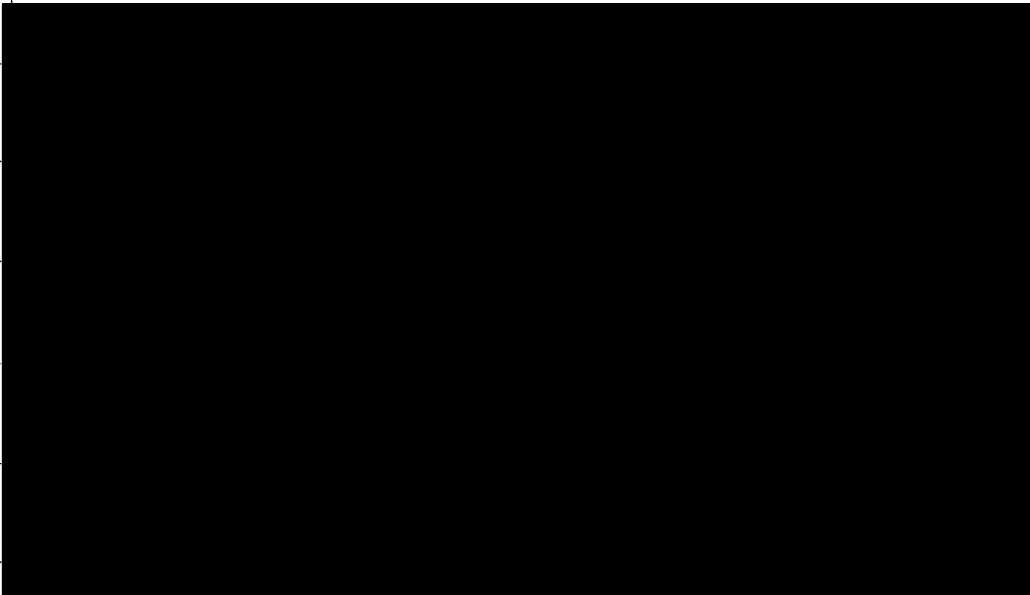
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Adrian Cull	
Jose Marquez	
Miguel Roman	
Joseph Defesent	
Nancy Gray	
Kristina Medina	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Christian Velaz	
Francisco Martinez	
Alfred Harris	
Rosey Manfey	
Ligia Jones	
Mon Jones	

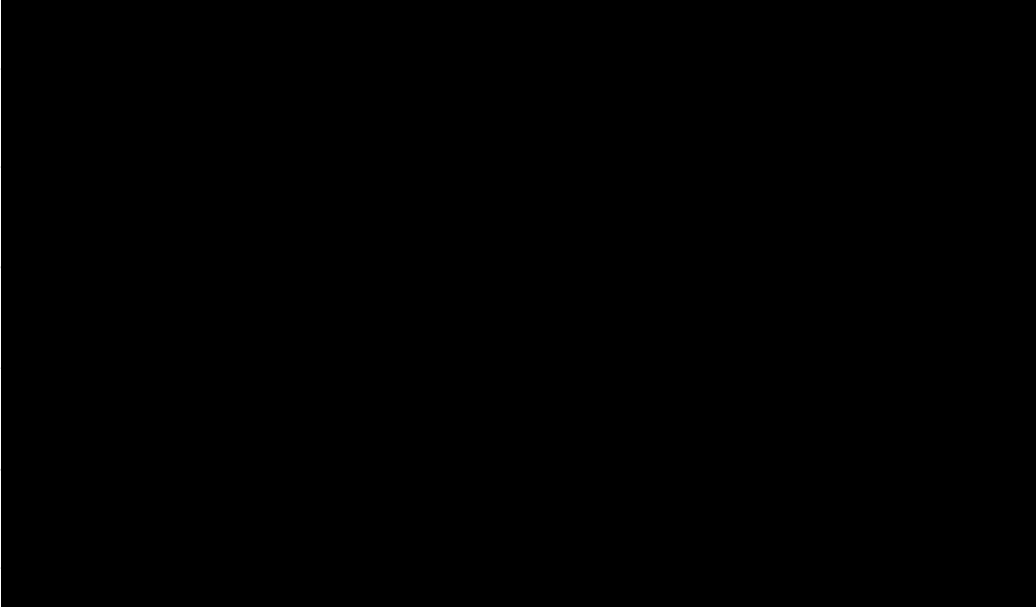
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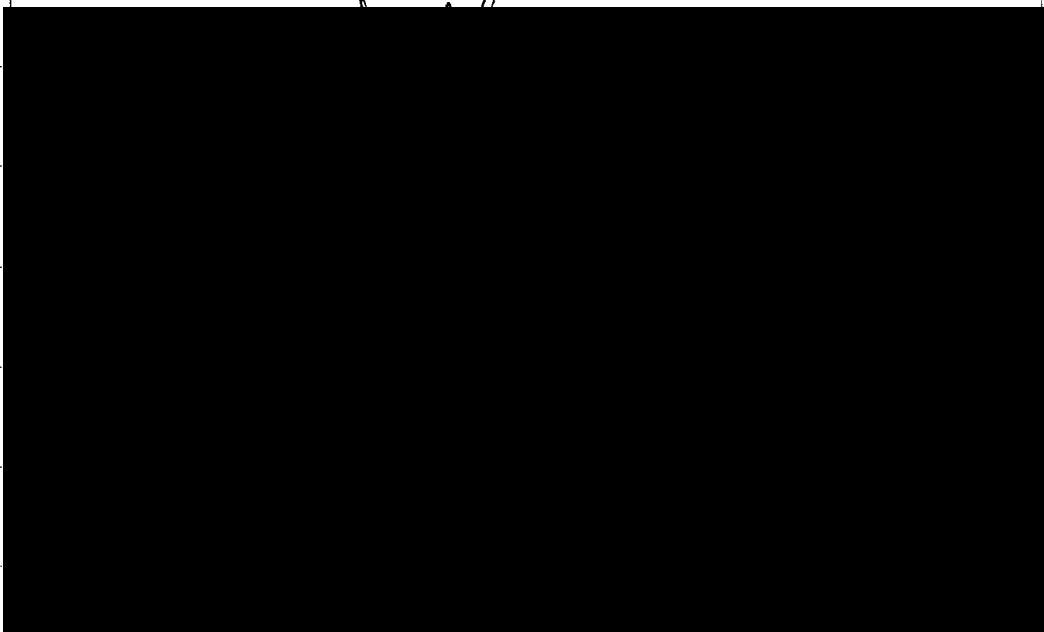
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
ERNEST GARVEY	
Ada Moreno	
Sophia Smith	
Millie Valentin	
Janet Burgos	
Sandra Colon	

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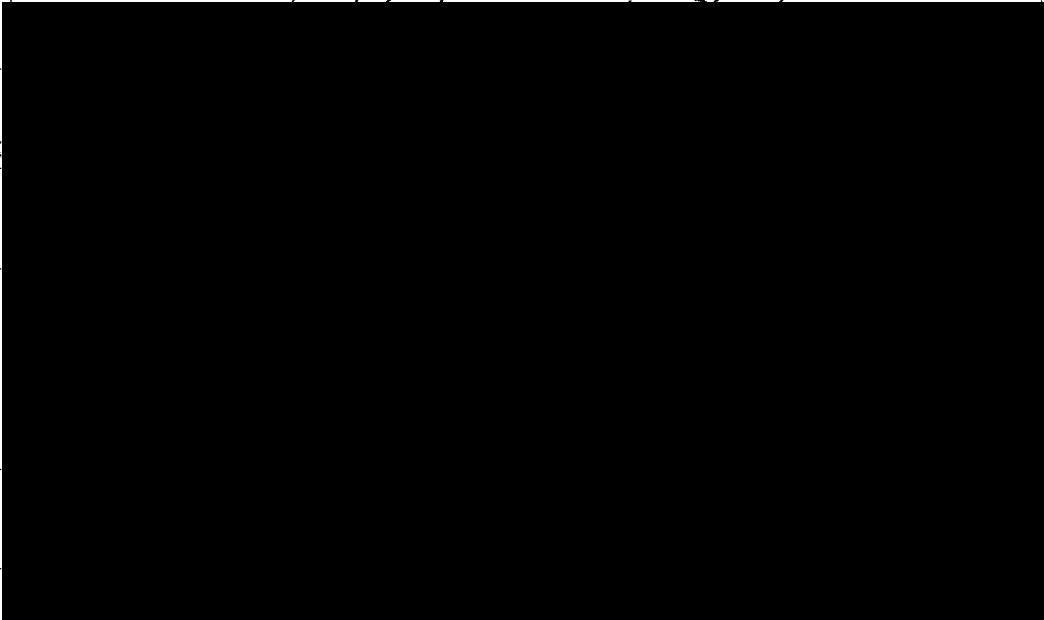
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
C. O. Rivera	
William Hernandez	
Ramon R. Arriaga	
Lydia Guzman	
Carlos Canabarro	
Jenny Marte	

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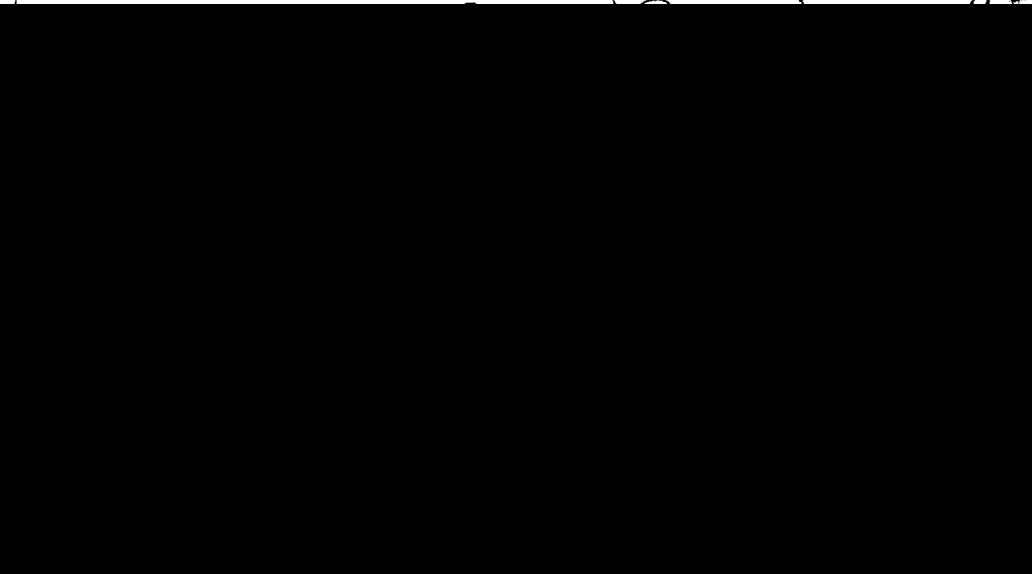
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
EDETTE VELAZ	
Dorothy Cizcuaga	
MARIA RODRIGUEZ	
Emilio Cruz	
Magaly Mayano	
Marta Naguib	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Lucia Rosell	
WILFREDO Pagan	
Juana Santana	
El Moorish Tainos Aborigina	
Taino & [REDACTED] X	
Clifford Tarver	
Maria [REDACTED]	

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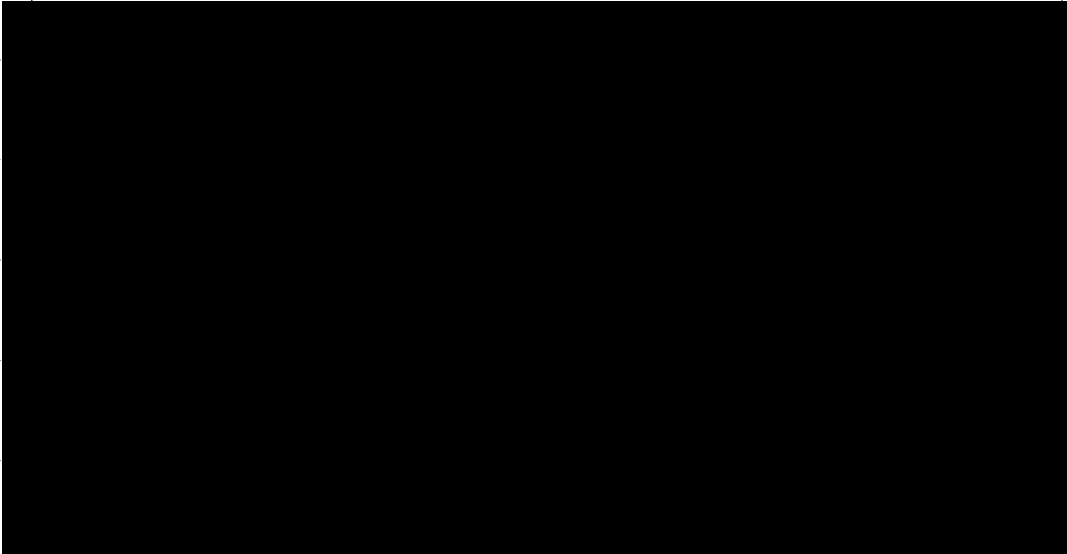
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
M. Roumain	400 W. 43 rd St. #50 NYC 10036
Lee Hansake Vanison	711 Amsterdam Ave. #4E NY 10025
Dolores Vanison - Berhuly	711 Amsterdam Ave. #4E N.Y. 10025
Joseph Torres	550 West 125 th Apt 12C New York NY 10027
Dolores Clark	35 E. 106 th St NY 10029
Judy Clark	2130 FIRST AVE NYC-NY

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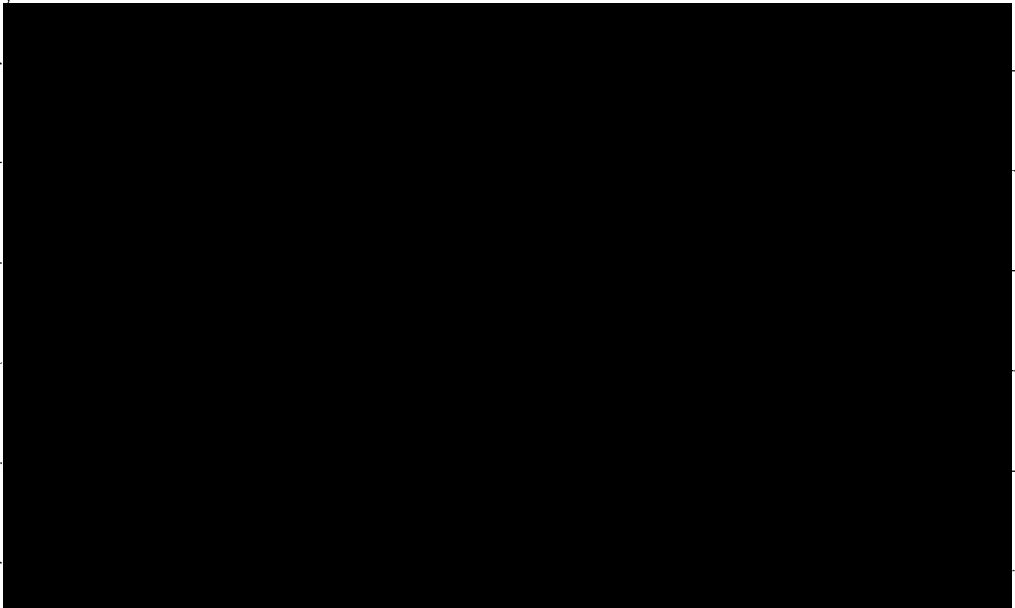
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Charlene Morales	
Eileen Burgos	
Evelyn Melendez	
Jim. Ojeda	
Gloria Benitez	
Jose L. Melendez	

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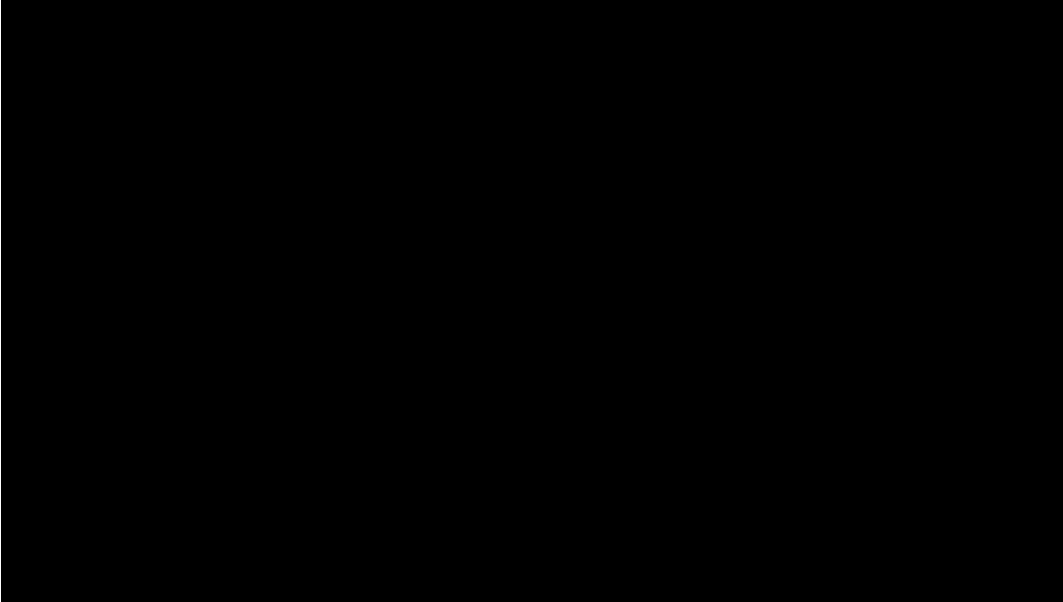
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Rubio Juan Ortiz	
Gloria Ascencio	
Norma Leon	
Felicitas Morales	
Levita T. SALES	
WILFREDO GONZALEZ	

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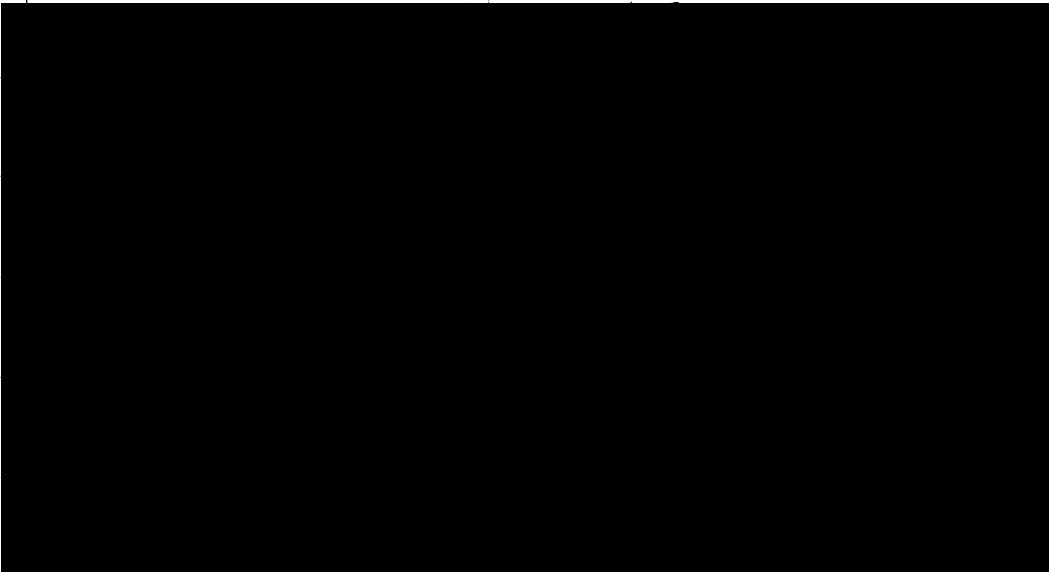
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Anzel Martinez	
Chick Martinez	
Shun-yan Chen	
Maria Benitez	
Rubia Bunces	
Daisy Peralta	

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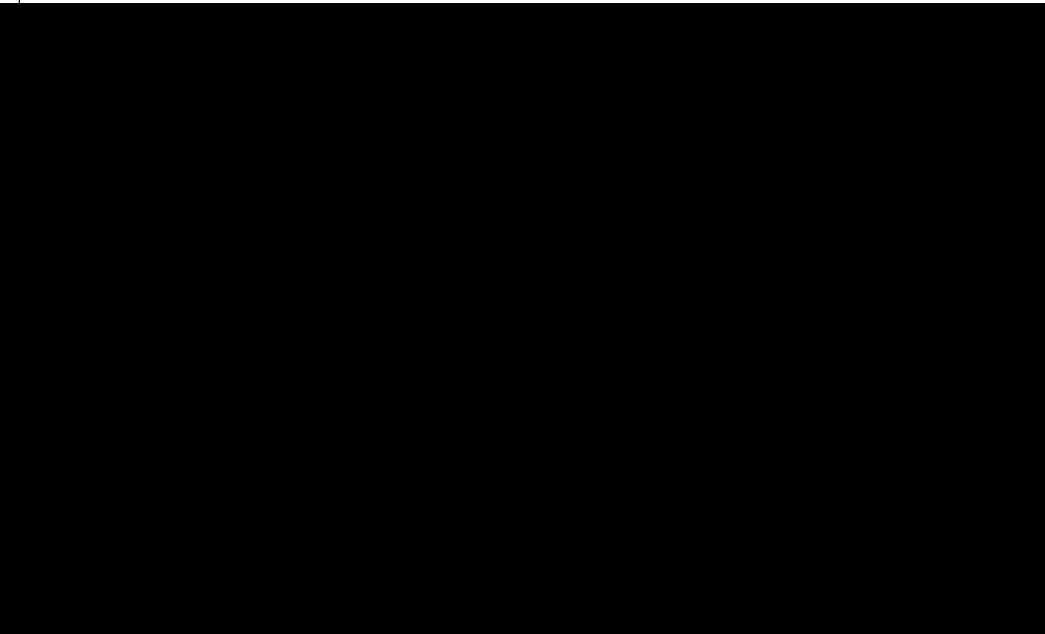
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Alida Luna	
Rosin Dazs	
Nathalie Pagan	
Carmen Valverde	
Angelique Escarot	
Julie Colon	

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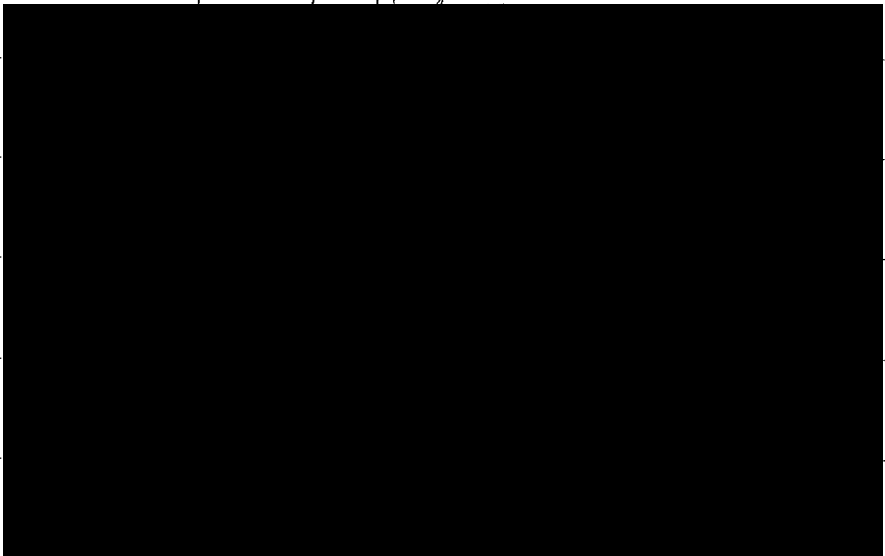
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Manuel Lopez</i>	
<i>Marcelino Fernandez</i>	
<i>Nicolos Rosario</i>	
<i>Mylena Roscio</i>	
<i>Doris Rodriguez</i>	
<i>Gregorio Silva</i>	

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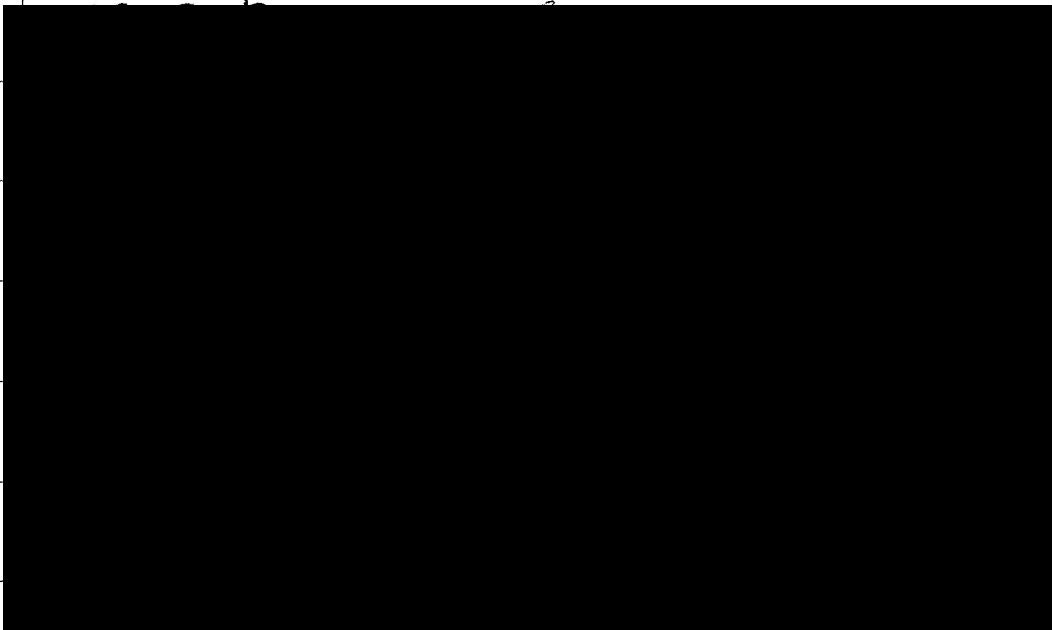
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Ismael Martin	
BENJAMIN FRASQUERI	
CARLOS RIVERA	
ANGEL L. QUILES	
Miguel Rosario	
Torres	

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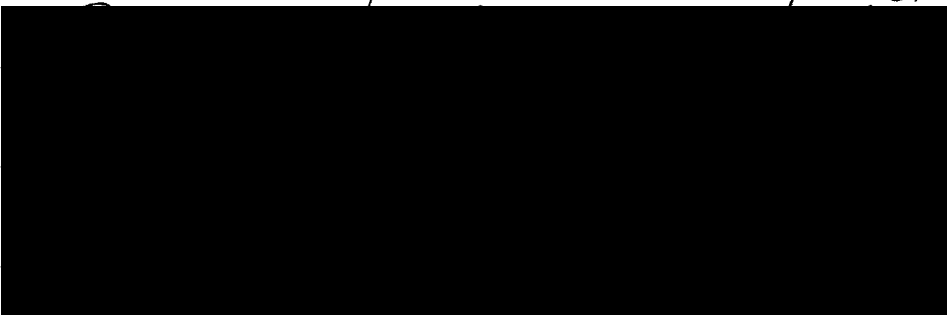
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Rena Castro</i>	
<i>Maria Lopez</i>	
<i>Antonio Diaz</i>	
<i>Maria Feliciano</i>	
<i>Martha Nieves</i>	
<i>Fredeswenda Velazquez</i>	

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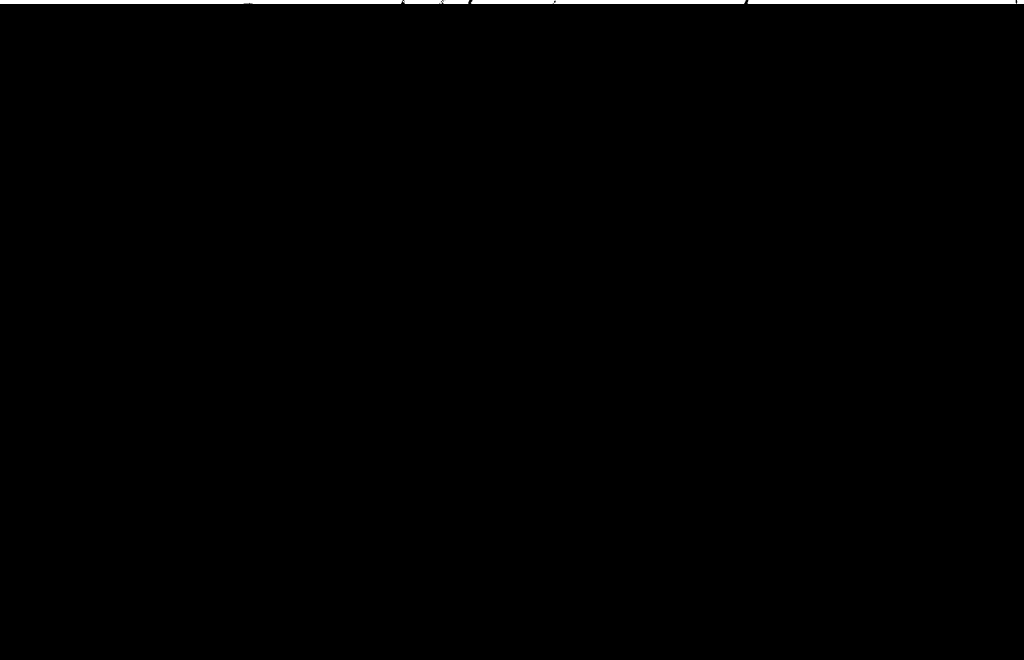
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Jose & Dolores Celestin Castro	 1031
ISMAEL RODRIGUEZ	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
MARTA VARGAS KLUWEZ	
DAVID RODRIGUEZ	
Pedro Bedroza	
Luis Estrada	
Adalberto	
Munoz	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Charlia Murray	
Roberto Cruz	

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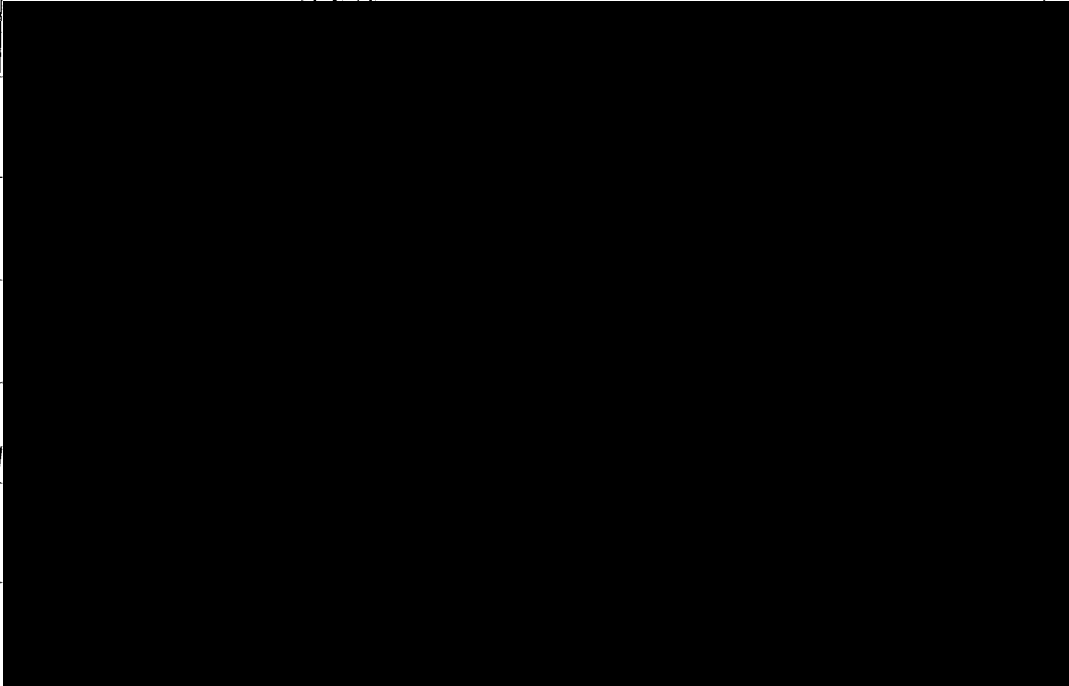
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Leslie M. Zelcer	
Wanda Addison	
Judy Woodman	
Ana Lopez 35	
Graciela Pardo 11 F	
Charles Bobb	

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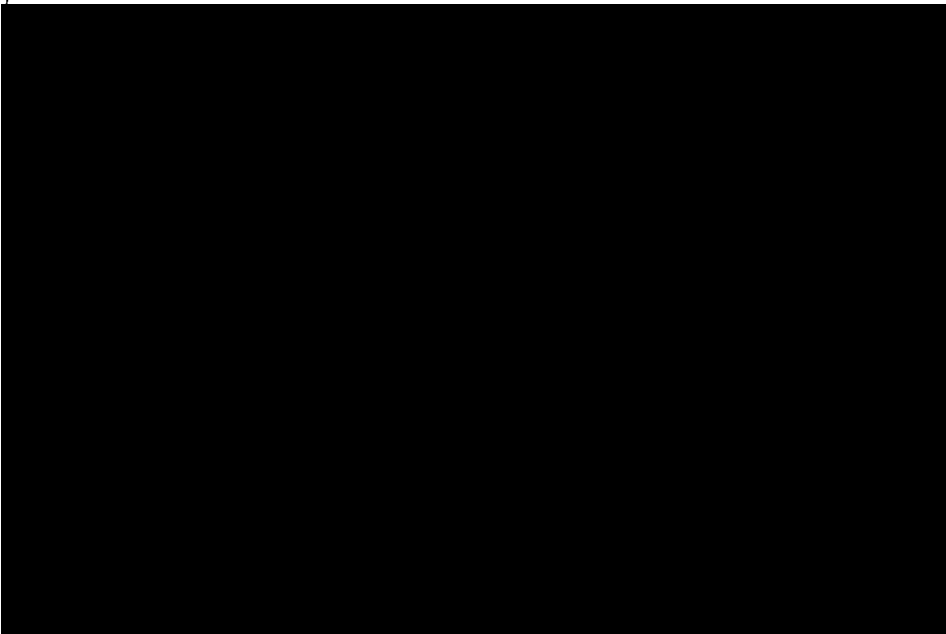
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Beetha Virginia Desbano	
Ms Deloris Lowe	
Rita Wright	
Reina Padilla	
Burt Owsley	
Constance Farcibene	

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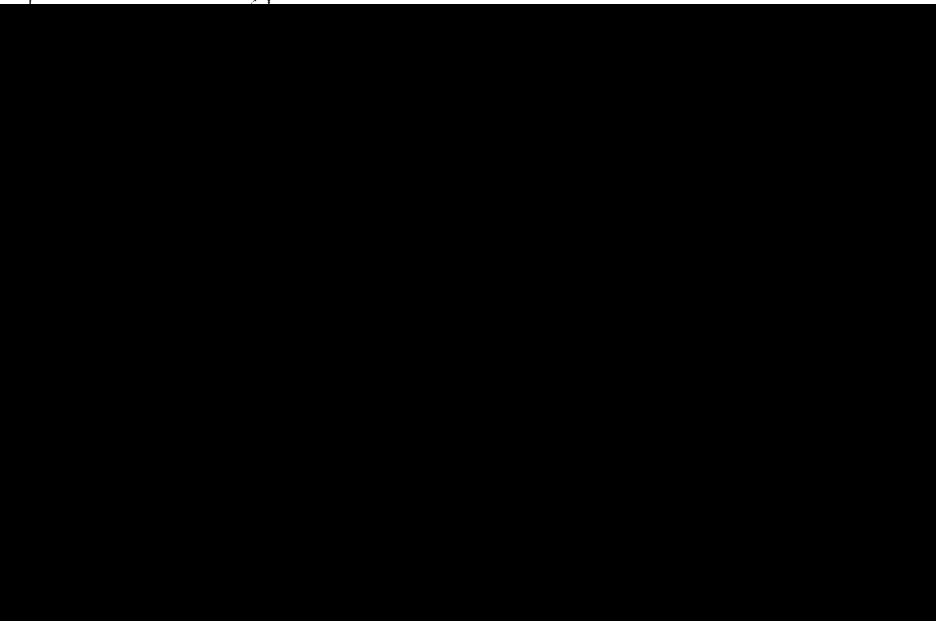
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Jorge Ben</i>	
<i>Miris Cabral</i>	
<i>Cathan Kumar</i>	
<i>Virginia Jones</i>	
<i>Yung Pator</i>	
<i>Laurence Colbert</i>	

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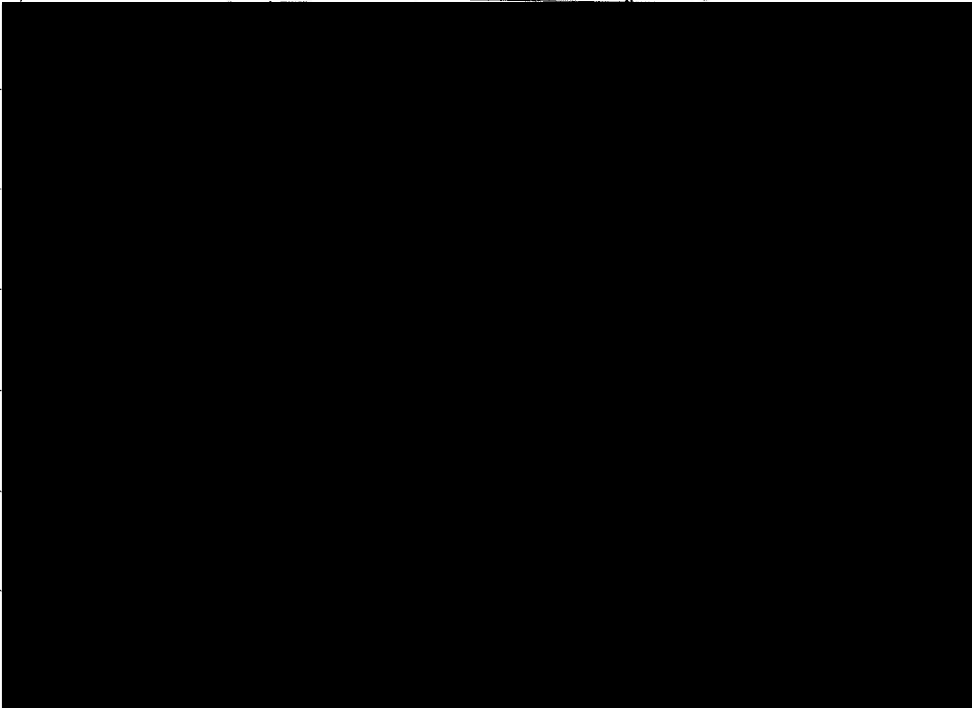
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Eulogio Matena	
Carmen Canion	
Julio De Jesus	
Lina Cruzado	
Melanie Tate	
Elaine Minor	

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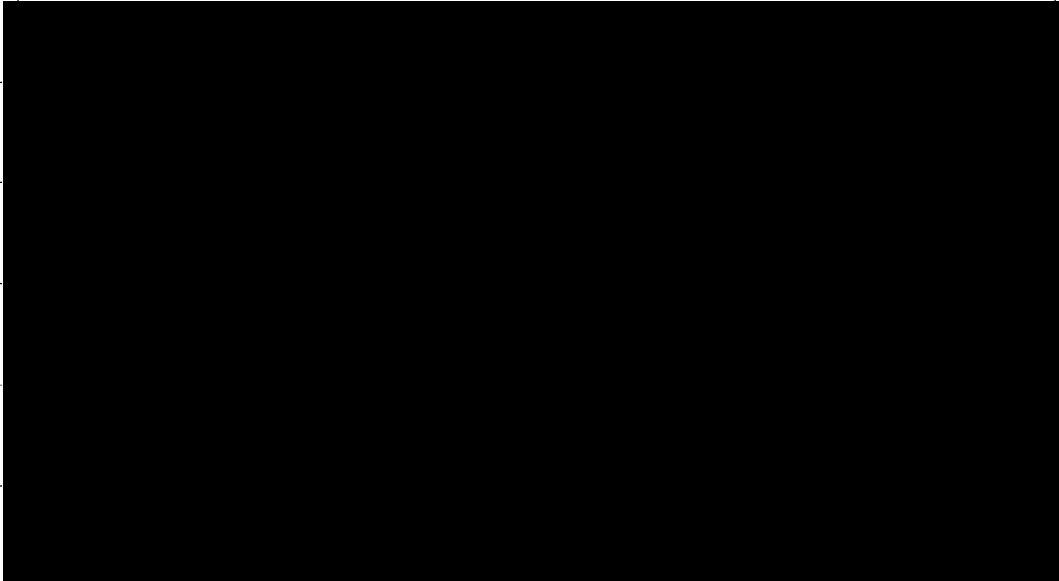
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Federico Garcia	
Barbara Bledsoe	
Brian Johnson	
Bo Qing Jian	
Lizzy Tsien	
LAU W CHAI	
TSIEN Ting Ting	

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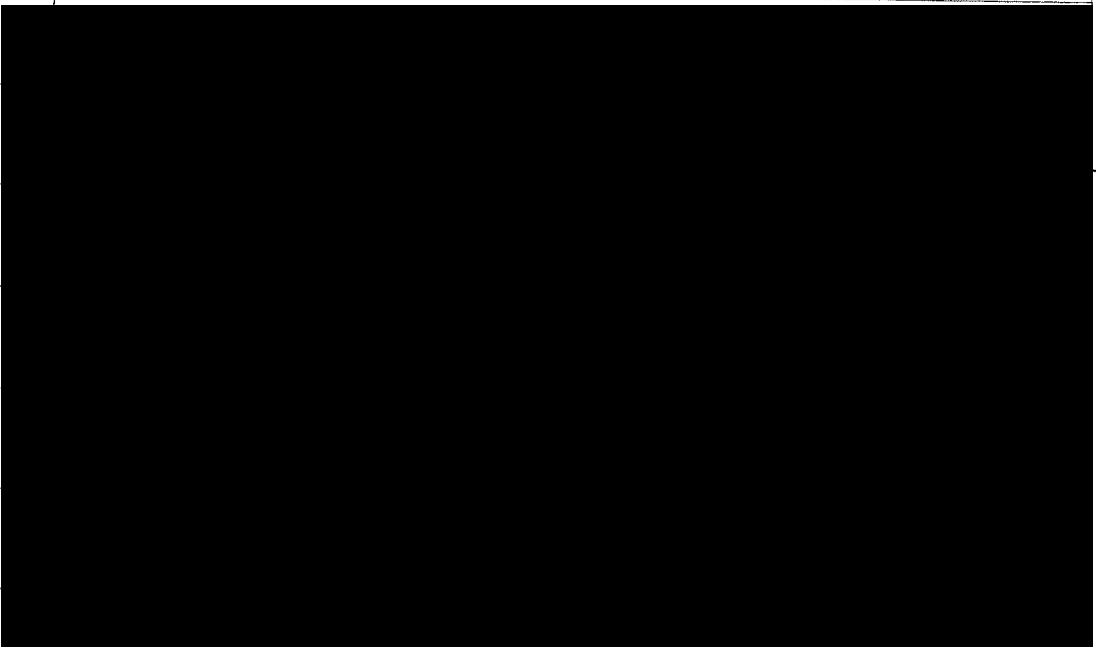
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Roberto Ruiz	
Vincent Favarro 1980 Alton	
Carlos Torres	
Josefina Montañez	
Luz Nieves	
Mauricio Baeluena	

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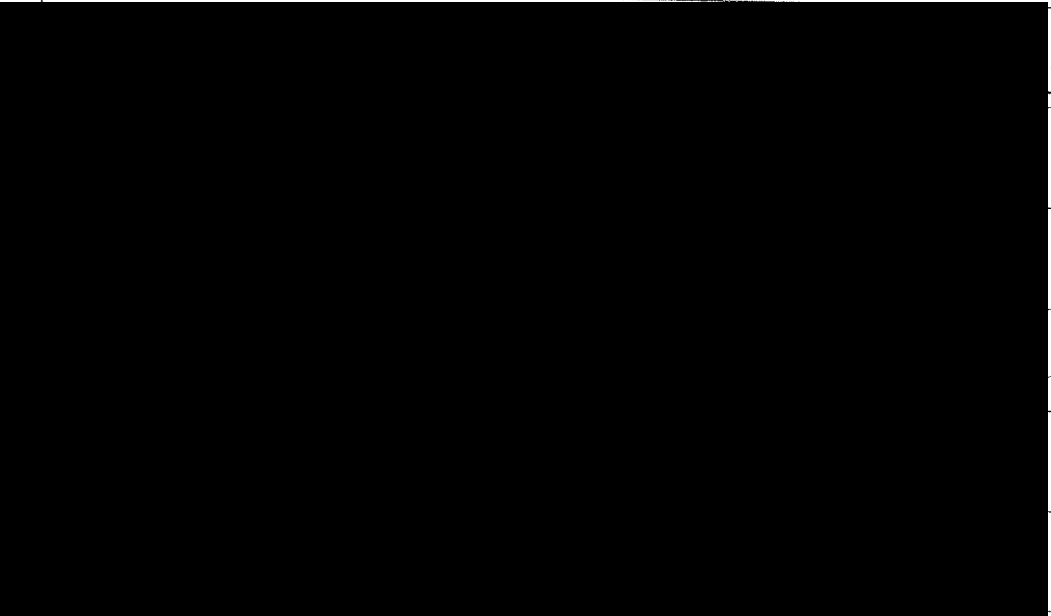
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Noreen Filkens</i> HELEN FILKENS	
<i>Noreen Stoute (Mrs.)</i>	
<i>Juan Sepeda</i>	
<i>Ramon Rosario</i>	
<i>Theresa WATKINS</i>	
<i>Janette Jones</i>	

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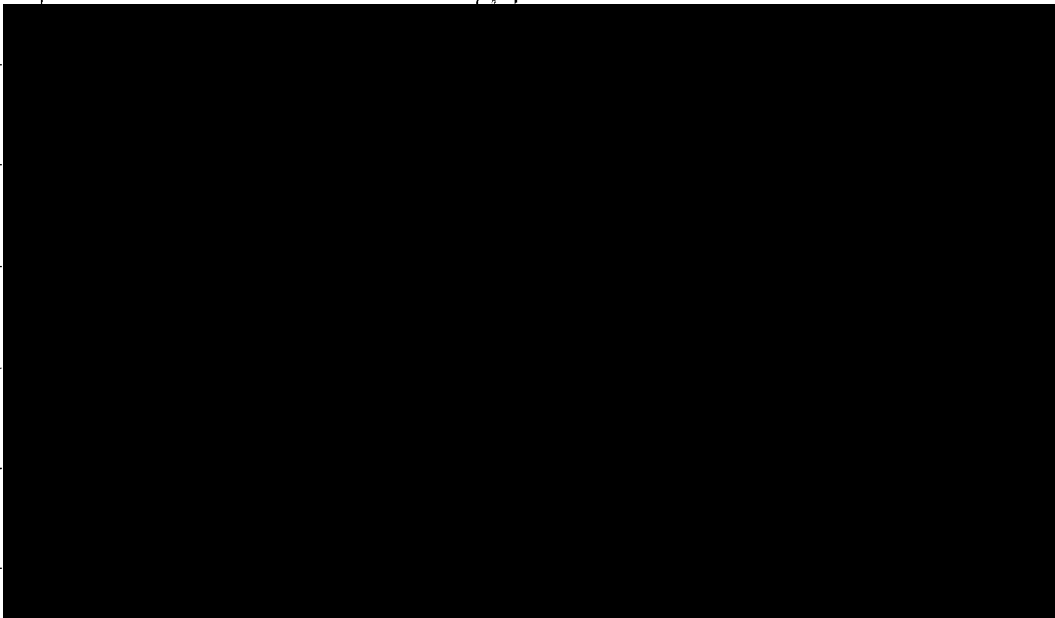
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Maria Rivera 74	
Aria Luiza Zeloya 7 N	
BOYD P. DAVIS	
Carolyn Webb	
William Webb	
Teodoro Besarez 4 L	

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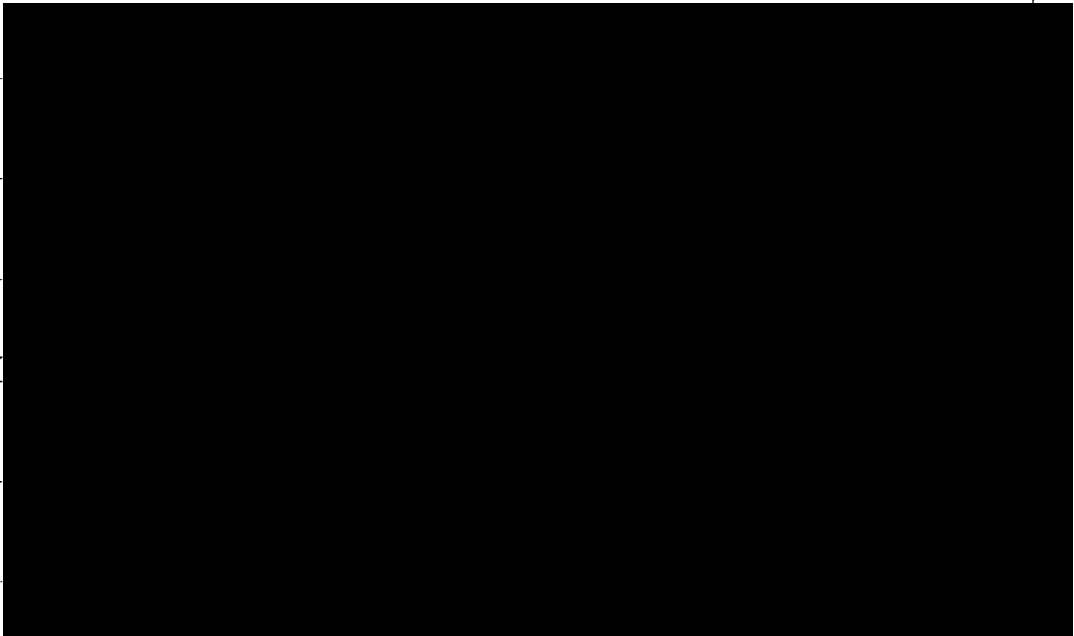
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Robert D. HIGARD	
Frehuot Gameda 11T	
Lakoté Selcey Apt. 10A	
Josefita Maldonado	
Henry Mallett	
HORV KANFLI	

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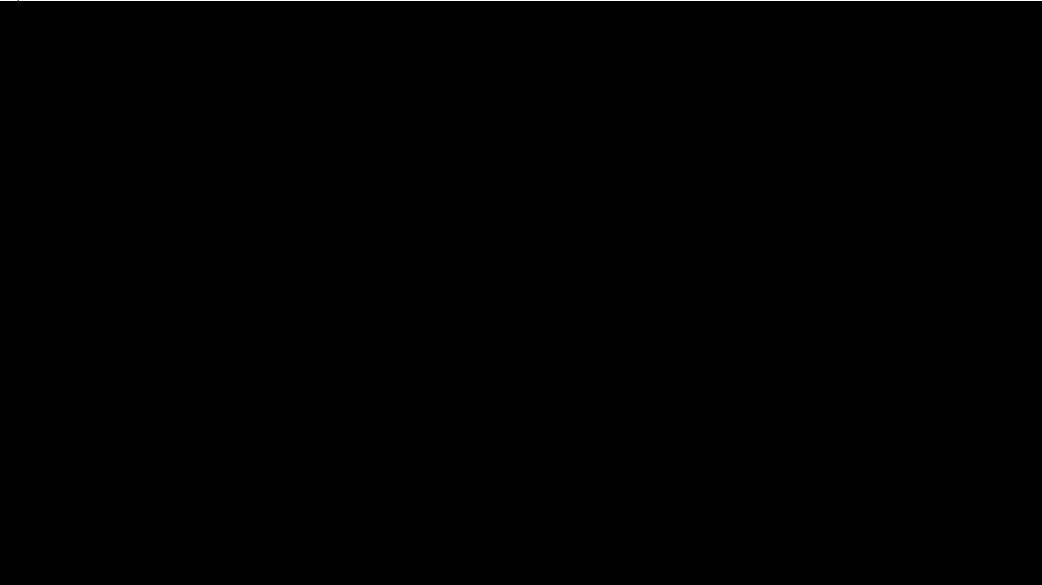
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Herbert Thomas	
Iris Cotton	
Mahara Alucato	
Anna Joseph	
Mary Williams	
Shima Hernandez	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
TSIEN Tif Ting	
Rosa E Colon	
José María Martínez	
Josefita Maldonado	
Beatriz Díaz	
San Los Livia	

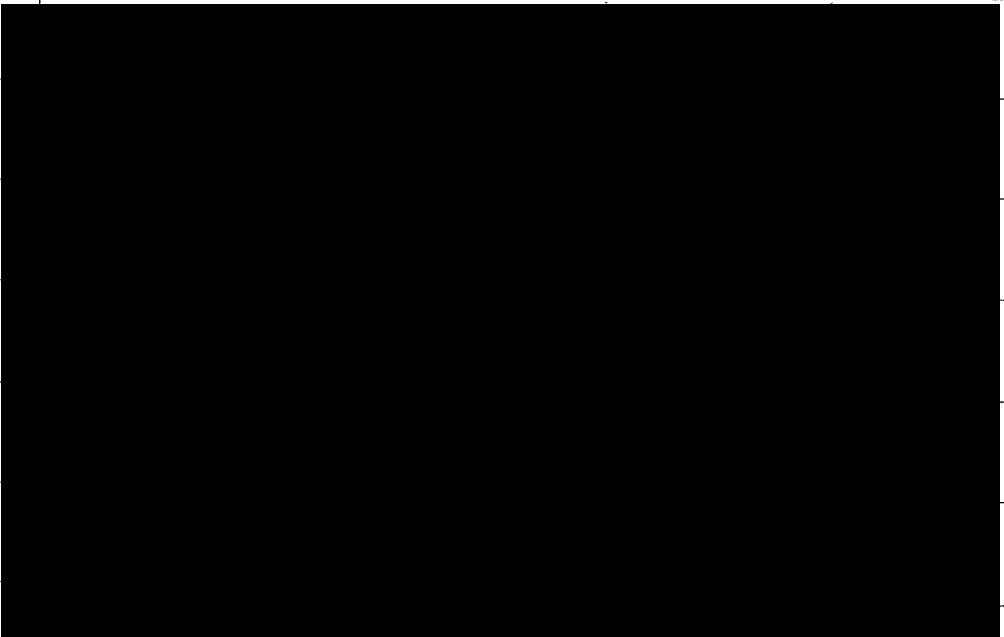
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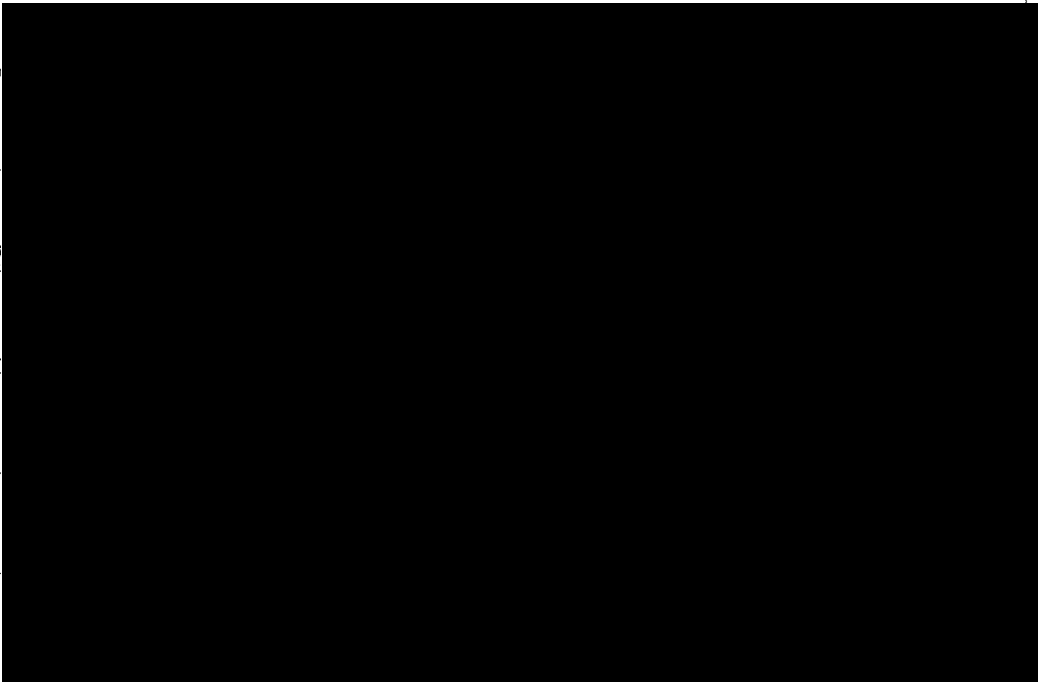
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
ARTHUR T. JAMES	
FRANKIE YOUNG	
DOMINGO DIAZ	
José Sanchez	
Hugo Merino	
Louise L. Elgado	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
EDITH M. WHITE	
Glenn Perez	
Rosa M. Gonzalez	
Maria Pineda	
Attagracia Perez	
Felicio Perez	

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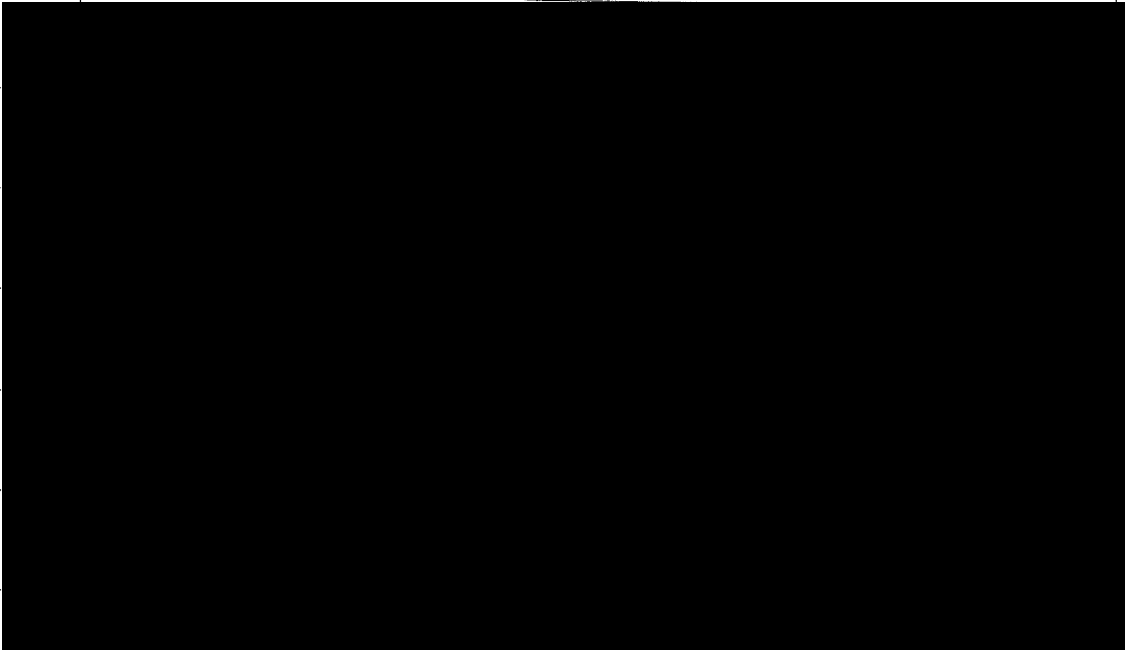
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Edelir Taylor</i>	
<i>Tomas Cabrera</i>	
<i>Harold Benhardt</i>	
<i>Francisco Lucas</i>	
<i>Francisco Becerra</i>	
<i>A. Victoria Hunter</i>	
<i>Benito de Jesus</i>	

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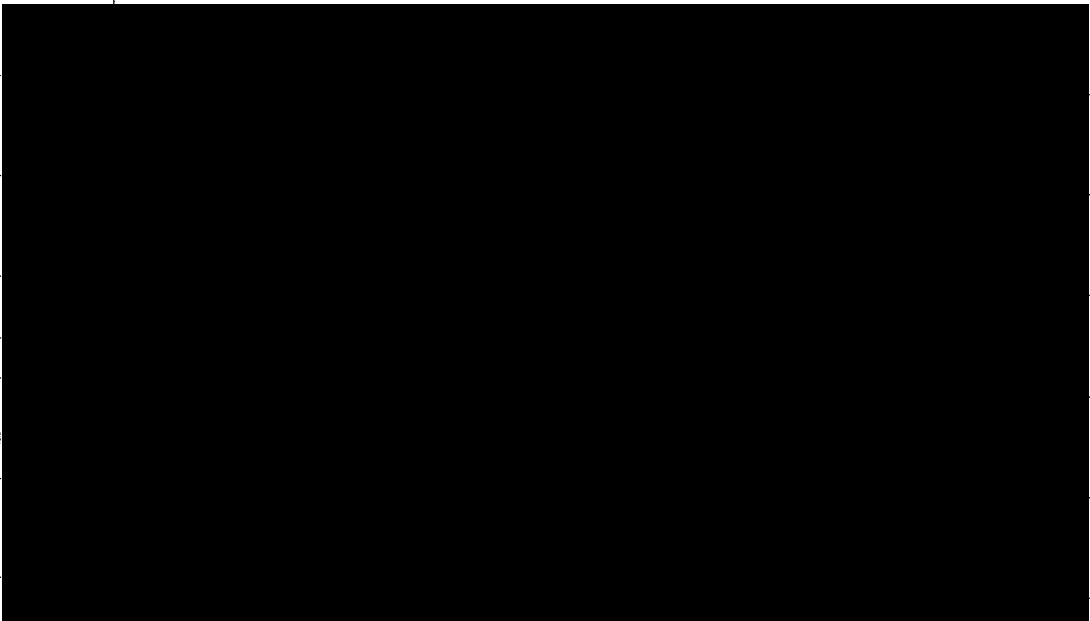
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Eladio Rivera	
D. Scuri	
G. Rivera	
V.M. Agall	
Felix Caban	
M. Ortiz	

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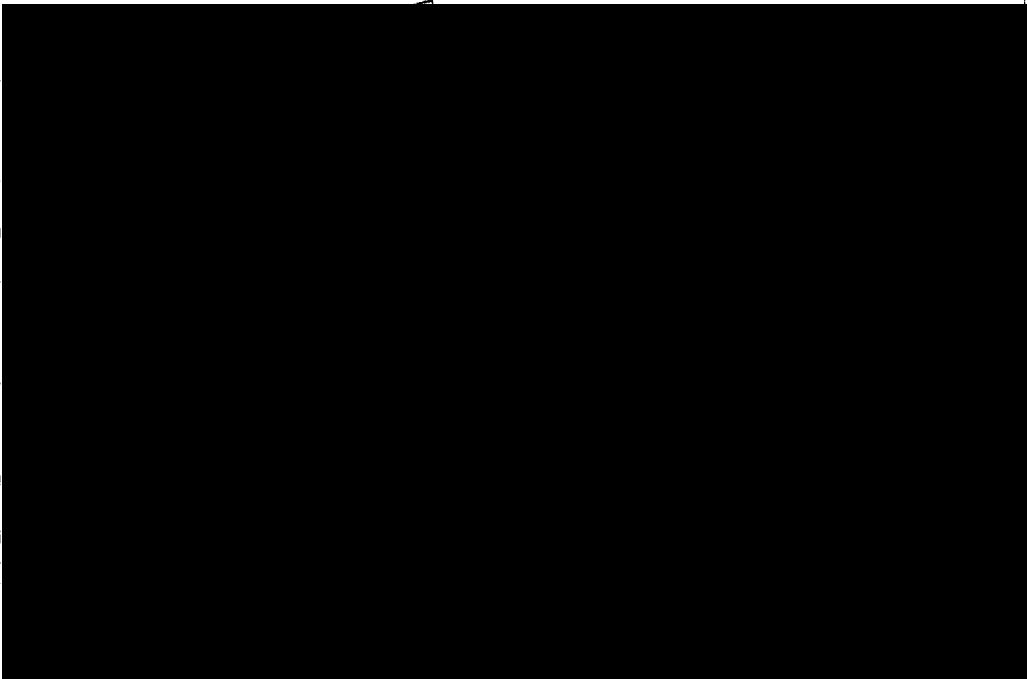
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
RAYMOND O RIVERA	
VICTOR WERENDEZ	
Carmen Torres	
Loganina Linares	
Pablo Candelario	
Luz Rosado	

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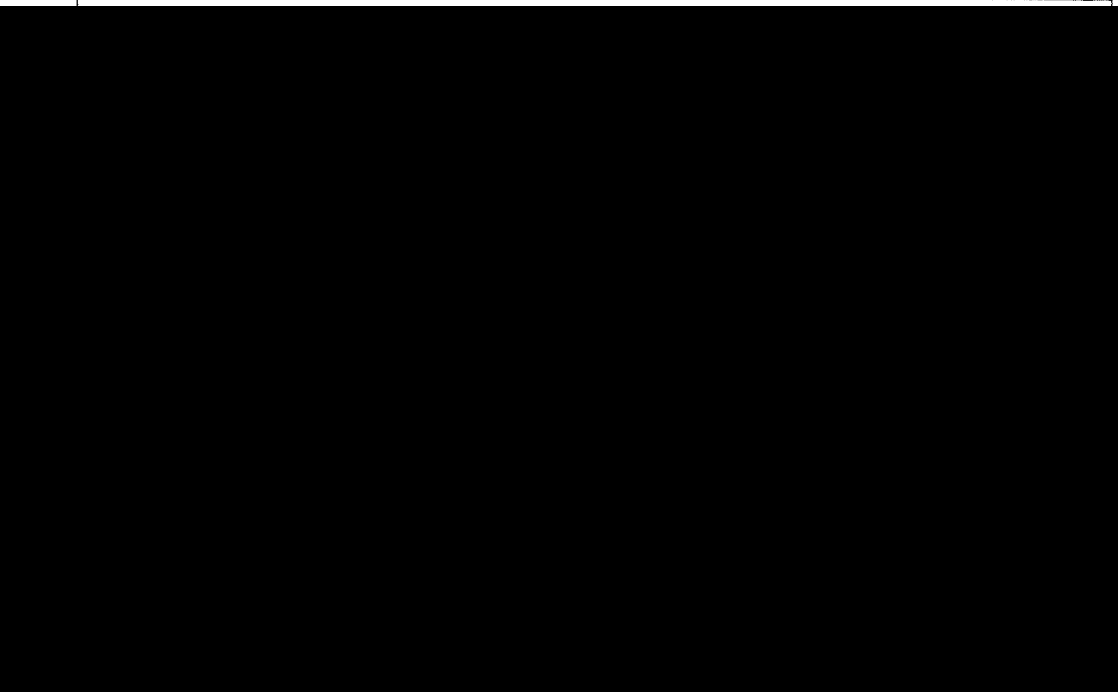
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Lydia Checo	
WASHINGTON ANDRADE	
CHARLES ALDRIDGE	
Angel Guillbe	
Emanuellyn	
NAWey Rodriguez	

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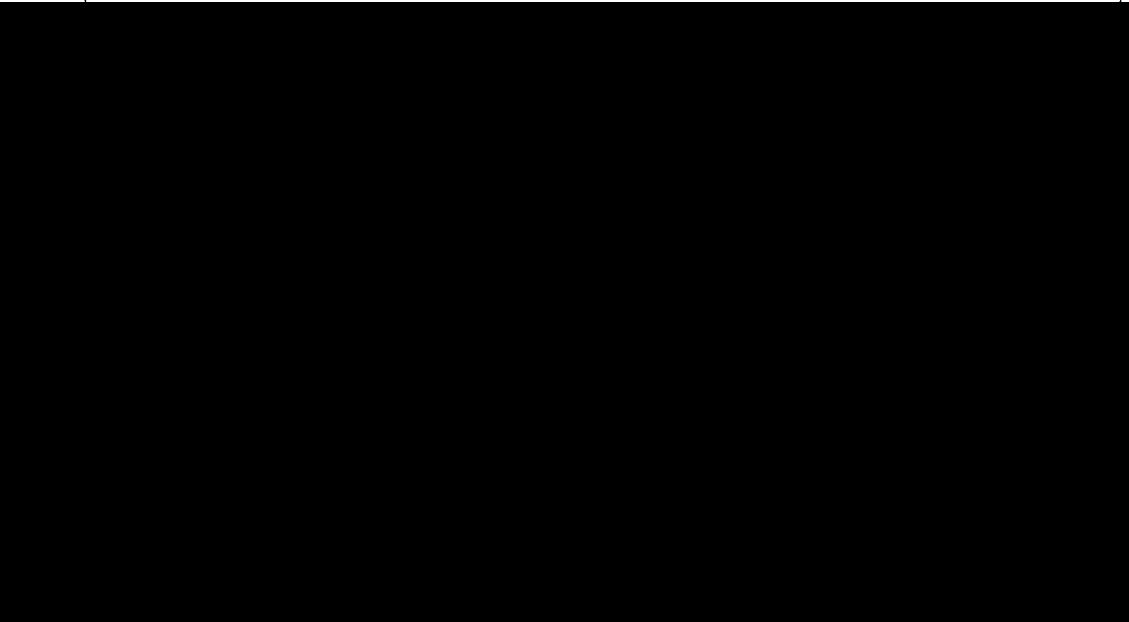
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
VICTOR MARCANO	
GLADYS VIERA	
JOSE R. TORRES	
CARMEN VALENCIA	
JOSE SANTANA	
MARIA SANTANA	

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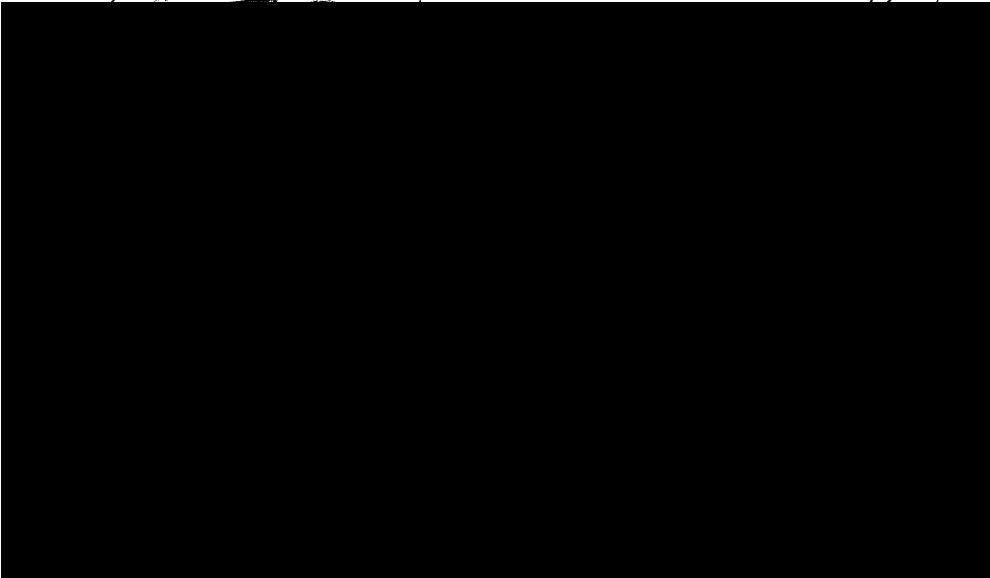
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
EDITH WOODLEY	
Vilma Flores	
Luz Rosendo	
Martina Correa	
GLORIA LLIBRE	
Carmen Canino	

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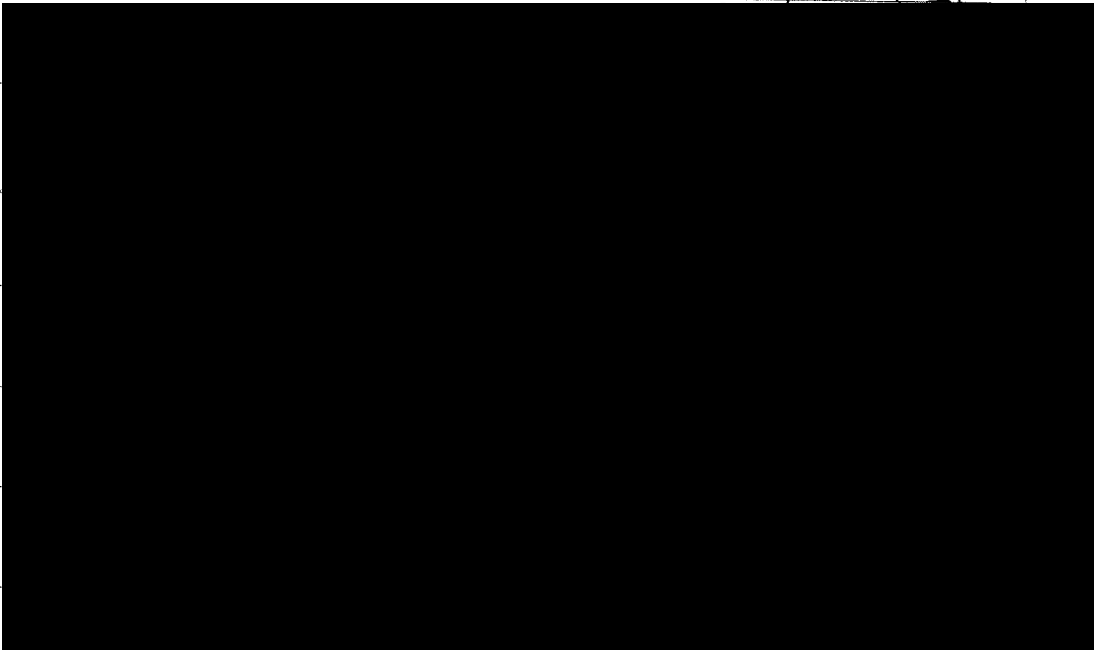
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
LAURENCE CHANO	
MARY L. BLAKE	
LANCE BLAKE	
Concepción María Cipriana Santiago	
Trampelina Quinones	
Paula Fernandez	

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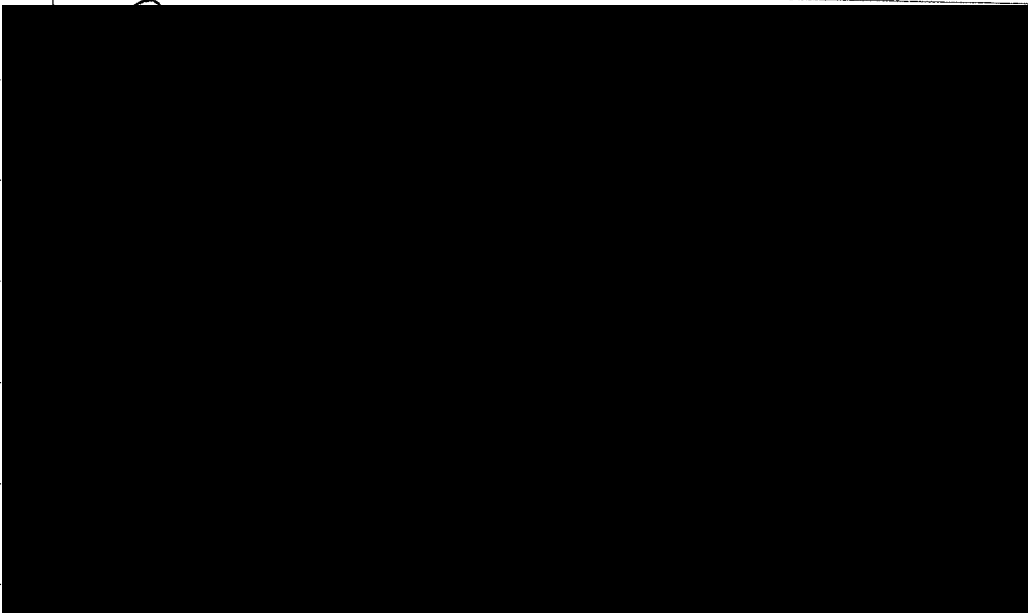
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Queen Williams	
Wilbur Williams	
Falio Gloria	
Gerardo Ruen	
Angela Dome	
Hector Sanchez	

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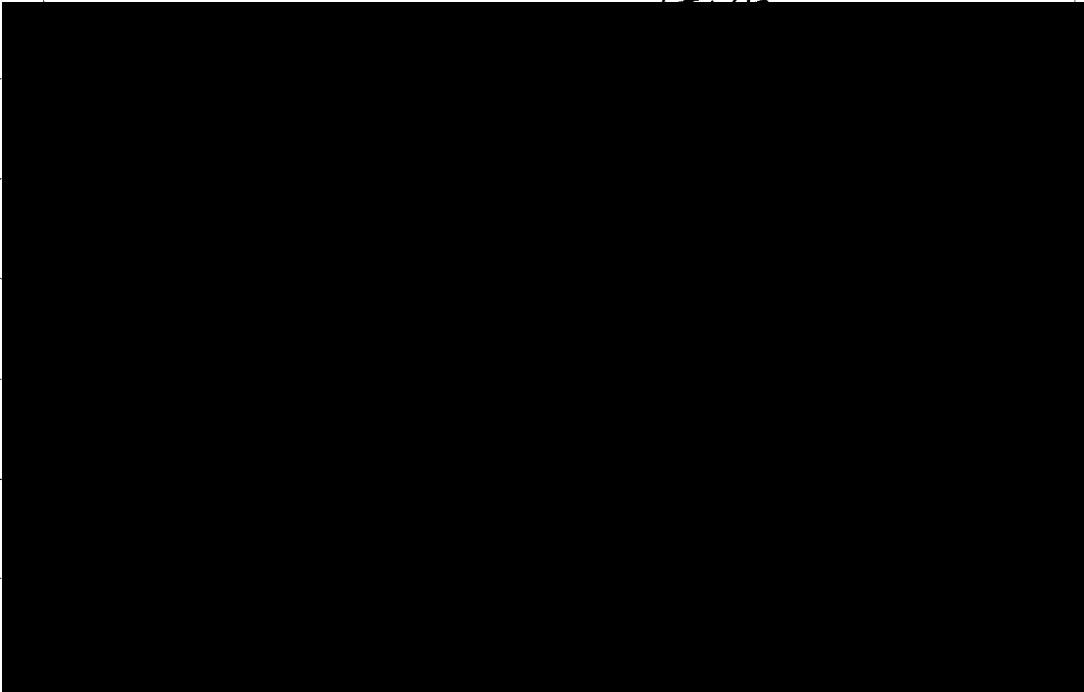
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Gloria Torres	
VICTOR MARCANO	
H. Sizer Jr.	
Elisav Guert	
Norma Arce	
Harriet Green	

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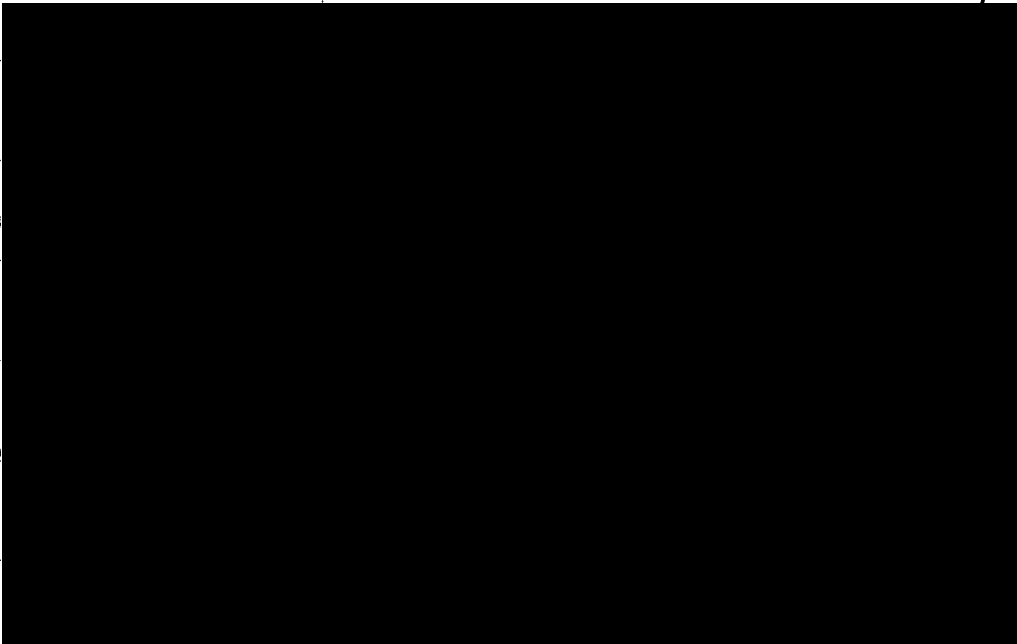
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
GLORIA WILSON	
JOHN GRAVES	
D. CARDONA	
CHARLES ALDRIDGE	
JOHN WILSON	
Joaquin Encarnación	

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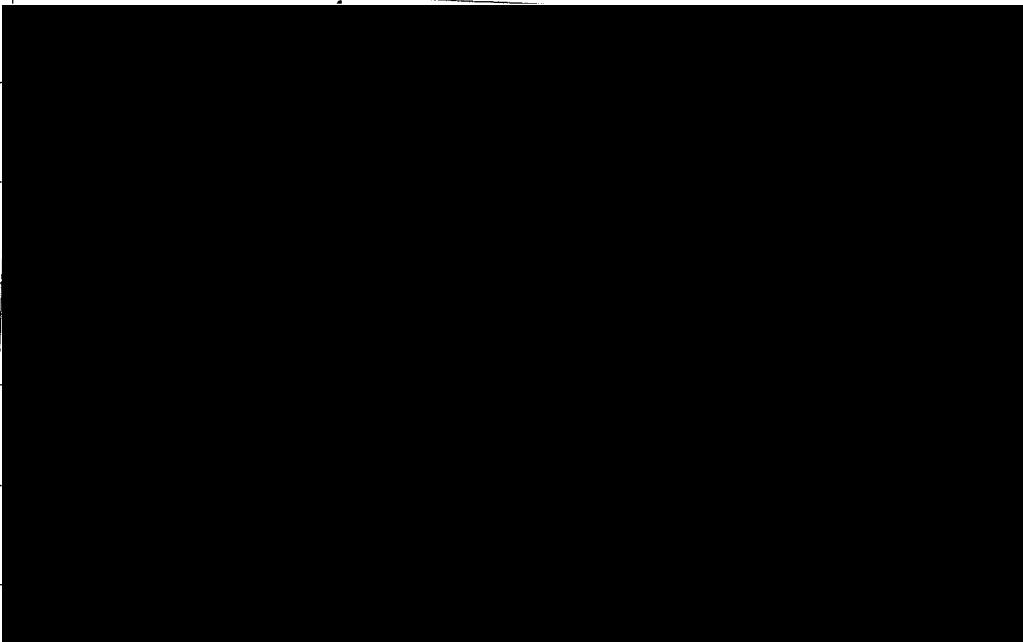
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
LaFleur Josee	
Rosa Galarza	
Nefti Vega	
William Belon	
Jafar Soto	
Garis Redick	

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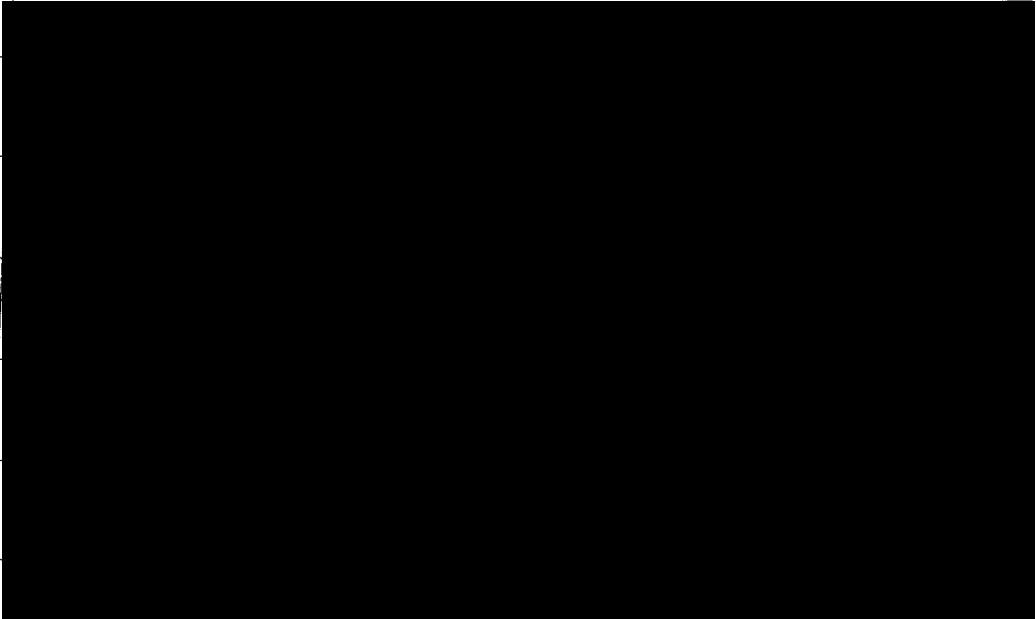
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Maria Antonia	
Maguina Encarnación	
Iris Hernandez	
VICTOR MARCAIXO	
Rafael Soto	
José Santiago	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
MARIO CASALAS	
Jonny Steel	
SUSANA Acevedo	
Quilack Jr.	
Lauren J. Rivera	
Vicente M. Lopez	

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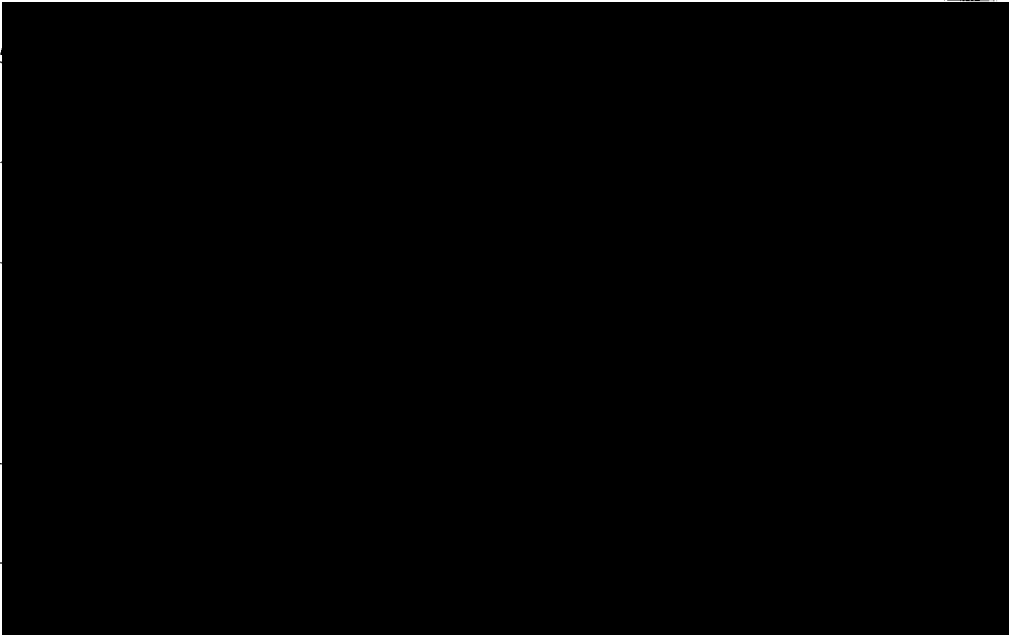
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
MARIA CORREA	
Vilfredo Feliciano	
José Crespo	
Rosa Calaza	
Margarita Usón	
Maria P. Gastón	

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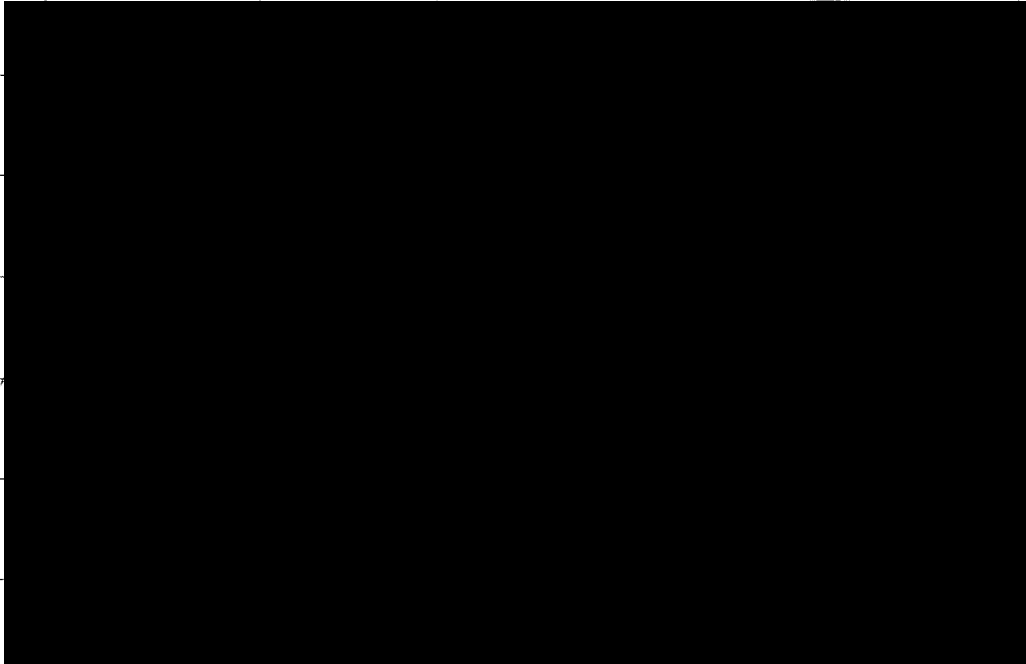
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Carlos Torres	
Peter Vasquez	
Ricardo Escobar	
José Delgado	
MARGARITA CADON	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Carmen J. Betancourt	
Myriam Ferraz	
Gladys Hernandez	
Samuel Goodman	
Sheree Mullins	
John Ruiz	

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The City is proposing to change the City Council district lines to further divide the El Barrio/East 116th Street community, and move more of Council District 8 into the Bronx. This will dilute our neighborhood's power. Important landmarks like La Marqueta will no longer fall entirely in our community's primary district. The Unity Coalition has released a proposal that would preserve more of El Barrio's boundaries. **We demand that our Council District be kept whole!**

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Sylvia Buzza	
Manny Casco	
Quil Def. Finsen	

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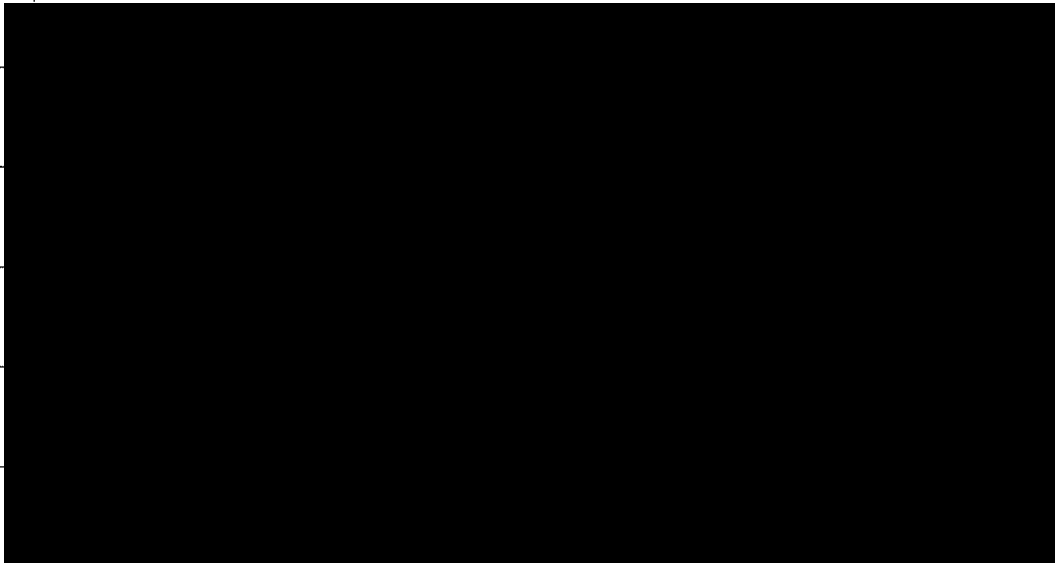
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Guanta Rivas	
Carmen R. Ramos	
Elie M. Diaz	
Carmencita Luna	

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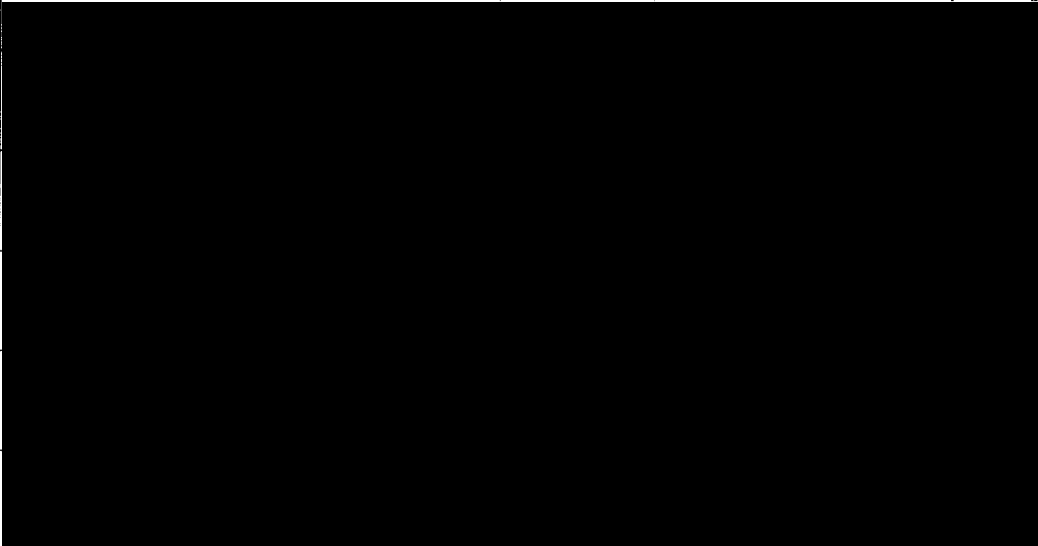
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Daniel Sr Rivera	
Ramon Colon	
Alejandro D Alvarez	
Walter Tiro	
Jose Perez	
Maria Cotto	

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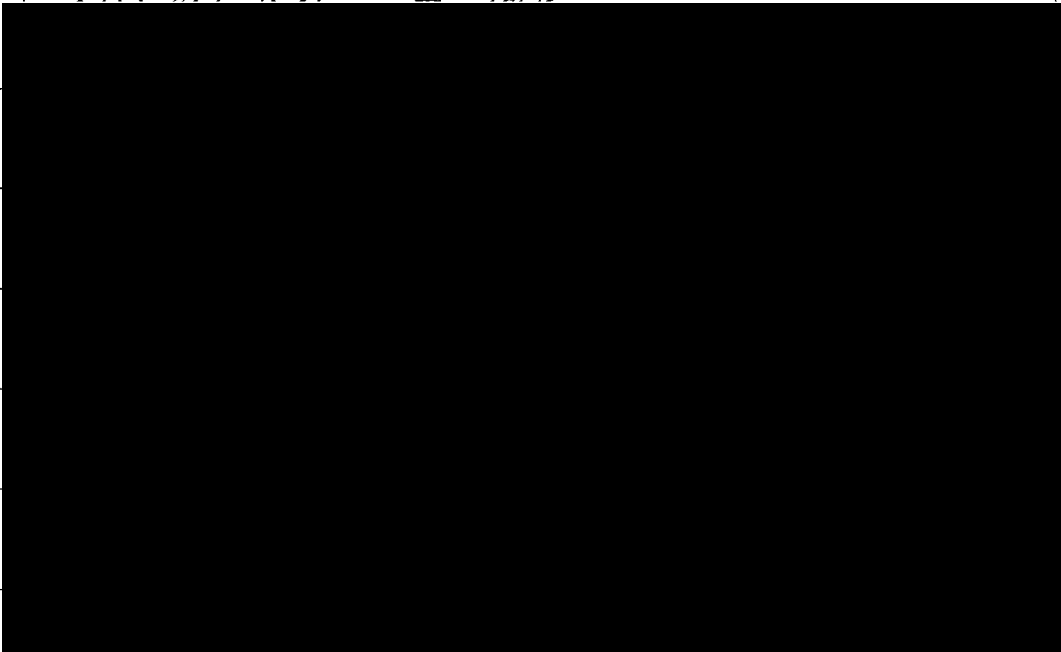
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
ELBA Baxilla	
MARIA ANGELO	
SAKA RODRIGUEZ	
Lisandra Marrero	
Miriam Perta/tra	
BOBBY G. HALL	

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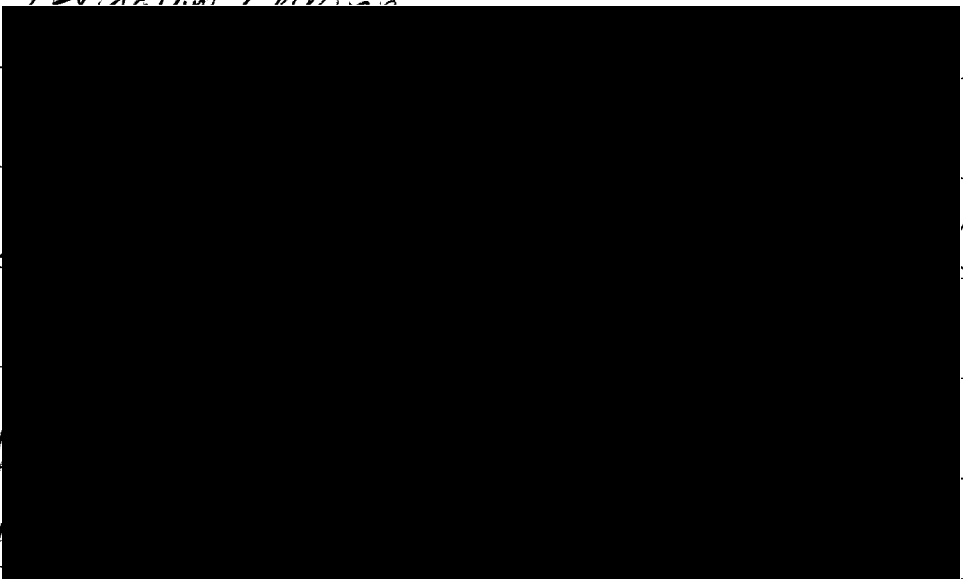
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Juan Santos	
Eugenio Hernandez	
Dina Avikhán	
Nancy Mejías	
Doris P. Pabon RN	
Lusette Lopez	

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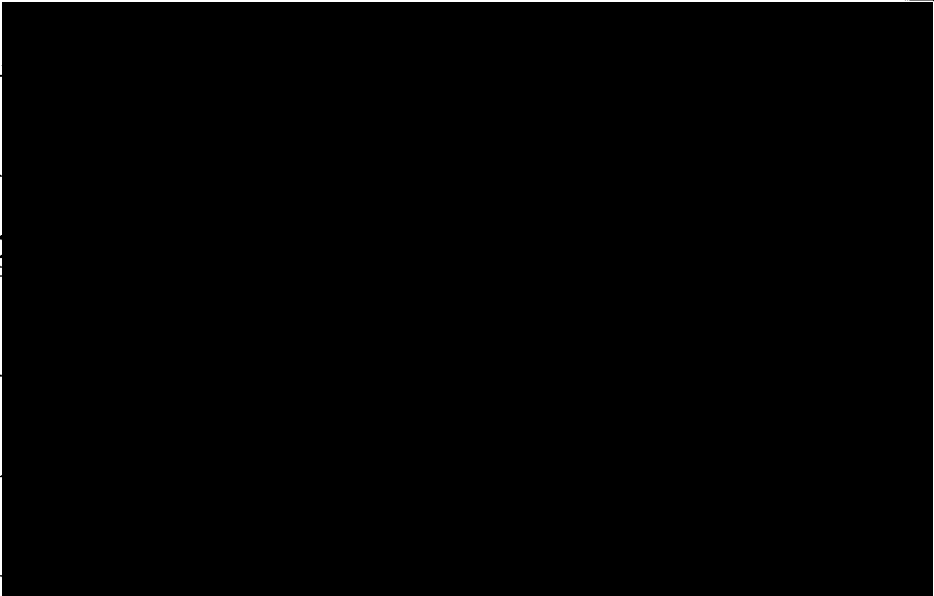
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Aracelis Figueroa</i>	
<i>Rose Ruyra</i>	
<i>Andres Echevarria</i>	
<i>VICTORIA HERNANDEZ</i>	
<i>Norberto Torres Jr.</i>	
<i>Angelo Calia 2</i>	

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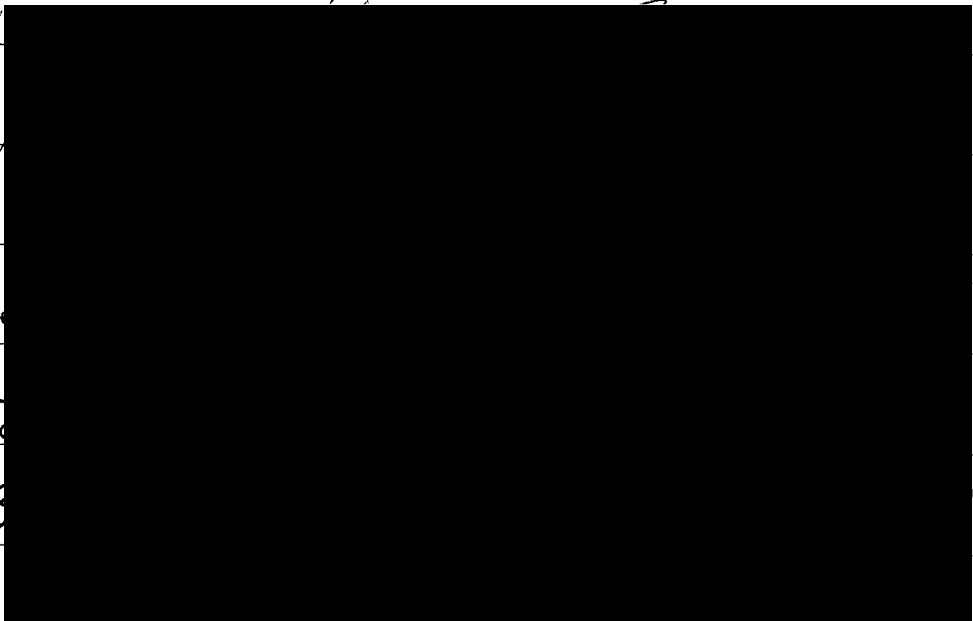
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
JOSE BAZAN <i>Jose BAZAN</i>	
ROSA Jimenez	
HECTOR BURGOS	
FRANCES MALDONADO	
Roberto Guille	
Rafael Caraballo	

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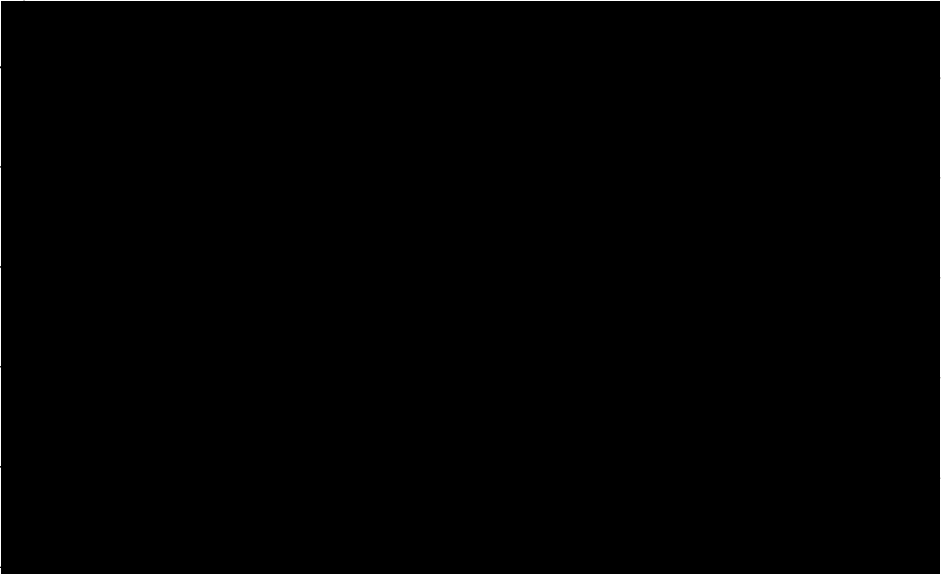
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Jorge Basquitos	
Miriam Martinez	
Jose' Montero	
Eduardo Catala	
Manny Garcia	
Rogel DIAZ	

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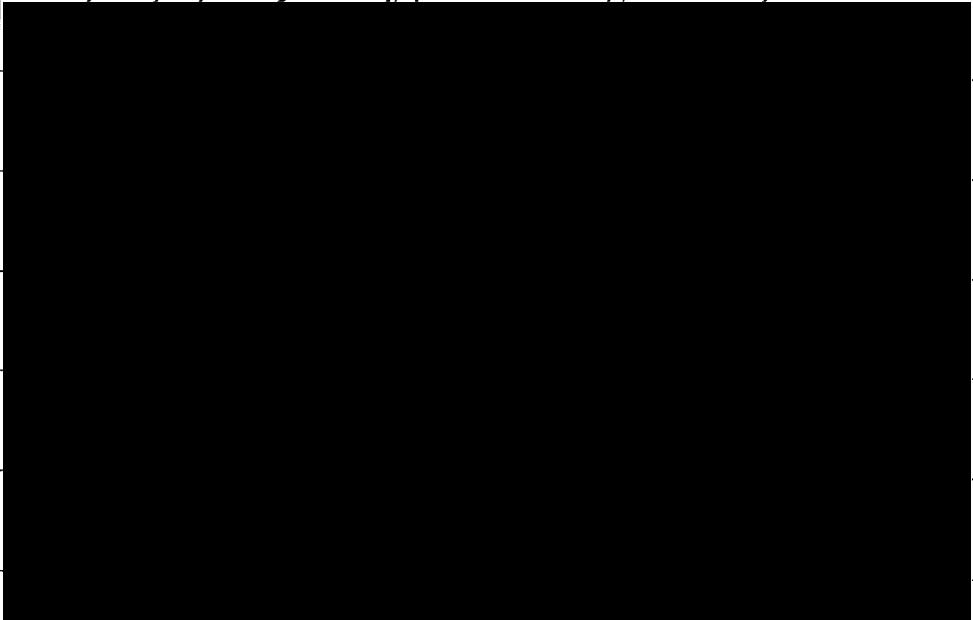
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Carlos Cedeno	
MIRIAM FERRER	
Maria Amadeo	
Enrique Molina	
Wink / Fernandez	
JOSE TORRES	

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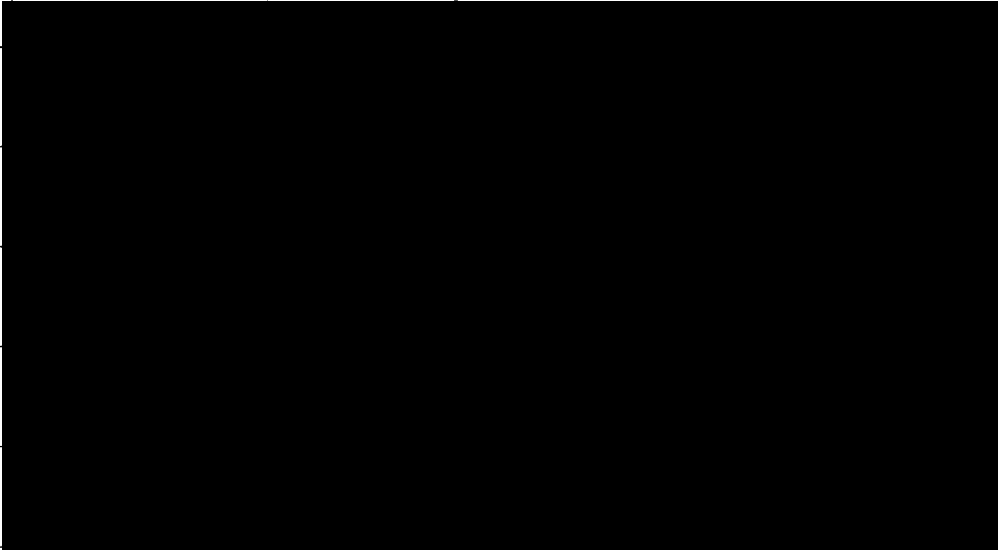
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Belmonte-Felices 33	
George Faut	
Jason Tamar	
Jennifer Suarez	
Charles Kay	
Niko Elias	

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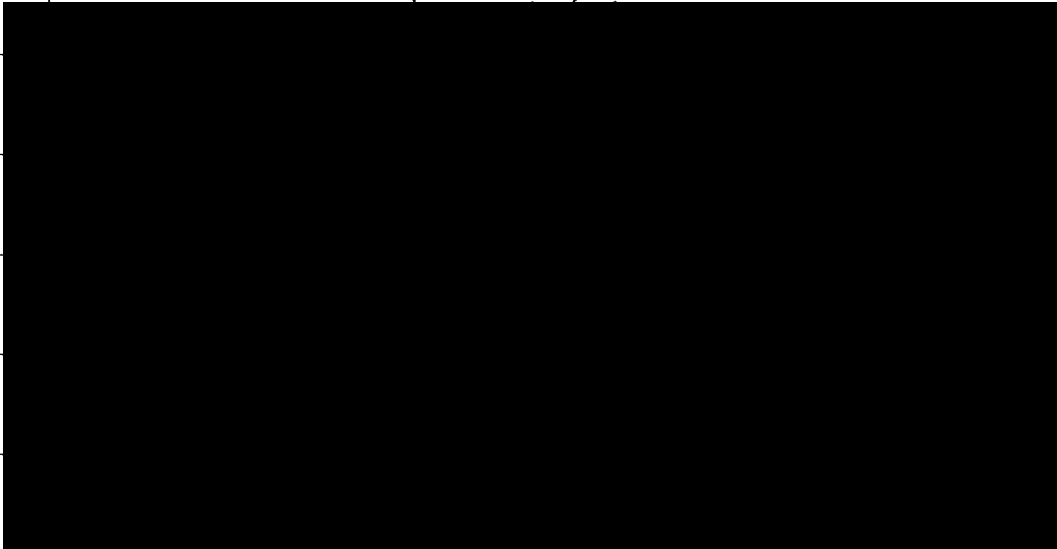
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Millie Rosa	
Emilio Torres	
SANTOS M. VILELLA	
LUCIA CURET	
ANTHONY DEJESUS	
Joseph RIVERA	

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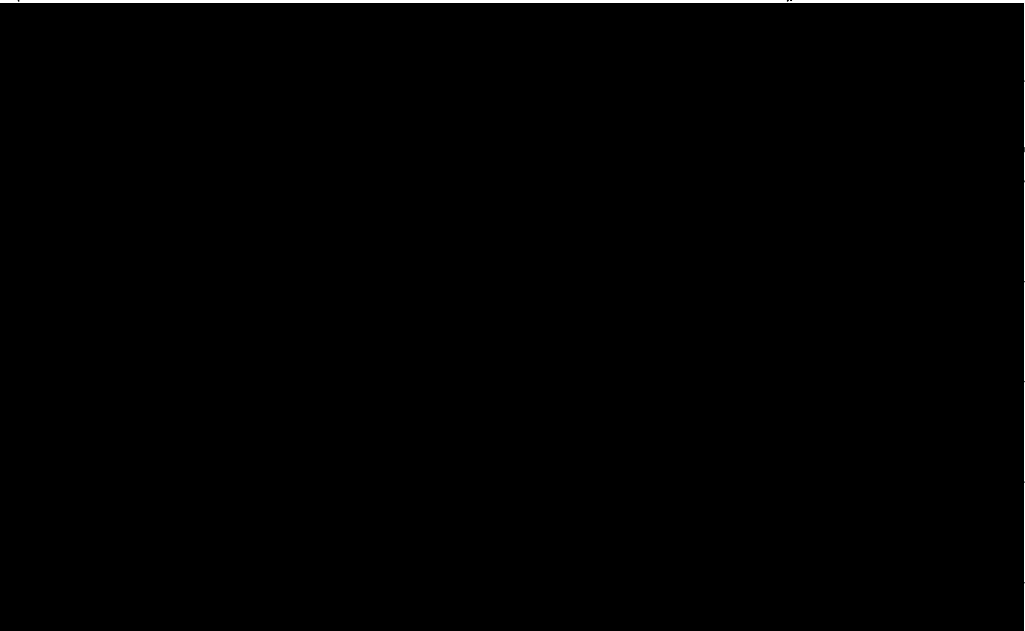
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Ramona Rodriguez	
Betty Ojeda	
Luna Gervasi	
Evelyn Martinez	
Roslyn Reyes	
Maria Jesus	

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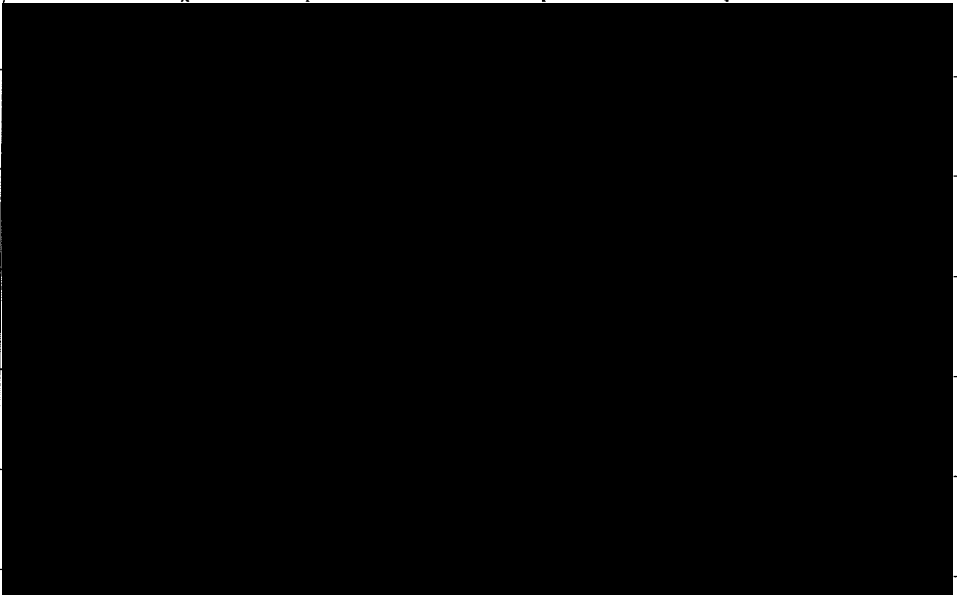
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Luz Garcia	
Nelson Guzman	
Victor Fuent	
Luis Diaz	
Elizabeth Amador	
Rafael Garcia	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Carlos Marrevo	
Jose VARGAS	
Milagros Valentin	
Fredie Cantus	
Carmen Marcano	
John/copi	

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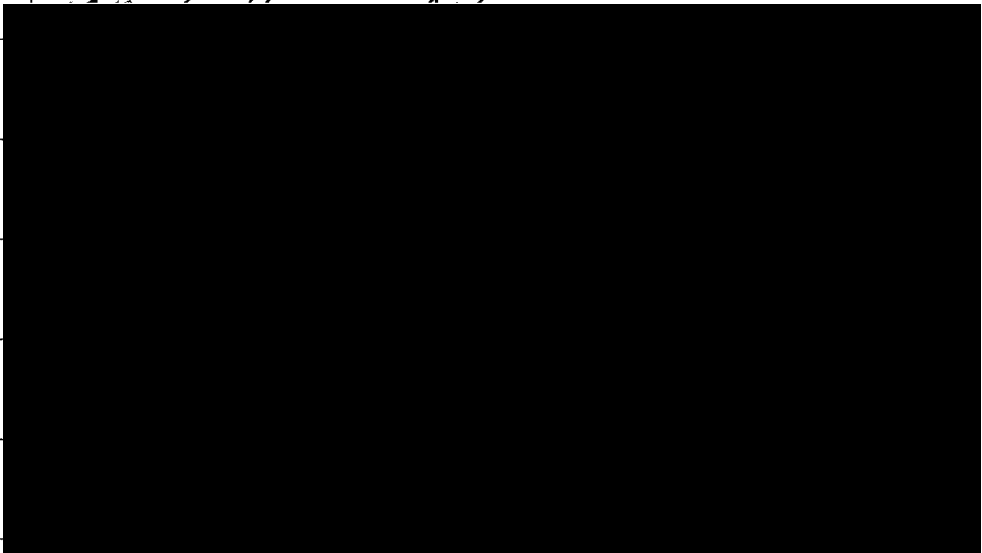
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Wilfredo Alvarado	El Barrio
Opaida Alvarado	'
Juan Alvarado	'
Mildred King	'
Eduardo Silva	'
Venus Ortiz	'

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
JUAN BATISTA	
Luis JANCHEZ	
Milacous Lebron	
Mario Trizarry	
MARIA RIVERA	
Michael McHugh	

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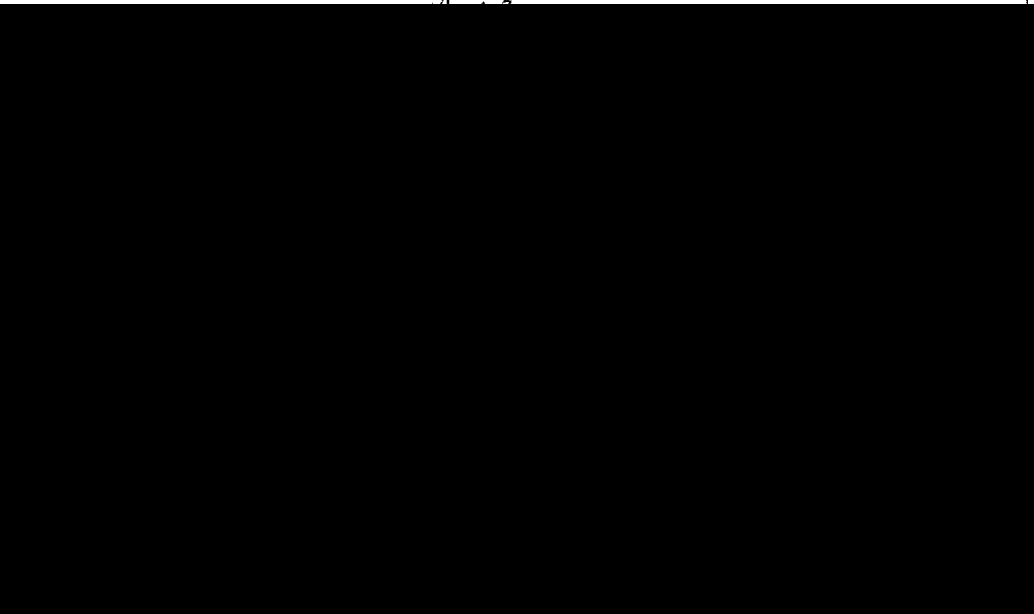
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Amell M. Callahan</i>	
<i>Esper Alenc</i>	<i>B</i>
<i>Liz Rivera</i>	
<i>Sey Rivera</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Heriberto Rivera</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>P. gbo</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Julia Ruiz</i>	<i>47</i>

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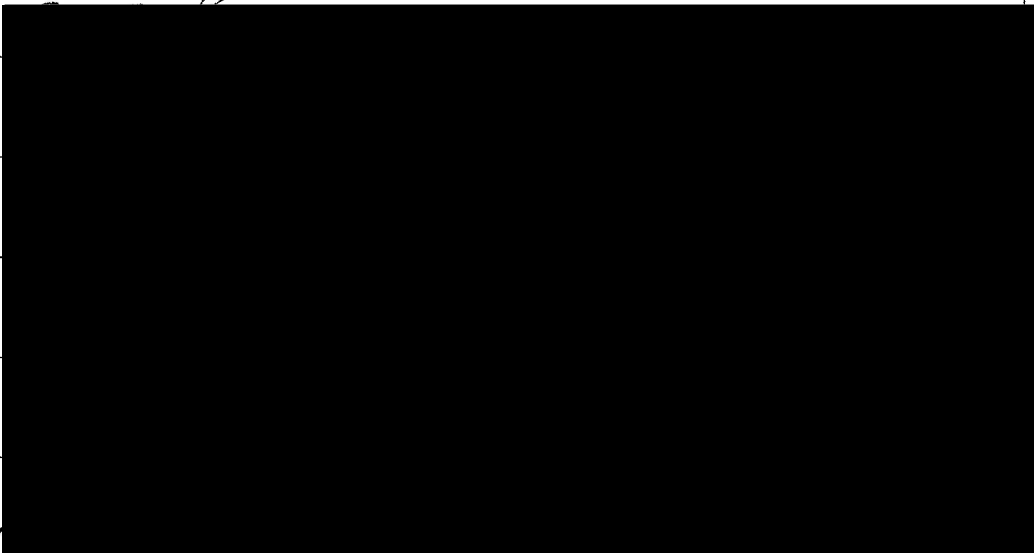
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Ismael Rivera	
7 Jose Lopez	
Joe Morales	
Rebecca Viter	
7 Sylvia Martinez	
Jose B. Martinez	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Amelaf Perez	
Vicente	
F 5 u s PARRAS p u i l l o	
Lidia Santiago	
Trilla Jose Lopez	
Maria Rivas	

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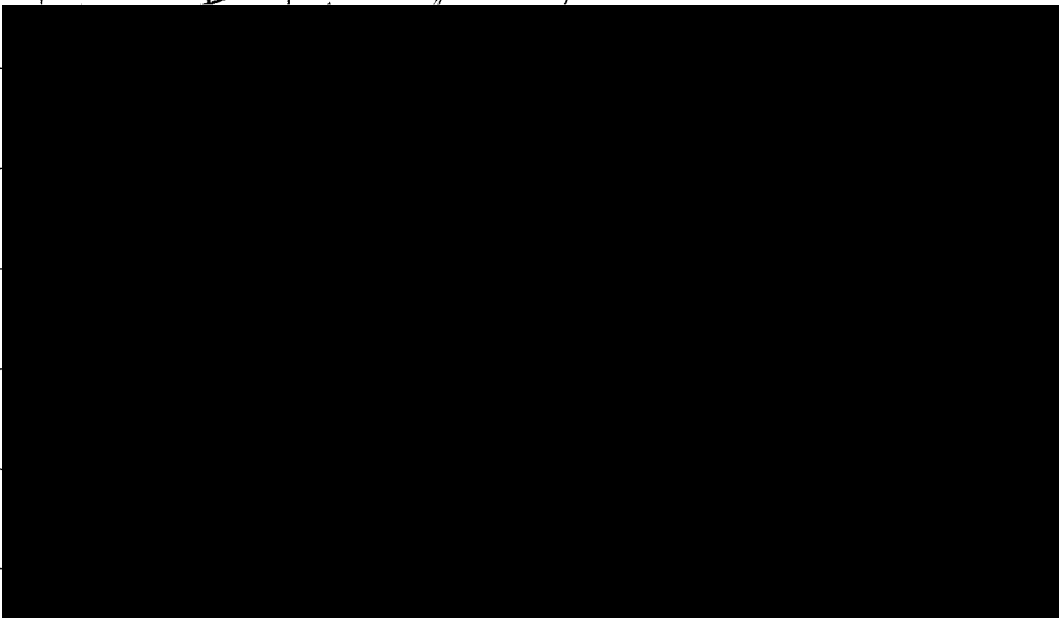
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Jackie medona	
DAMARIS Reyes	
Ana Colares	
Sydia Lbrs	
Carlos Reyes	
Merceda Cruz	

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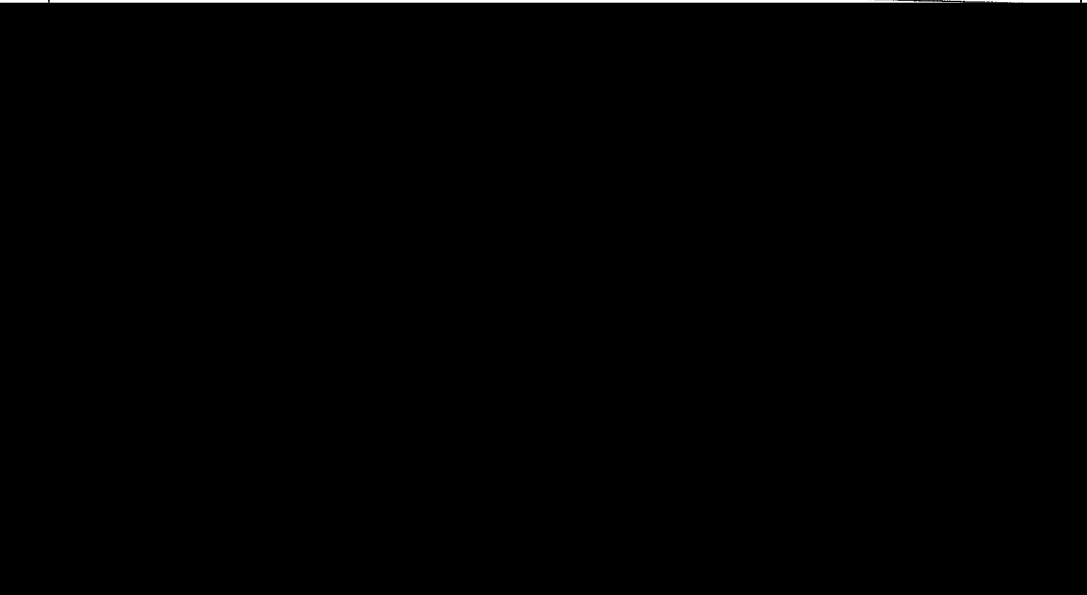
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
MAURICIO CORNEJO	
Agustine Ayala	
Rosa Rosario	
Dani Perez	
Rose Mary Rivera	
EFRAIM VILLAS	

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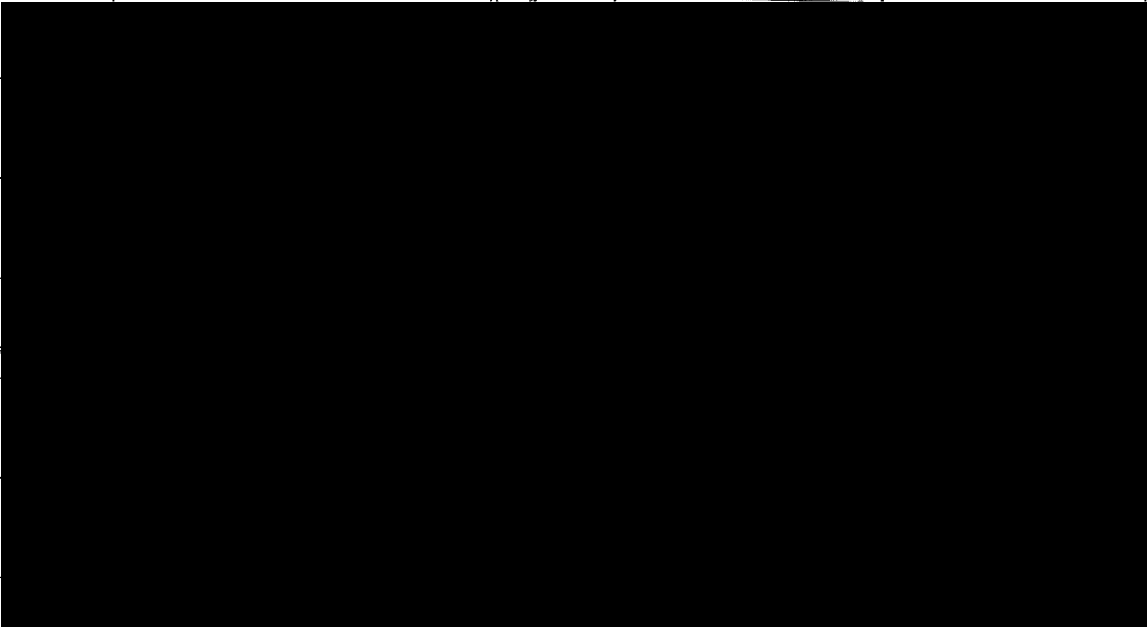
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Maria Francisco	
Anais Ward	
Richard Miller	
Eva Medina	
RDESA ALVAREZ	
ia Cornejo	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Eli-Ann Rose	
Ruth Robles	
Iris Monzon	
Quida Montero + Jose	
Barbara Loman	
Hilda Otero	

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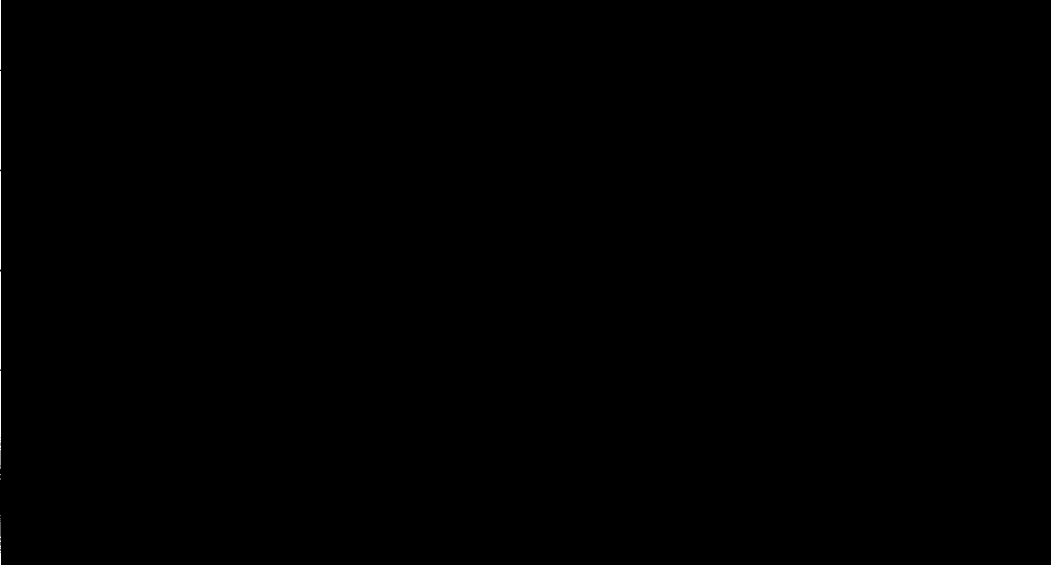
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Francisco Rodriguez	410 Williams Ave
Ana M. Garcia	
Rachel Oquendo	
Susan Z. Dorfe	
Nydia Roman	

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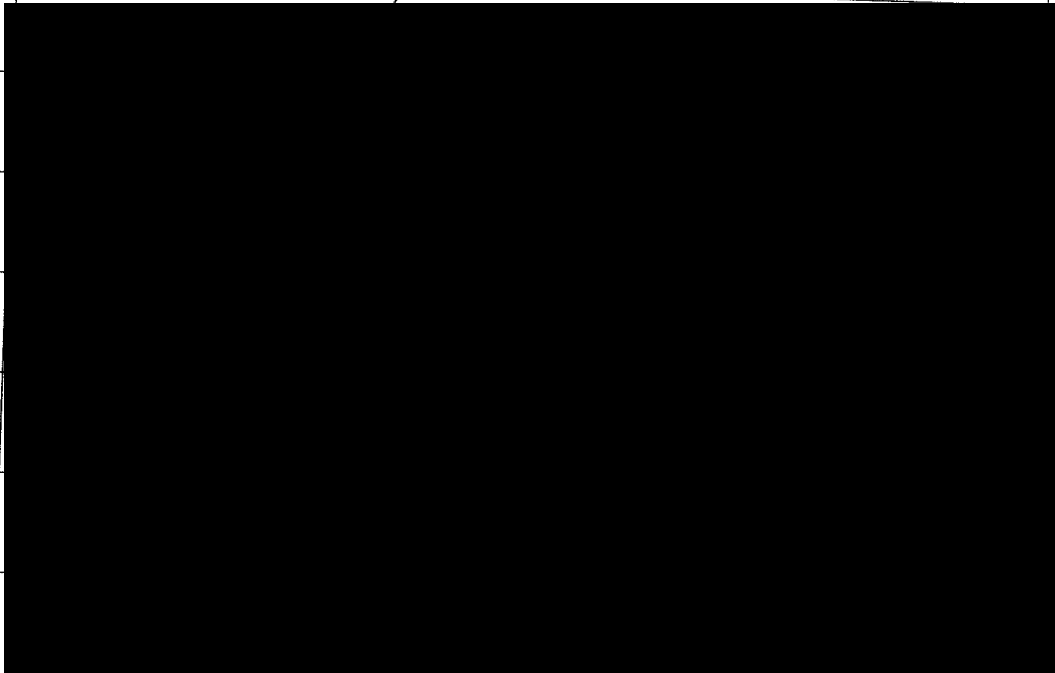
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
John ORTIZ	
GEORGE ALMEIDA	
JOSE ALVAREZ	
Magdalena Ramos	
Manuel Pagan	
Awilda Figueroa	

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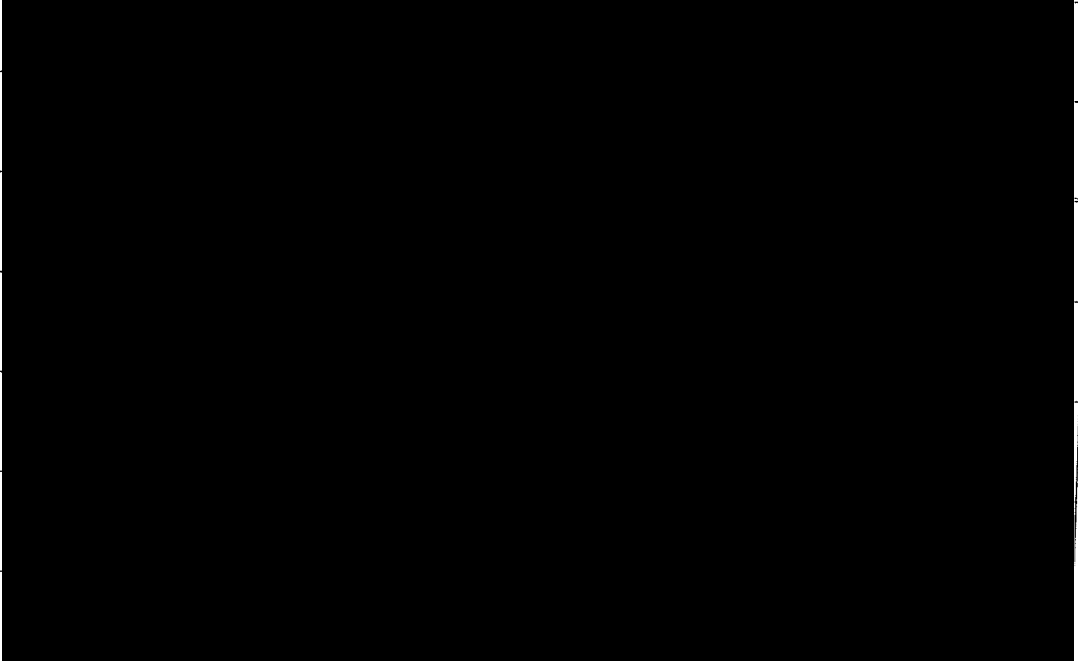
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Nancy Gonzales	
Antonio Ayala	
Month De Levi	
Rosa Collado	
Cisomon Rovers	
JOSE CUEVAS	
Juan A. Lopez	

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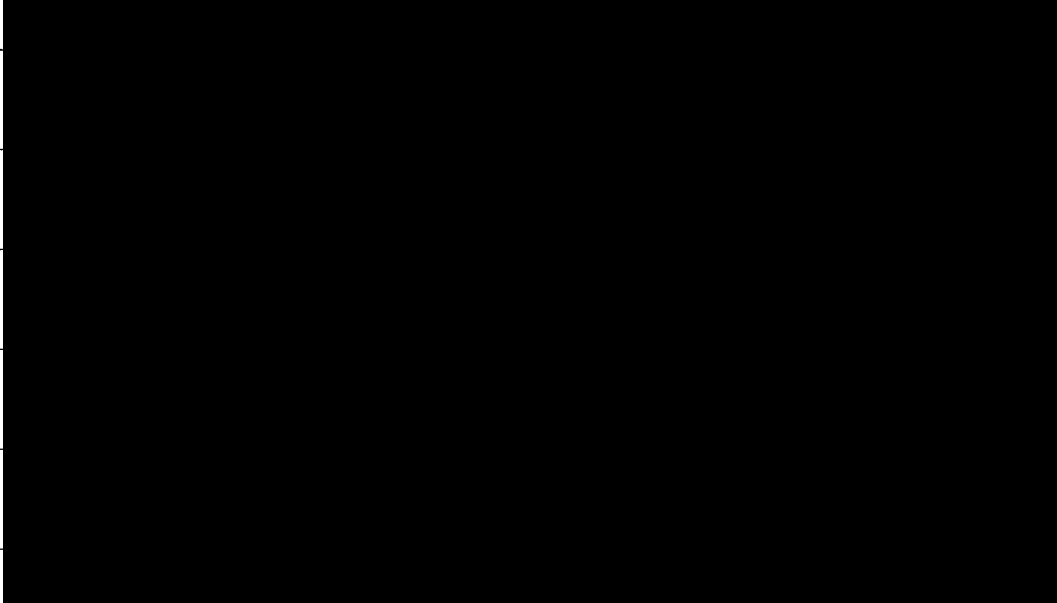
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
NICK Barras	
Martin Faris	
James Bernardini	
Maria Lodiwo	
Angel Hiles	
Melinda Cruz	

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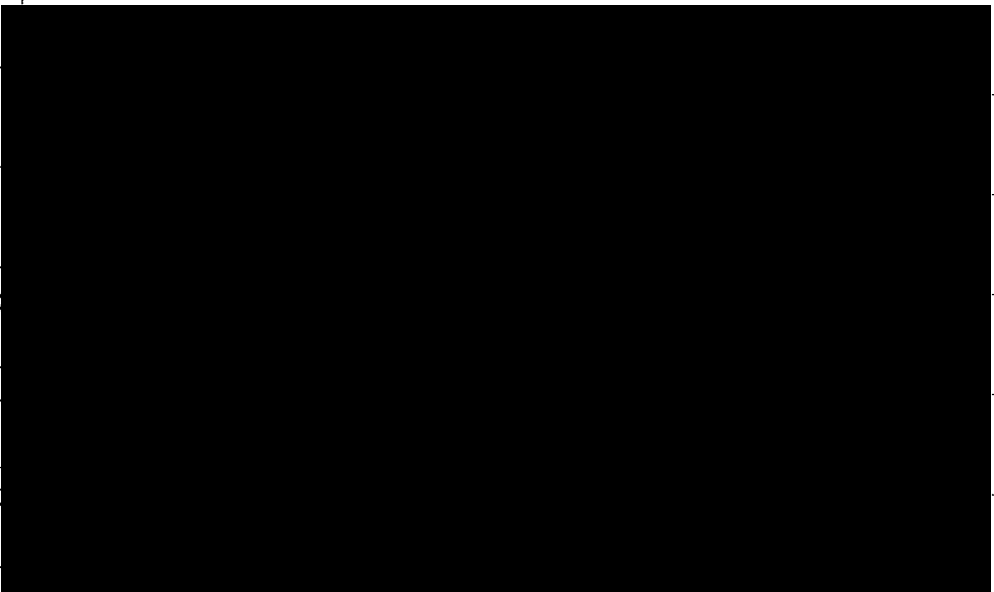
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Maximes Porto	Queens N.Y. 
Orlando Matias	
Ramona Mareno	
Ange Ruiz	
Sonia Viera	
Migdalia Mendez	

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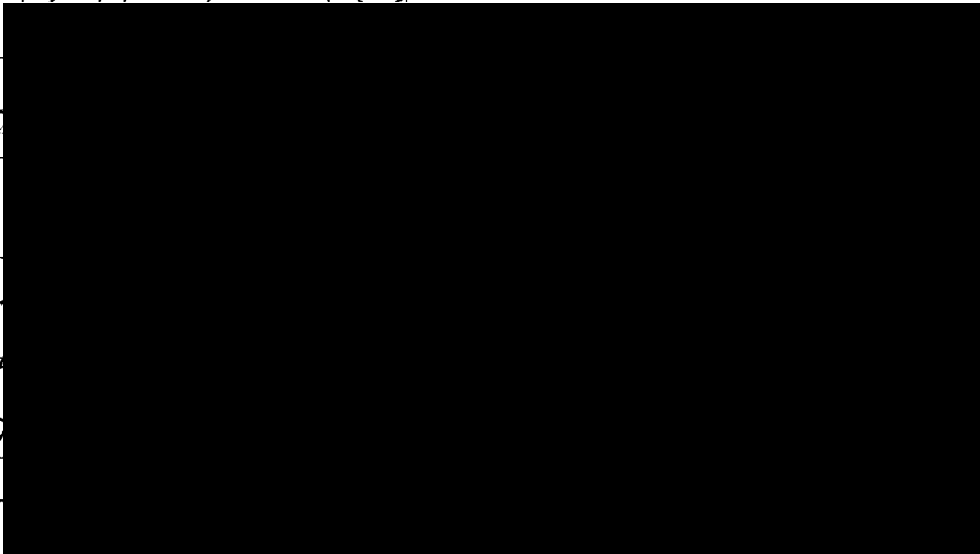
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Alme Figueroa	
Rogael Rivera	
Enma M. Adorno	
Grayson Oyola	
Ramon Luis Adorno	
Blizille Rivera	

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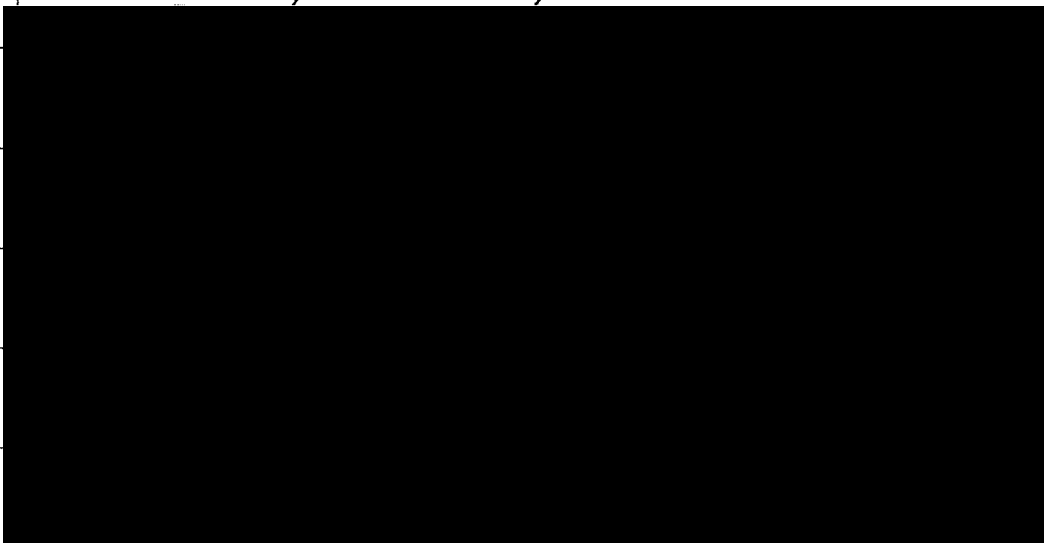
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
ANGEL Rodriguez	
Maria Figueroa	
Alberto Trosta	
K. Stone	
M. Alvarez	
M. Colon	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
ANA ADORNO	
Aida Soroa	
Mr. Renato Luna	
Luis Segura	
Milagros Ben	
Felicitas Puentes	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Elis Herrera</i>	
<i>Desiree Butrell</i>	
<i>Rita Eagle</i>	
<i>Edna Pared</i>	
<i>Naomi Mercedes</i>	
<i>Naomi Ortiz</i>	
<i>Jose Pacheco</i>	

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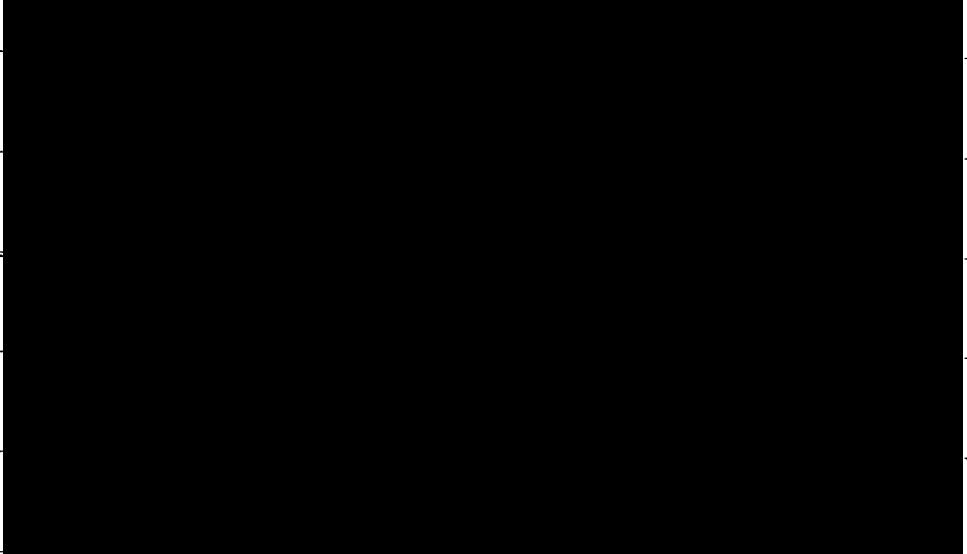
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Frank Lopez	
Lillian Lopez	
Bienvenida Rivera	
Calvin Goulston	
Paula Encarnacion	
Efrain Notot	

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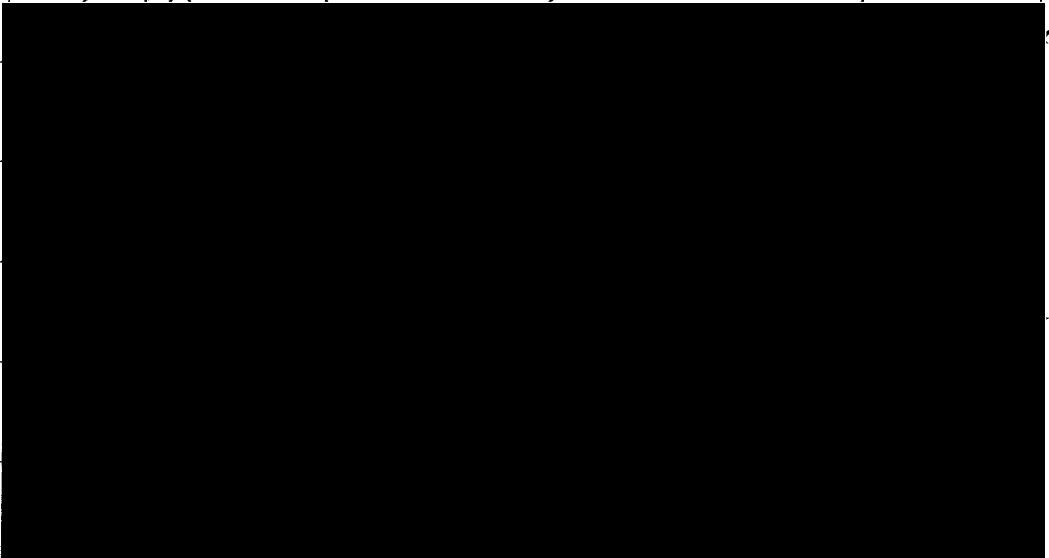
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Nelida V. Cepeda	
Ana Burgos	
Alfonso R. Rios	
José Cruz	
Ray Hargrett	
Jose A. Ortiz	

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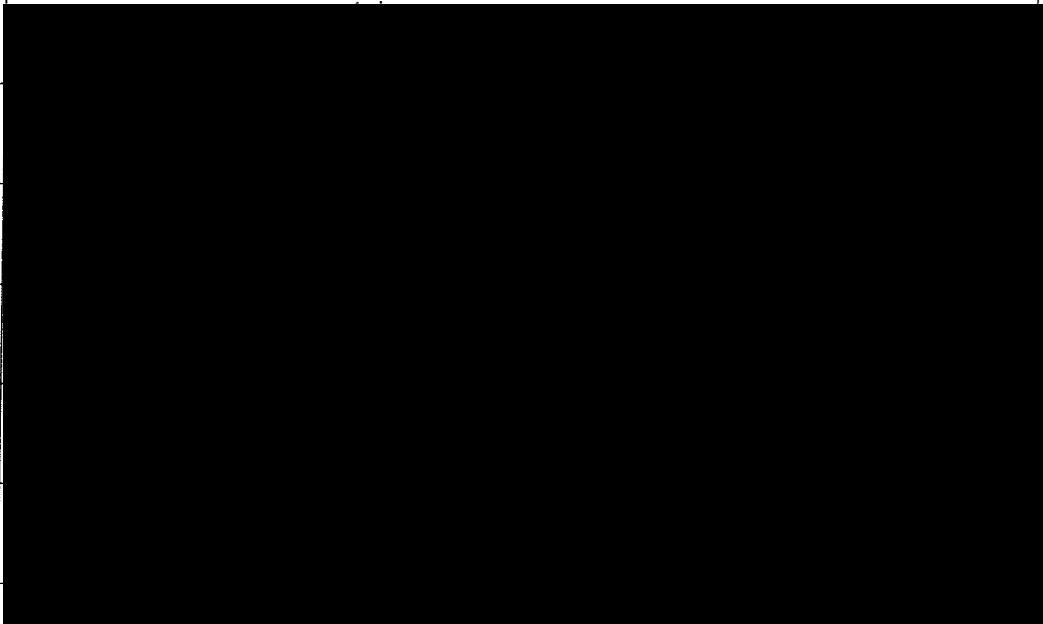
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
William Velazquez	
Don Perz	
Ruben Suarez	
John Morales	
ANTONIO MALDONADO	
Leticia Maldonado	

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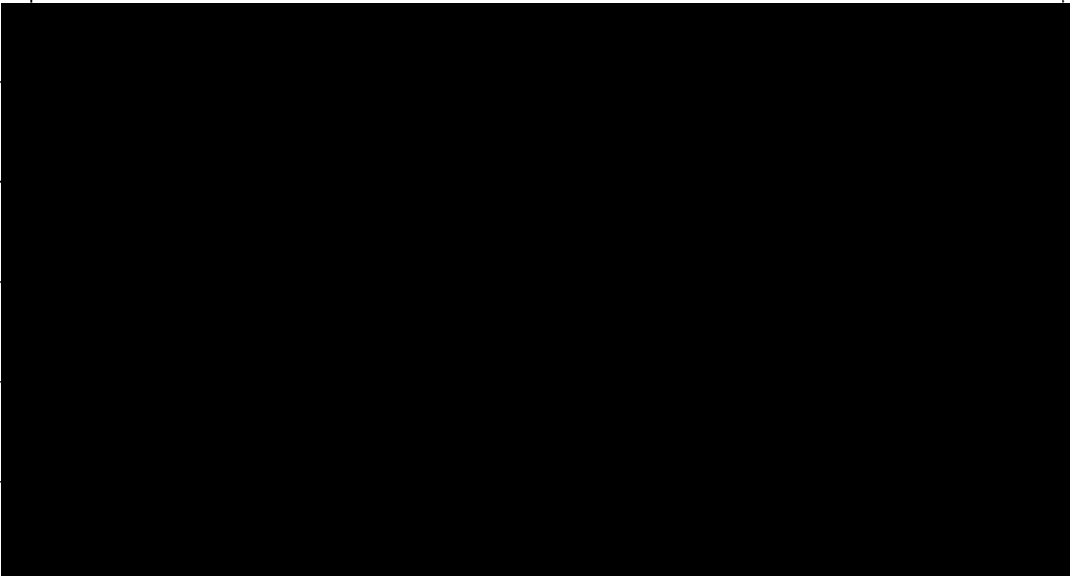
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Sonia Rodriguez	
Alfredo Guerrero	
MARGARITA Medina	
ANGEL RENE APT 4H	
Barbara Algarin	
Rosie Rodriguez	

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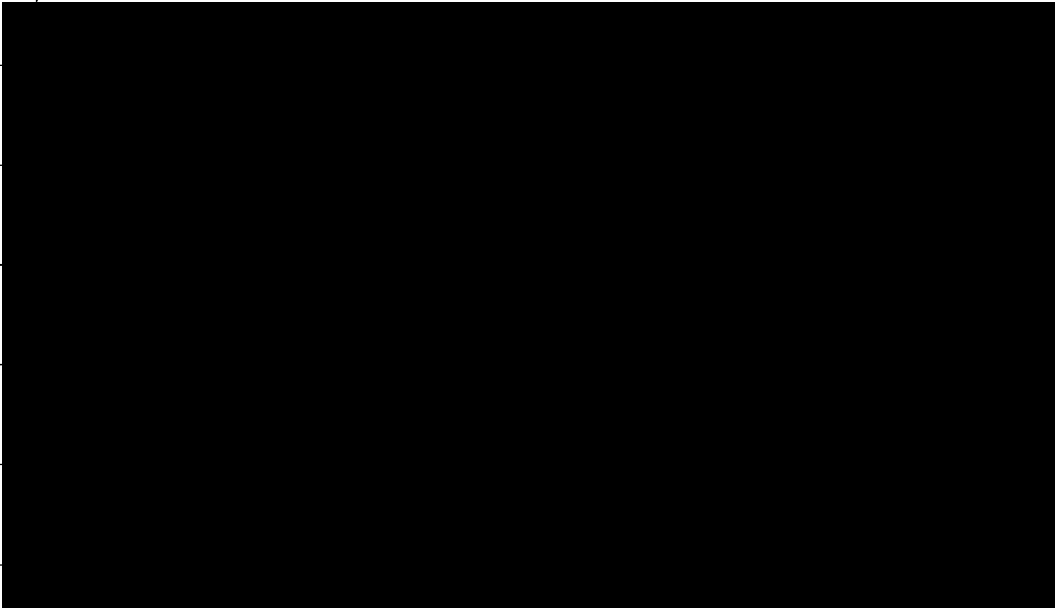
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Grifza Morales</i>	
<i>Harry Lopez</i>	
<i>Alga Ponce</i>	
<i>Rudolph Carrus</i>	
<i>Esther Rodriguez</i>	
<i>Yolanda Ruiz</i>	

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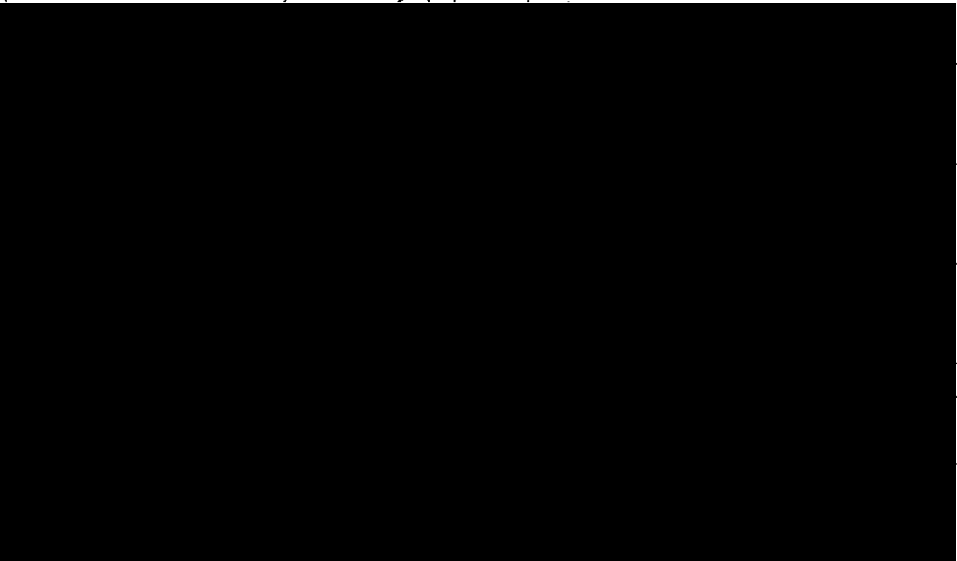
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Isabelina Solson	
Ans Orellana	
Maria Cruz	
Gerardo De Jesus	
Guez Martinez	
Sandra Ortiz	

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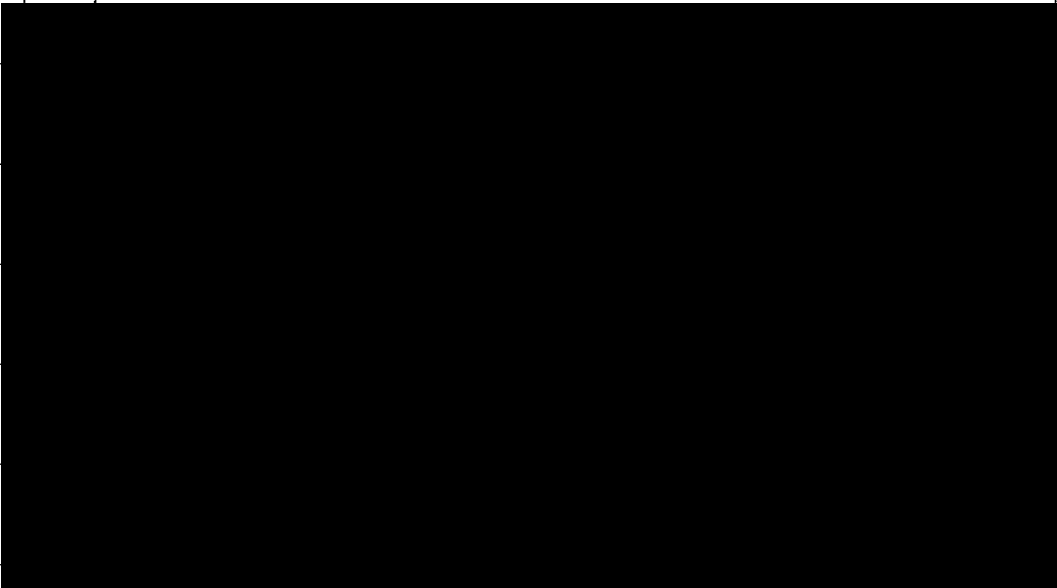
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Myrtia Natta	
RENE RODRIGUES	
Millie Maldonado	
Carla Singh	
Lepha King	
Luis - Ar - Rivero ✓	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Carmen Torres	
Ida Lora	
Aixa Simonetti	
Laura Rodriguez	
EASTON VICTOR	
Marcos Reyes	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
CARLA CAMARENA	
Carmen Ruiz H	
REYNALDO RUBIO	
ALMA PEREZ	
ELIDA ARRAYO	
EPI VANA A.	

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Quiero San Juan

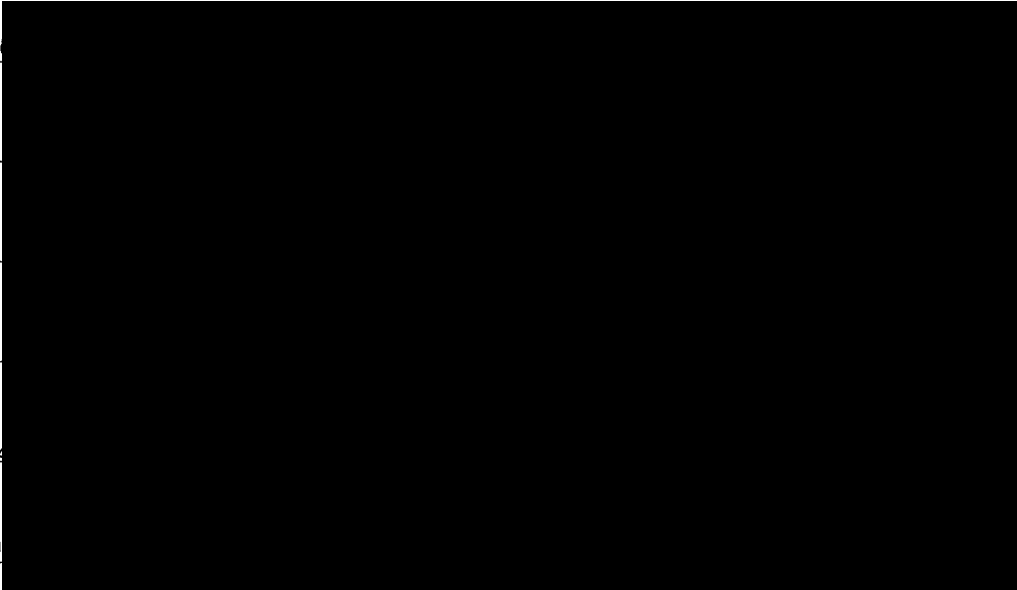
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
WILLIAM HERWANDER	120 E 5th St, NYC
ALEXANDER BERNARD	
VICTOR HERRERA	
IVAN OCAÑO	4
RAFAEL BONILLA	
DELA GONZALEZ	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Mary Matias	
Ana Rufat	
Juan Torres 2415-57th Ave	
Epifania Viado [REDACTED] 66	
Norma I. Alemany	
Miguelito Leguella Sanchez	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Felito Burgos	50
Luis GARCIA	1
Isabel Cruz	4
Lehiatad Almará	3
Benjamin Rosario	2
Marqueta Cnoge	4

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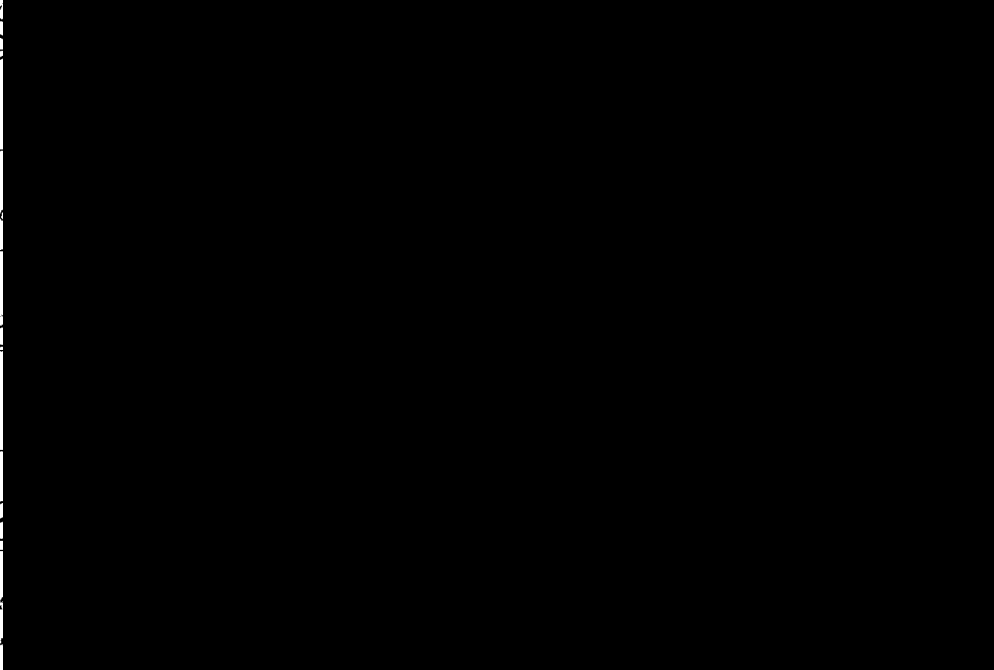
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Mia Ramirez	3-
Wanda Rodriguez	19
Yaditza Alejandro	0
Myrna, Rosio	19
Jose Soto	1
Antonio Velez	22
Jose Manuel Lopez	

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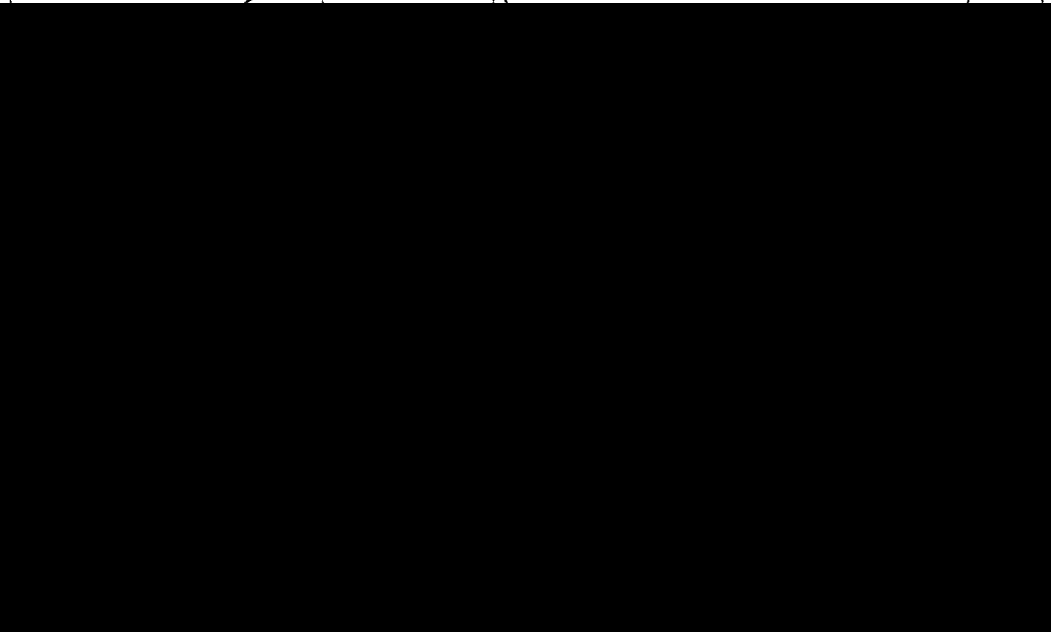
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Forlin Vado	
Rosa Velazquez	
Rosa E. Colon	
Grace Ramos Medina	
Kyral Carter	
Graylin Ayala	
RAYMOND GONZALEZ Raymond Lopez	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Alberto Martinez</i>	
<i>Jose Batista</i>	
<i>Eugene Mangat</i>	
<i>Luis Perez</i>	
<i>Carlos Rodriguez</i>	
<i>Isabel Bencioni</i>	

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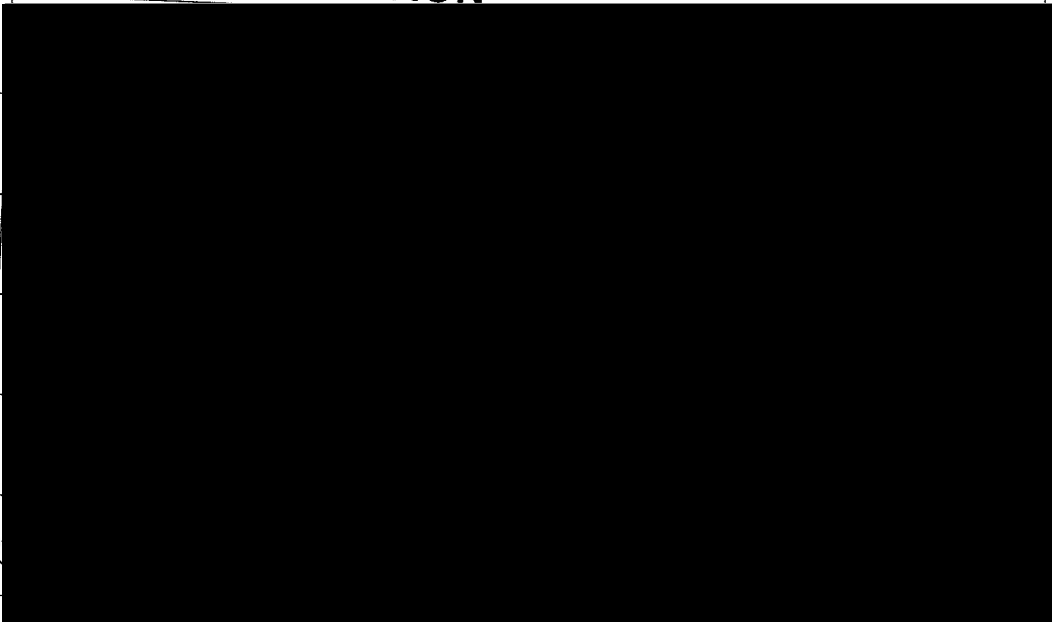
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Ismael Berceadoni	C Bronx
Willie Gonzalez	
Nancy Gonzalez	
Suanita Gonzalez	
José C. Cruz	
Marguito B. Johnson	

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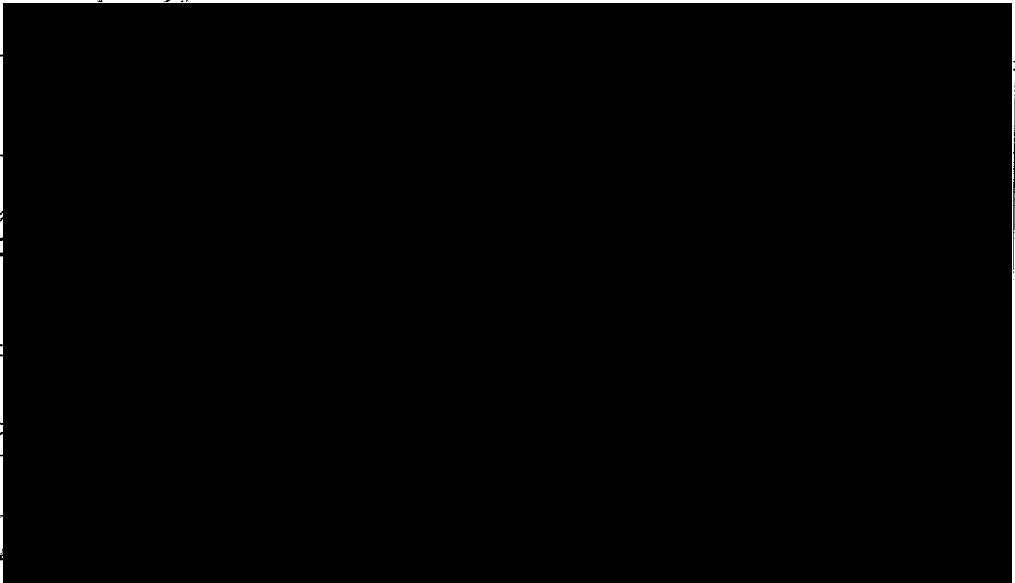
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
June Rosend	
S. Roser	
Isabelita Ortiz	
Chris V...	
J.R. M...	
R. Ayala	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
MIGUEL LLANOS	
ANA CLASSEN	
Enelyn Rivera	
MARIA RIVERA	
Candela Osorio	
Ornel Osorio	

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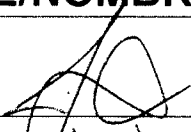
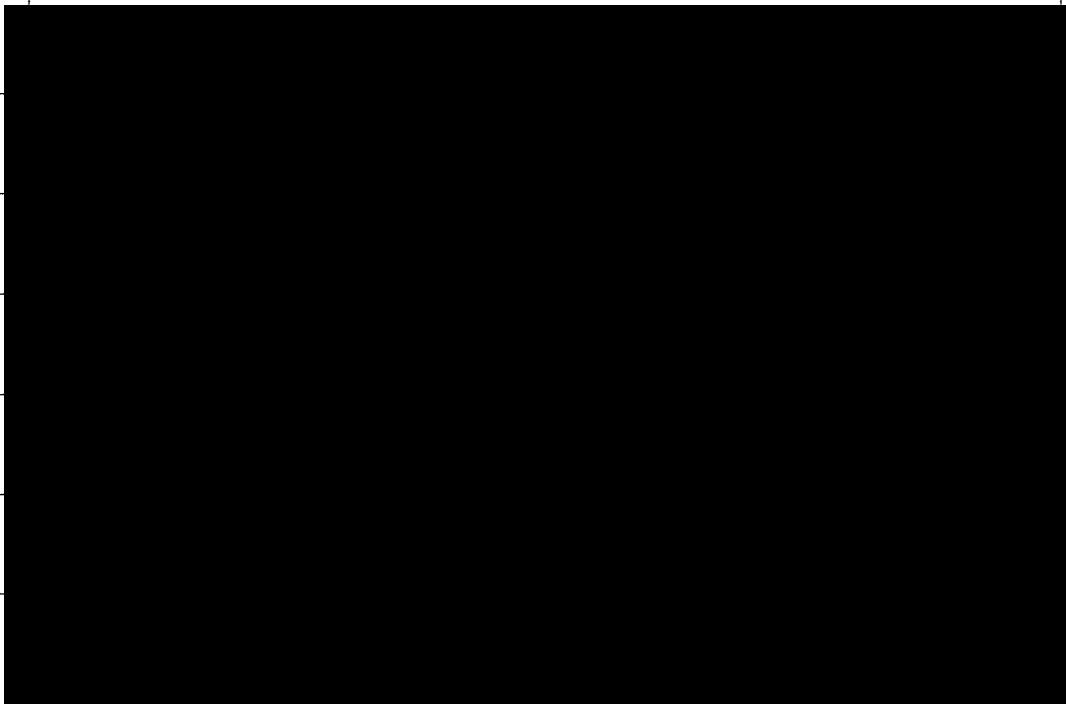
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Gloria Ferrer	
Helen Traham	
Evelyn Mercado	
Ernesto Alvarez	
Magdalena Ramos	
Yordana Alvarez	

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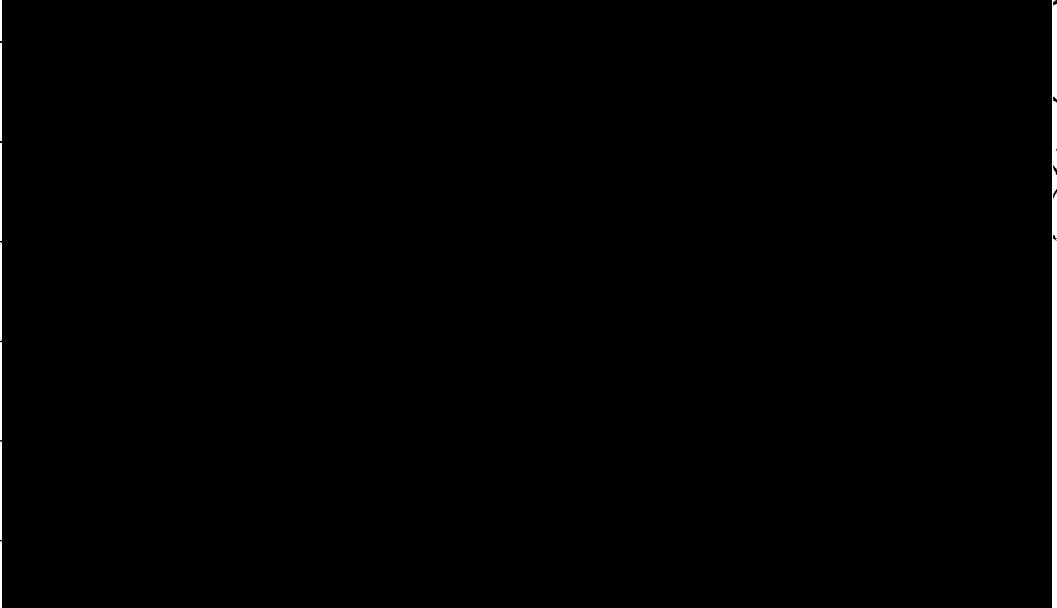
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
	
Anthony Pitt	
Susette Reyes	
José J. Mauleon	
MULTI ROSA	
Enaida Lopez	
Diane Robles	

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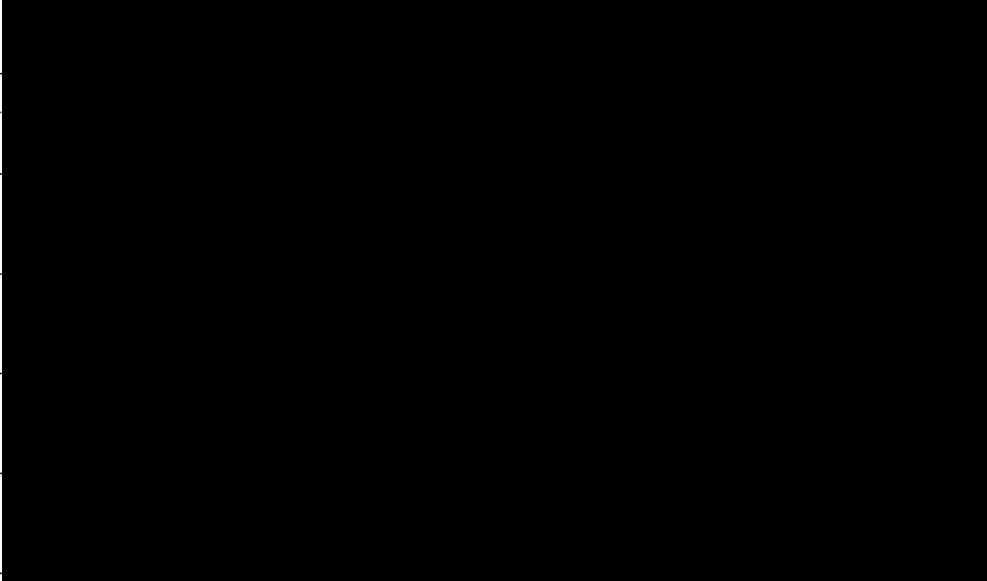
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Janet González	857 E 120 St El Barrio
Carlos Escobar	
Angel Escobar	
Erica Allende	
Miriam Escobar	
Luis Escobar	

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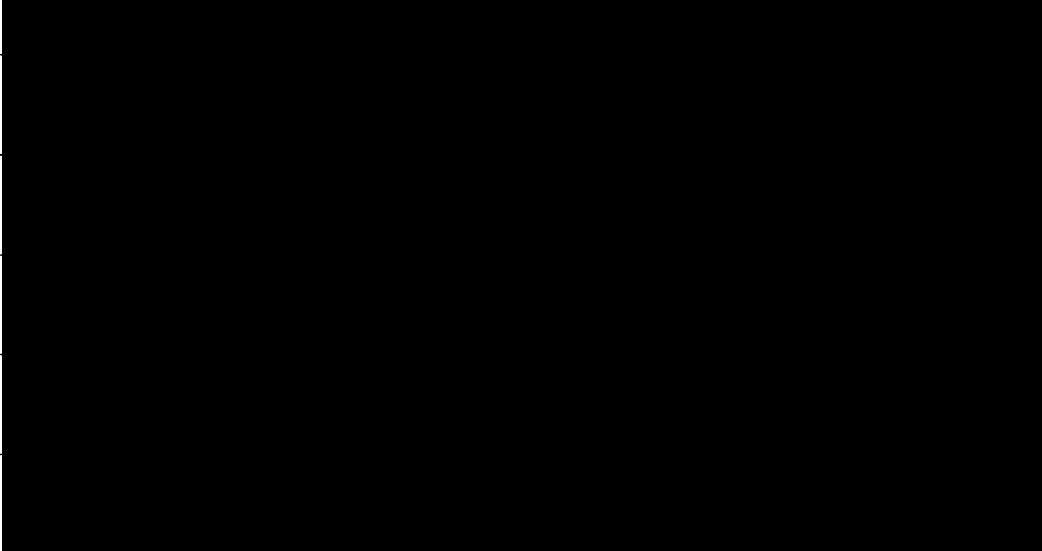
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Ray Rodriguez	 462
Louise J. Cruz	
Victor Rosario	
Jorge Nunez	
Jaime Sanchez	

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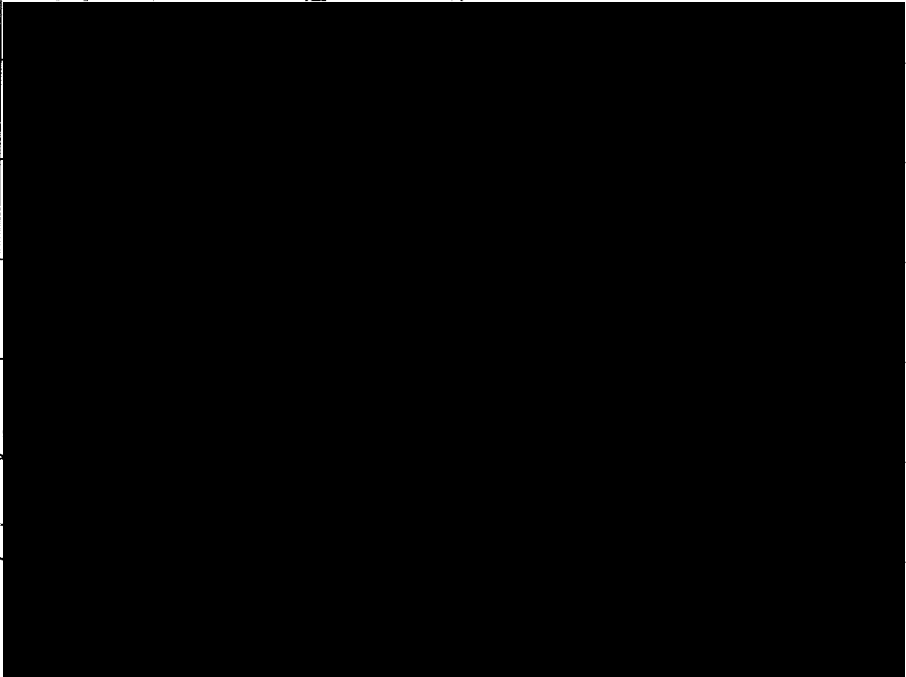
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Linda Santiago	#52
RAFAEL VALQUEZ	
Frank Ponce	
Ros Vazquez	
Luis Gonzalez	
Carmen Parrilla	

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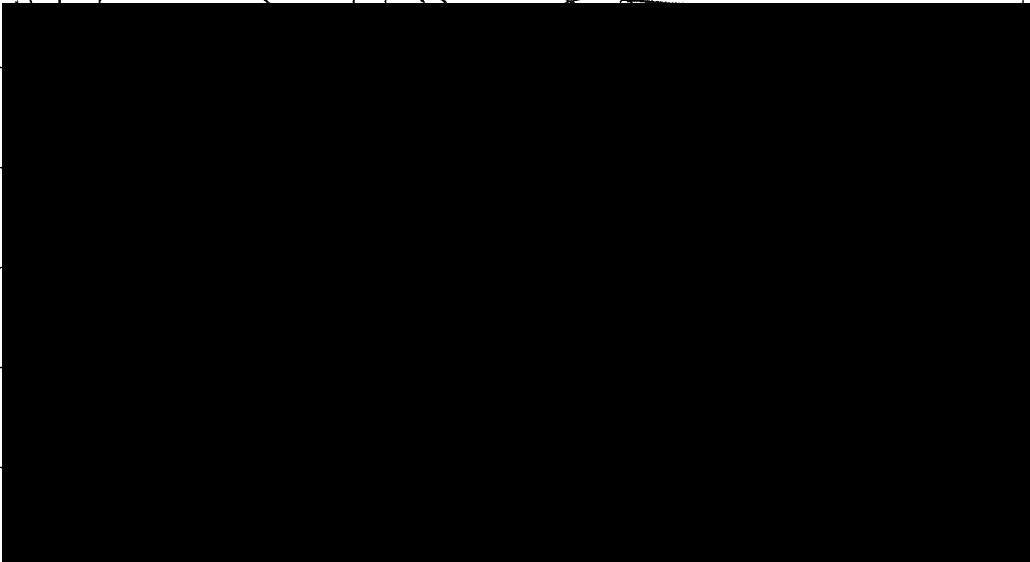
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Jorge Escorihuela	
Andrés González	
Bianca Abadía	
Maria Maldonado	
DANASHA Trzuaga	
LOETIE DELEZ	
MARIA VARGAS	

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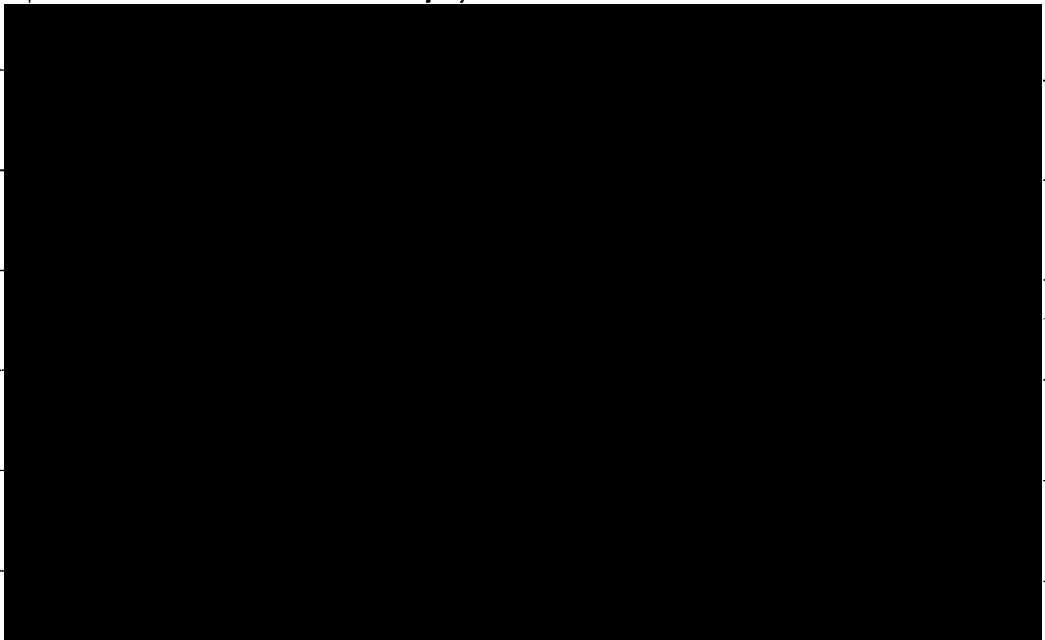
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
SUSAN Melendez	
Evelyn Melendez	
Mary Ann	
Judy Velazquez	
Edwin Rios	
Sonia Viera	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Esther Perez	
Henry Rodriguez	
Alice Ramos	
ARNALDO MARCANO	
Irene Papadatos	
E. Pablan	

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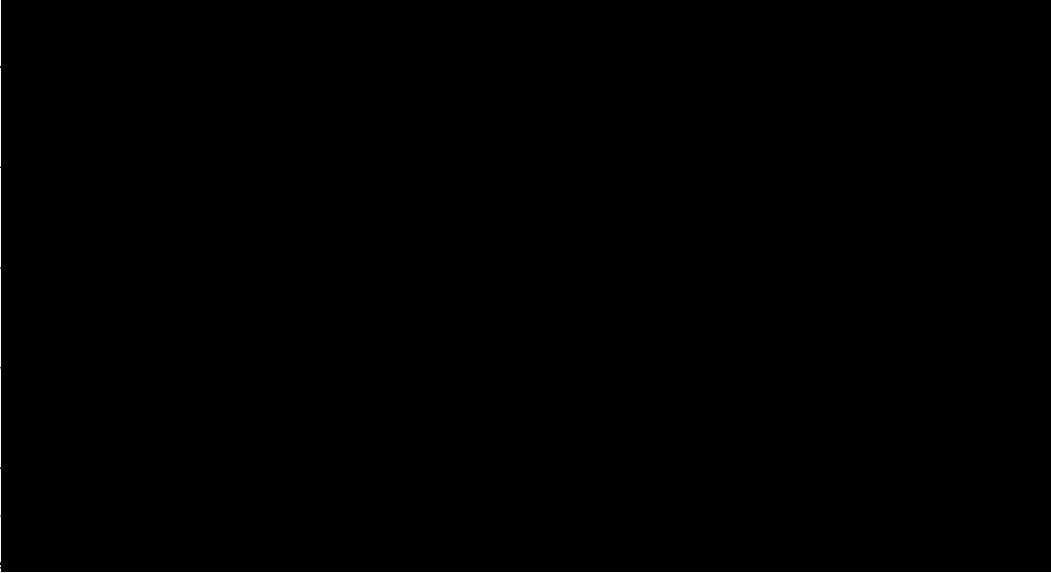
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Anita Ortiz	2 [REDACTED] 7
Manny Carlica	7 [REDACTED]
Jose Luis Cruz	8 [REDACTED]
Sonia Guadalupe	1 [REDACTED]
Chino	1 [REDACTED]
Enel Romero	[REDACTED]

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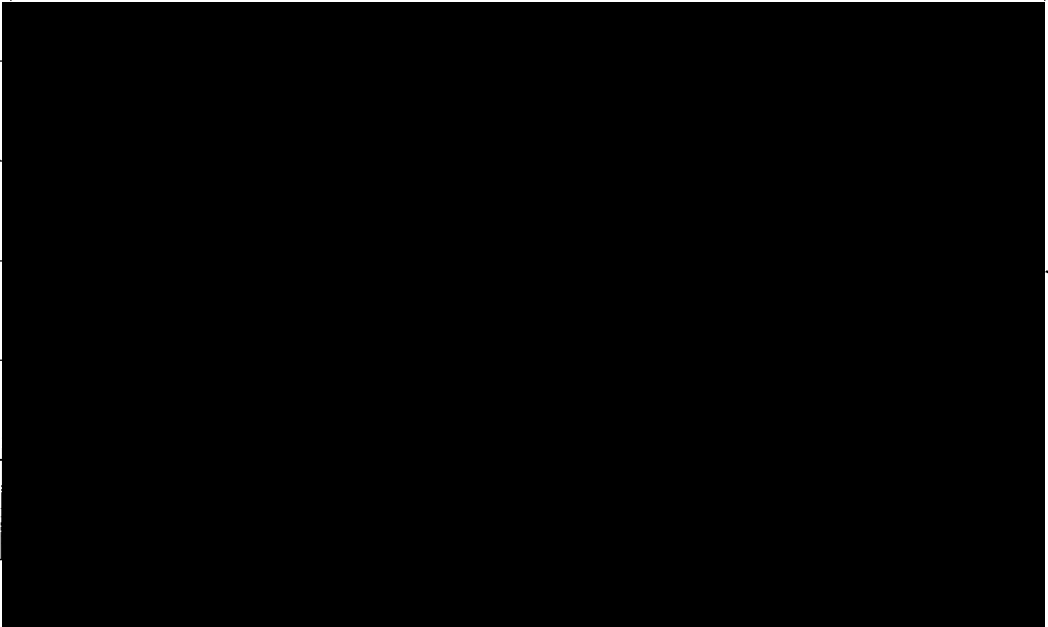
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Sabla Rivero</i>	<i>203 E 113 ST # 11</i> 
<i>Ana Cotto</i>	
<i>Willie R. Ruiz</i>	
<i>Elena H. Ortiz</i>	
<i>Mildred Gordon</i>	
<i>Maria Rodriguez</i>	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Wilfredo Santiago	
Rida Pacheco	
Jose Vega	
Risette Jones	
Edgardo J. Toney	

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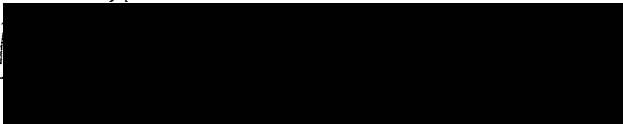
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
MARIA CAMPOS	
Gloria Ascenio	
Miguel Figueroa	
Maria Santiago	
CANDIDO Colon	
Rene Colon	

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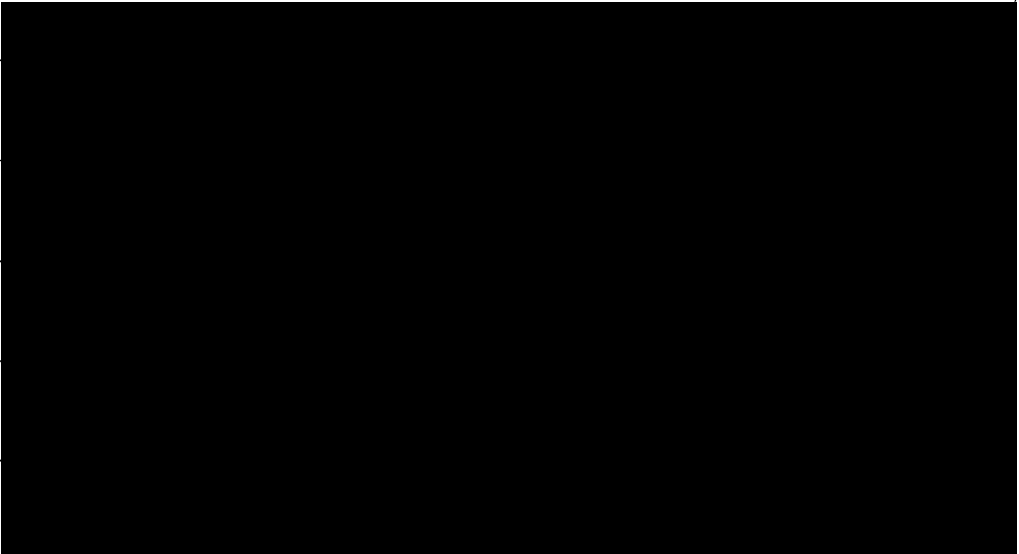
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>God Claudio Golden</i>	
<i>Wanda Ortiz</i>	
<i>Víctor Ortiz</i>	
<i>Carmen Cortez</i>	
<i>Yolanda Cruz</i>	
<i>Polly Sicaño</i>	

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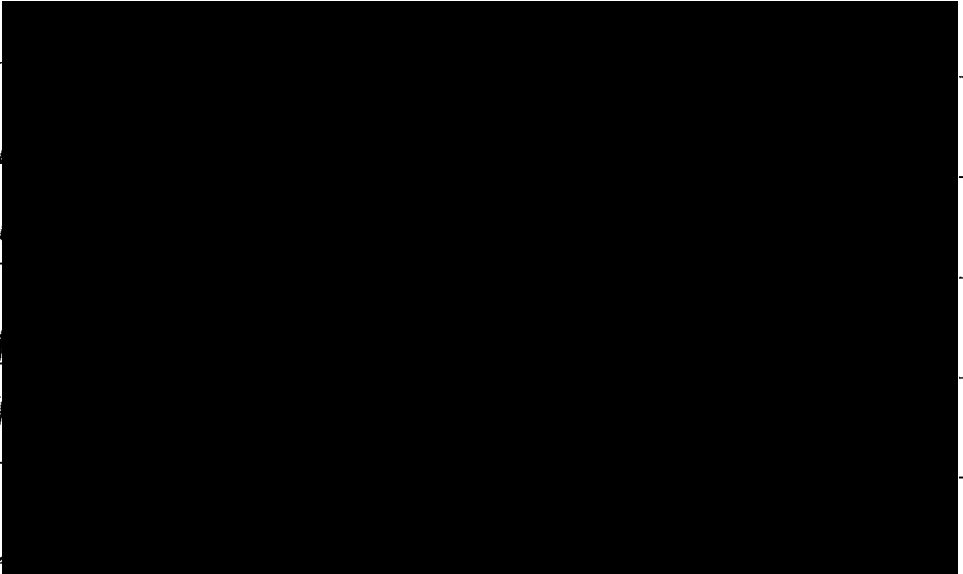
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Janice Jimenez	
El Taino Morro Moorish	
Issiah Mulsig	
Jordan Mula	
Basil La Garzalez	
Aridriann Gonzalez	

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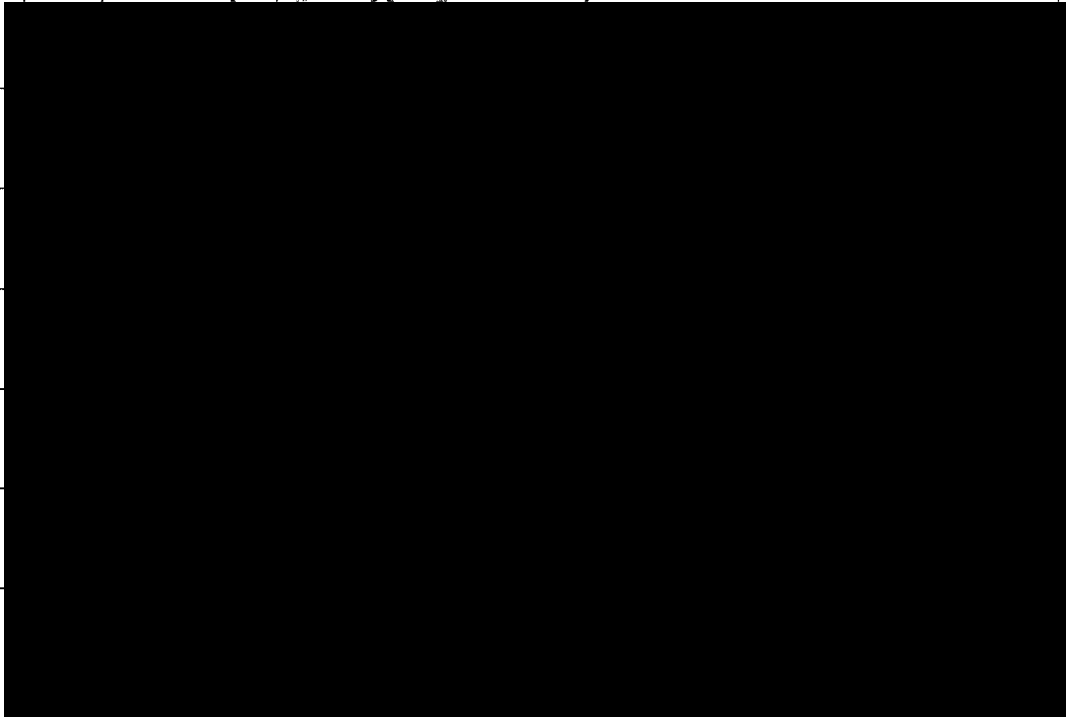
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Luis Martinez	
Elizabeth Alvar	
Joel Rodriguez	
Waileny Diaz	
Grady Semidey	
Felix Elan	

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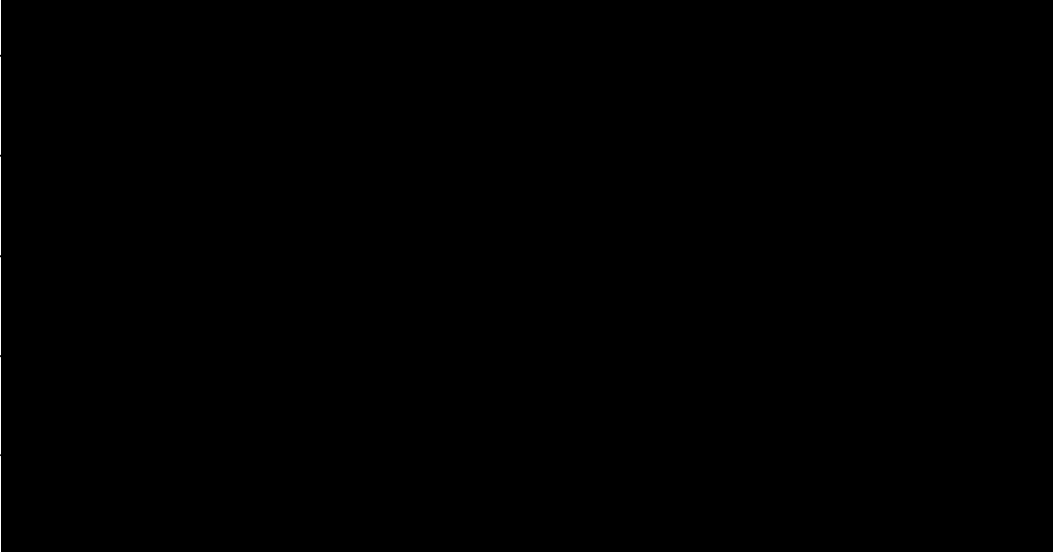

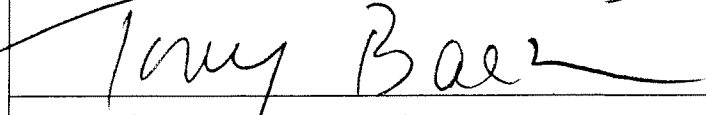

NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Sharon el rey</i>	
<i>Gladys maldonado</i>	
<i>Carlos Cruz</i>	
<i>Esteban Riquelme</i>	
<i>Valentina Garcia</i>	
<i>Gene Bonilla</i>	

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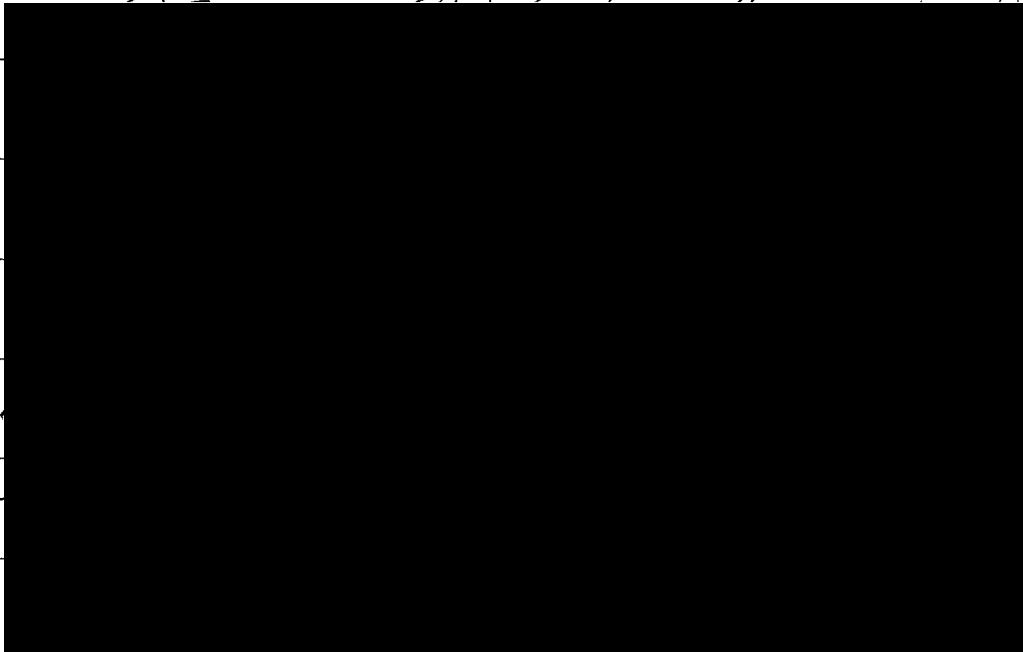
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
	
	
Anna L. Berrios	
	
	
Andie's Meñder	

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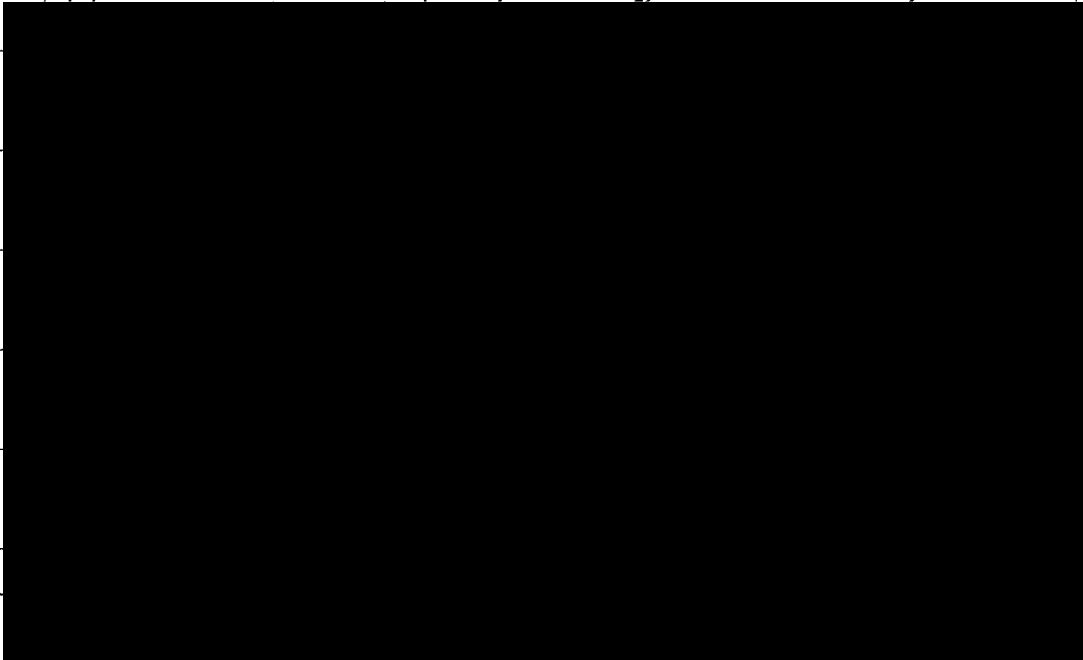
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
<i>Stephen Fonta</i>	
Angel Gonzalez	
Jose Cruz	
Mynor Mangat	
Juan Mangat	
Kevin Mangat	
Alex Vega	

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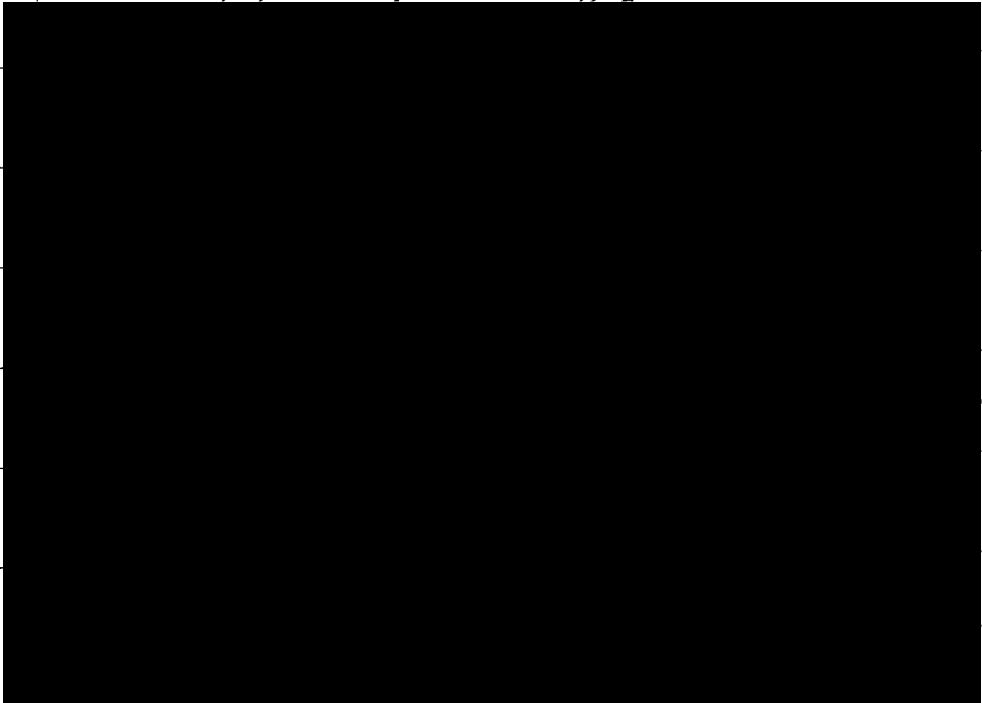
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Julia Rodriguez	
Dolores Golder	
Santos Liz	
Felipe Marquez	
Felix Lopez	
Janis Villegas	
Dolores Gonzalez	

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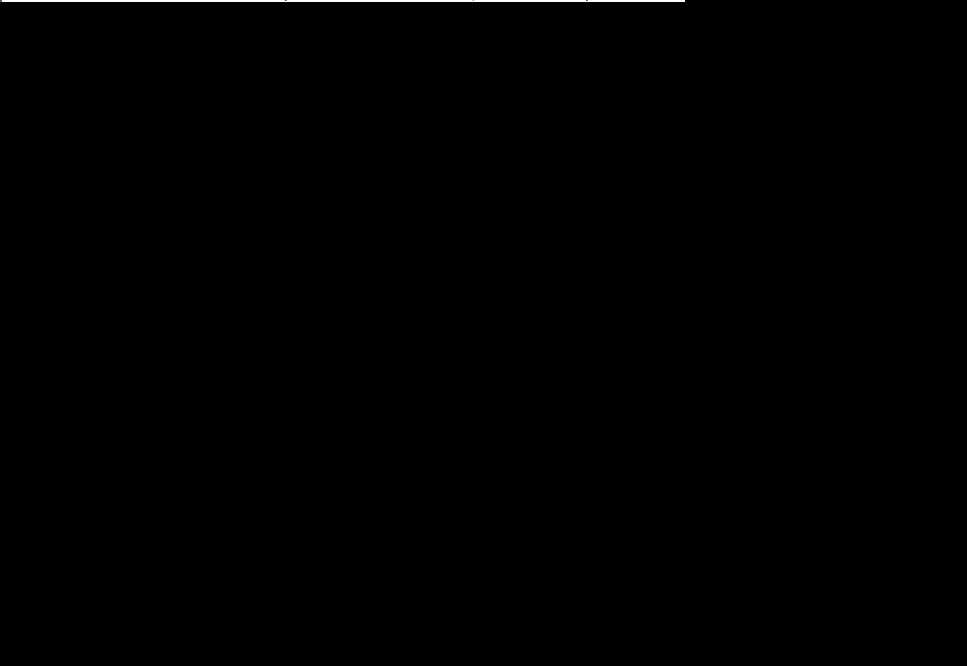
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Henry Hernandez	
Carmen Diza	
Ricardo Salgado	
Sherice Andino	
Judith Davila	
Diogenes Marrero	
Enid Gonzalez	

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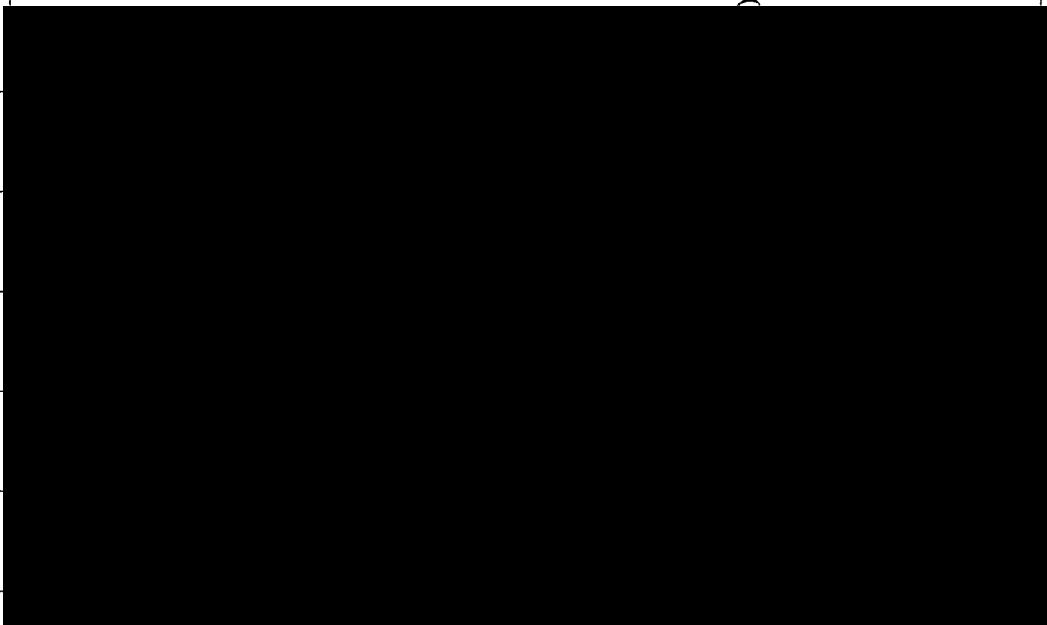
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Vito N. Velez	
"El Morro Taino Moorish"	
Soniz Perez	
DAVID RODRIGUEZ	
Rafaela Velazquez	
Josephine Lesbaca	

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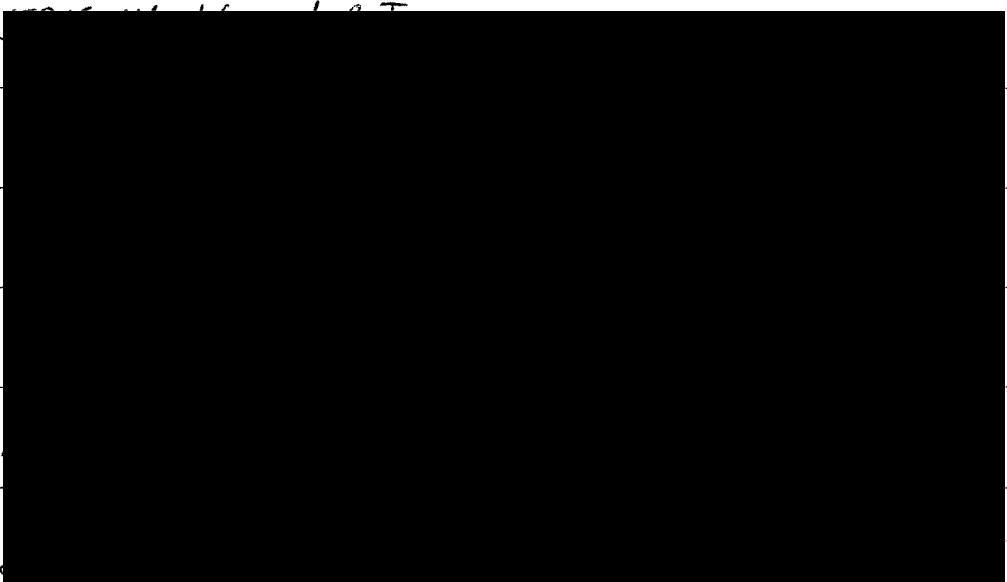
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
MARLON FLORES	
Santiago De Jesus Casillas	
Antonio Hoffman	
Guillermo Santos	
Luz R. Pereira	
Celinda Rivera	

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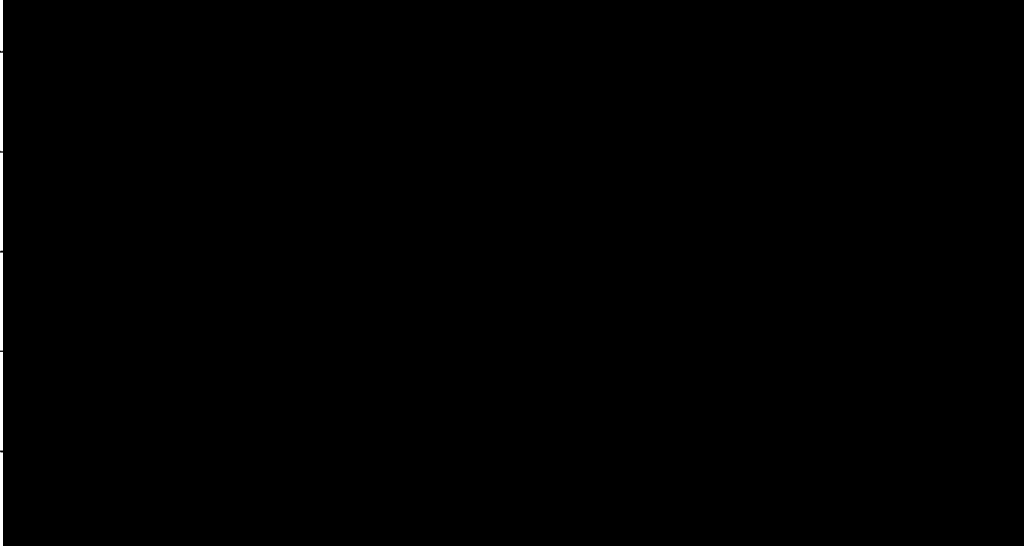
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Victor m. Ferrer Perez	
Ana Echevarria	
Robert Martinez	
Yacinda Jimenez	
Barby Rivera	
Elizabeth Ramos	

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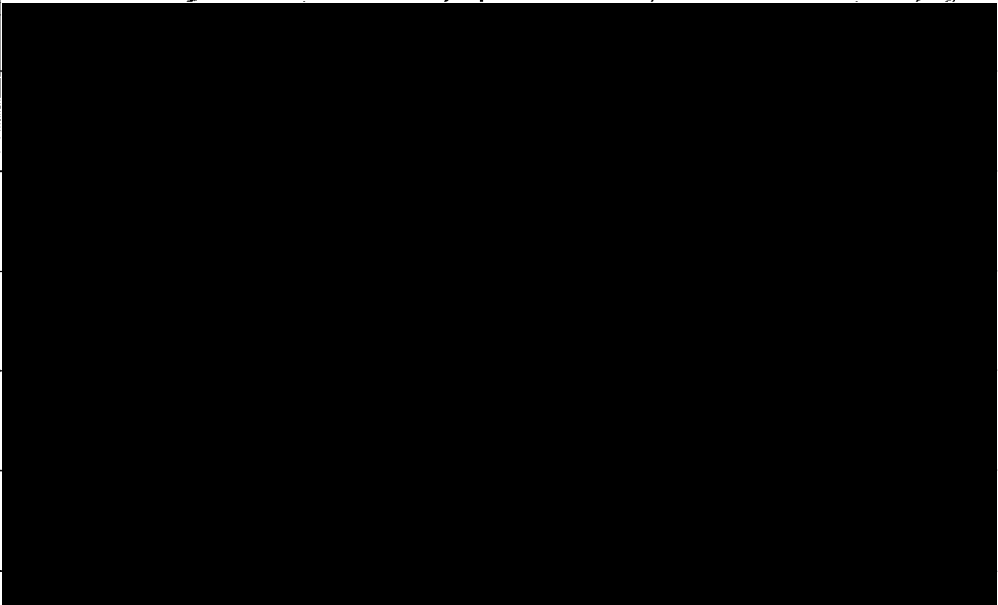
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Carlos M. Otero	
Manny Garcia	
Santa Sorzulez	
Basilio Aguilera	
Hilda Gomez	
Marta Ruiz	

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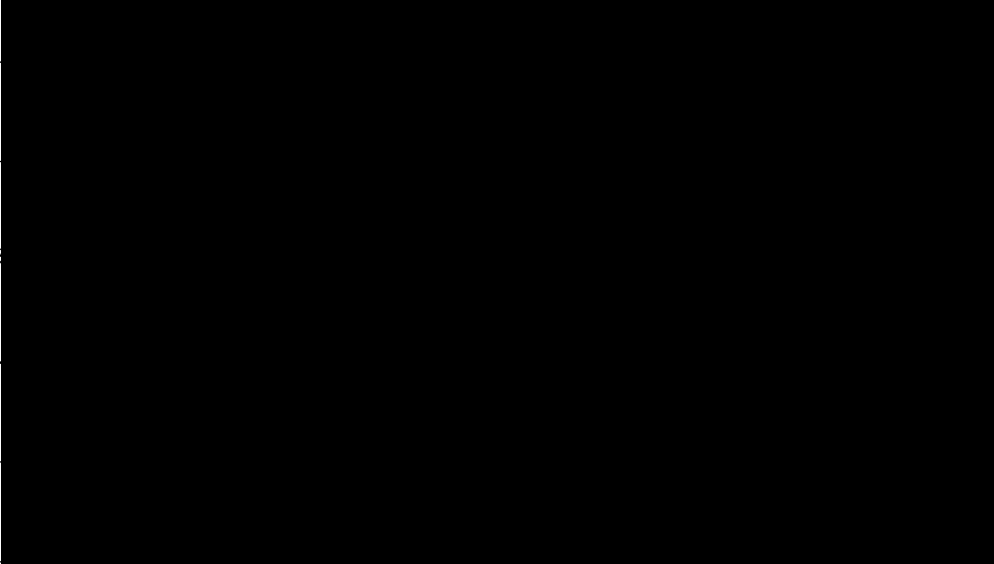
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Man Ray	
Ramiro Fontana	
Francisco Nunez	
Rosa Galan	
ESTHER CARRER	
Luisano Clemente	

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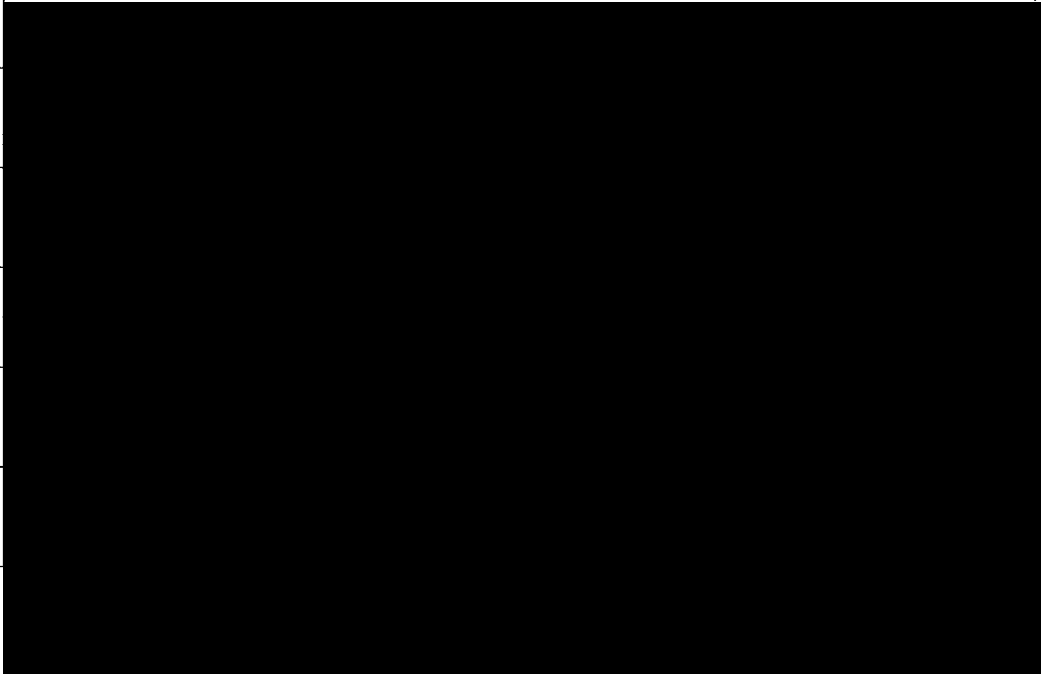
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Garmela Diaz	
Doni Man	
Marguito Rector	
Maria Roman	
El Debezo	
Hector C Ortiz	

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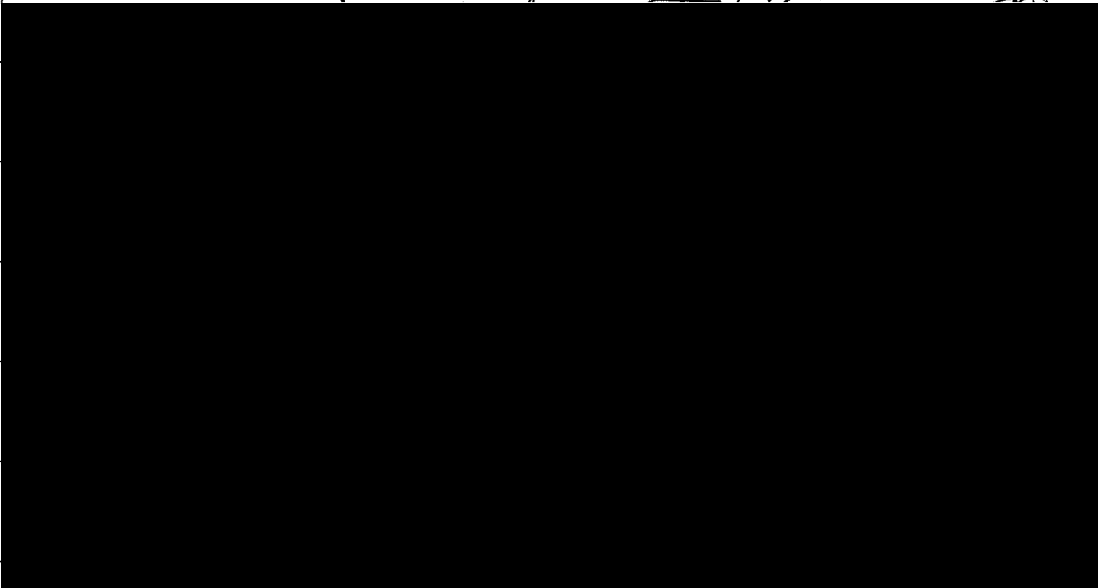
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Luanita Ortiz	
Luz Cruz	
Luis Poyale	
Noemi Blanes	
José Luis Collazo	
Magdalena Lopez	

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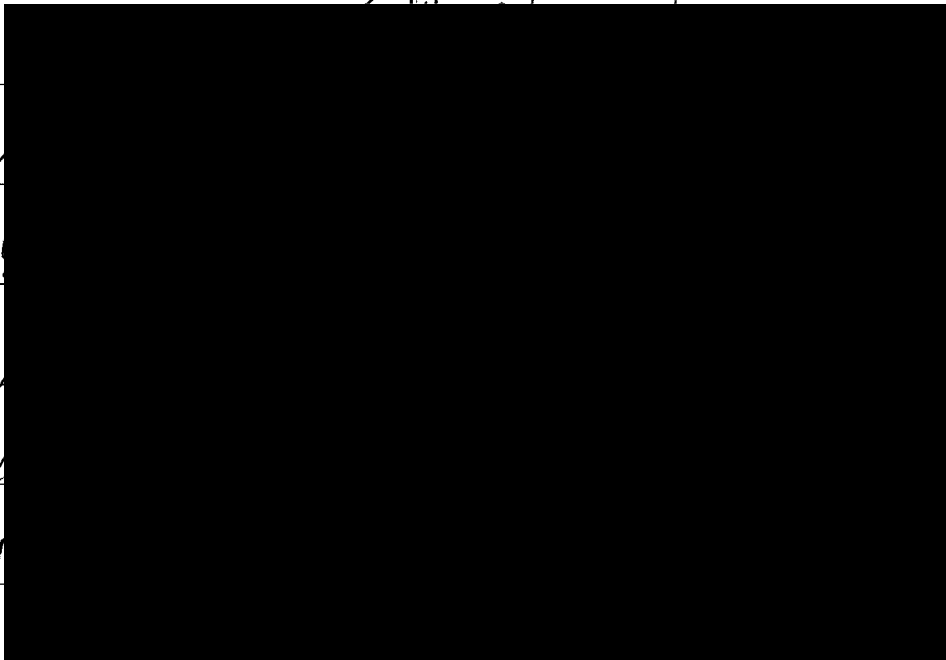
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Jose A. Otero	
Luis Arce	
Wilberto Leya	
Jose Rios	
Carmon Diaz	
Nancy Morfinez	

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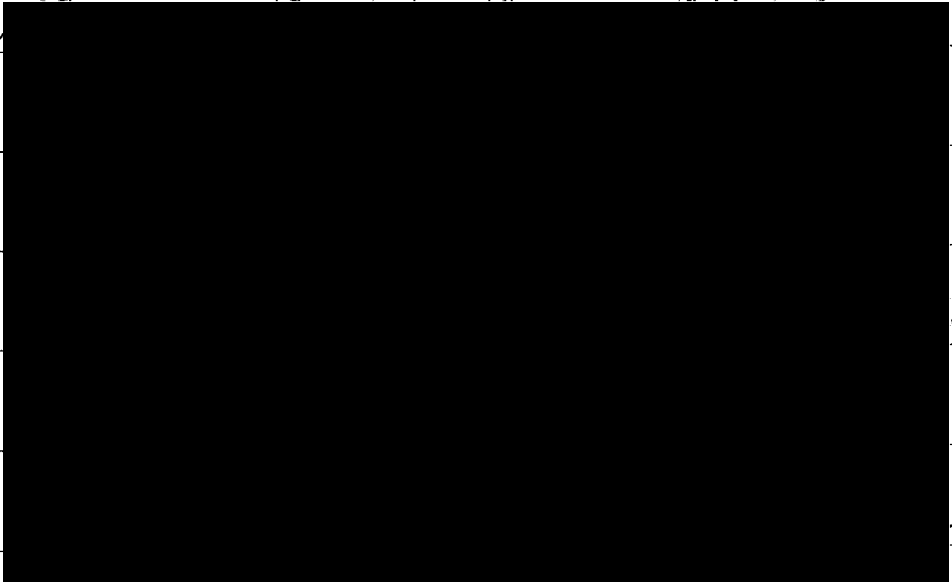
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Maria E. Bulerin	
LUANA PEREZ	
Sonia Ortiz	
Casa Santiago	
Jose Ortiz	
Rafael Matos	

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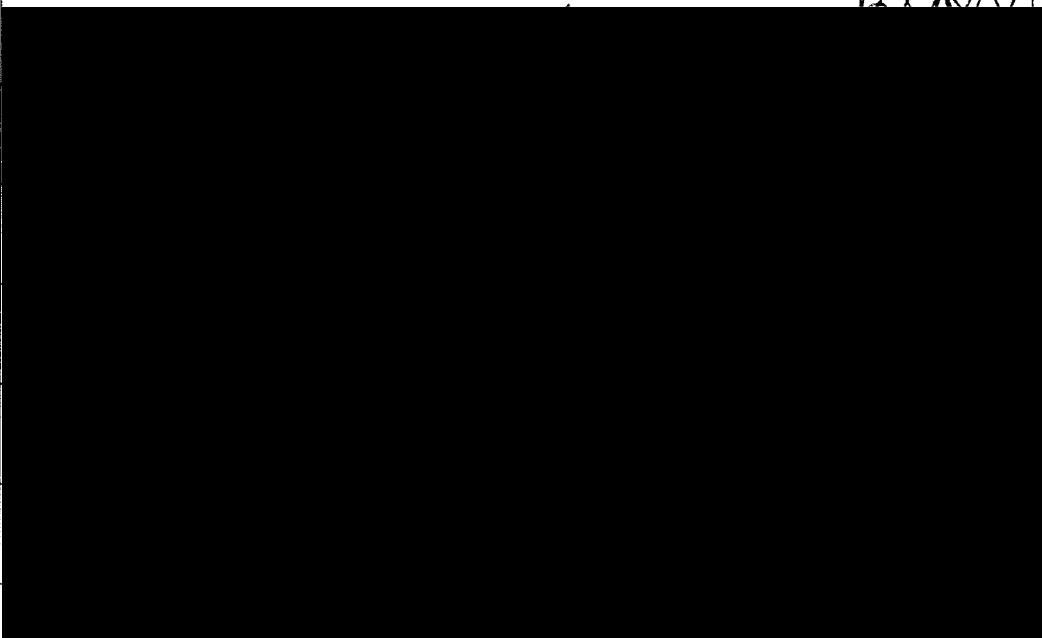
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
JUAN GONZALEZ	
Carlos Rodriguez	
Onix Velez	
Charles Gonzalez	
Beatrice Mangual	
Mabel Moya	

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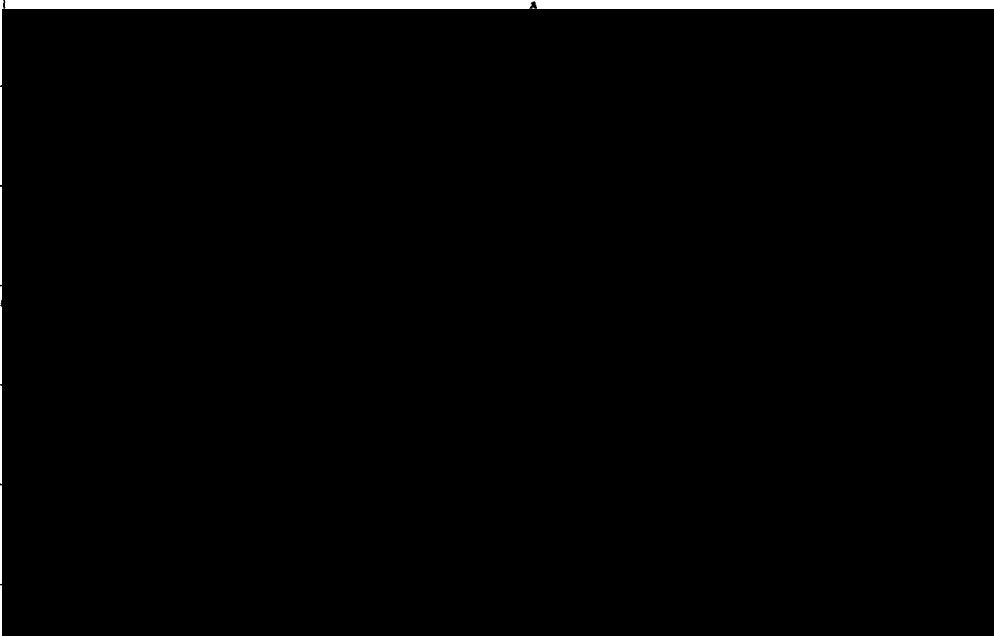
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Enrieta Pineda	
Jesse A. Pineda	
Amel Pineda	
Camilo de la Pen	
E. ESCOBAR	
Y. (Y) A ESCOBAR	

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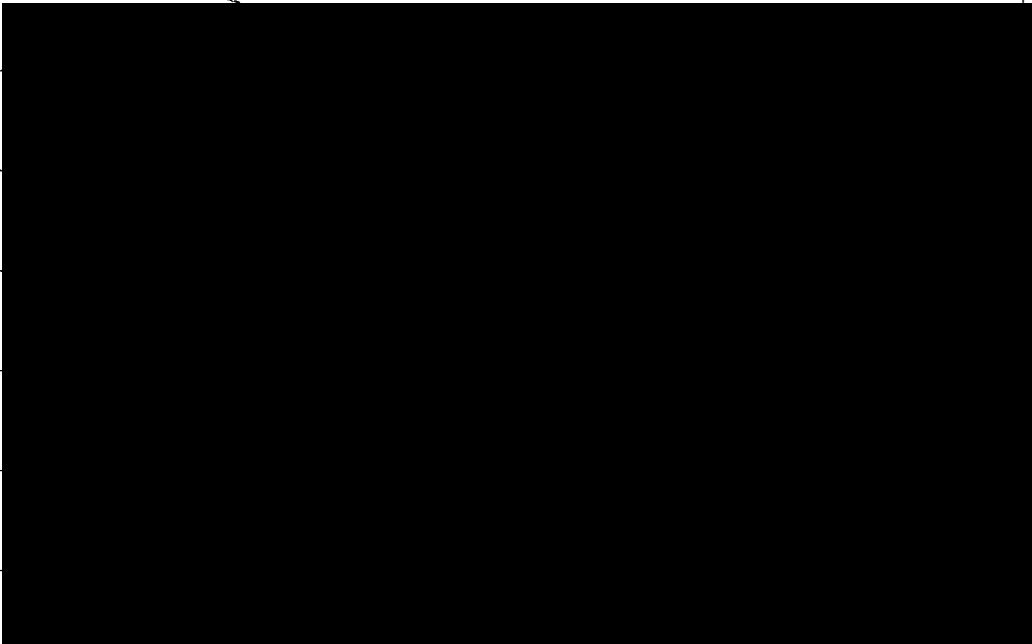
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Alma Calderon	
Rafael Viver	
David Rodriguez	
Ethel Estrella	
Sonya Este	
Judith Viera	

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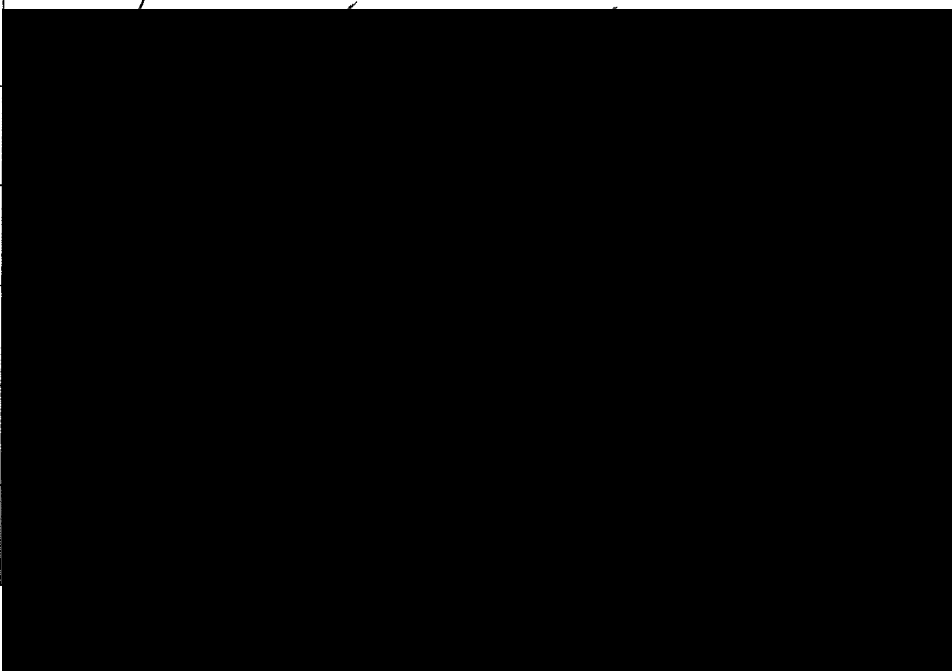
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Joan Moxerrate	
Miguel A. Pagan	
Maguel Rocha	
Mario Rivas	
Luis Lebron	
CÉSAR Q. LIVERA S	

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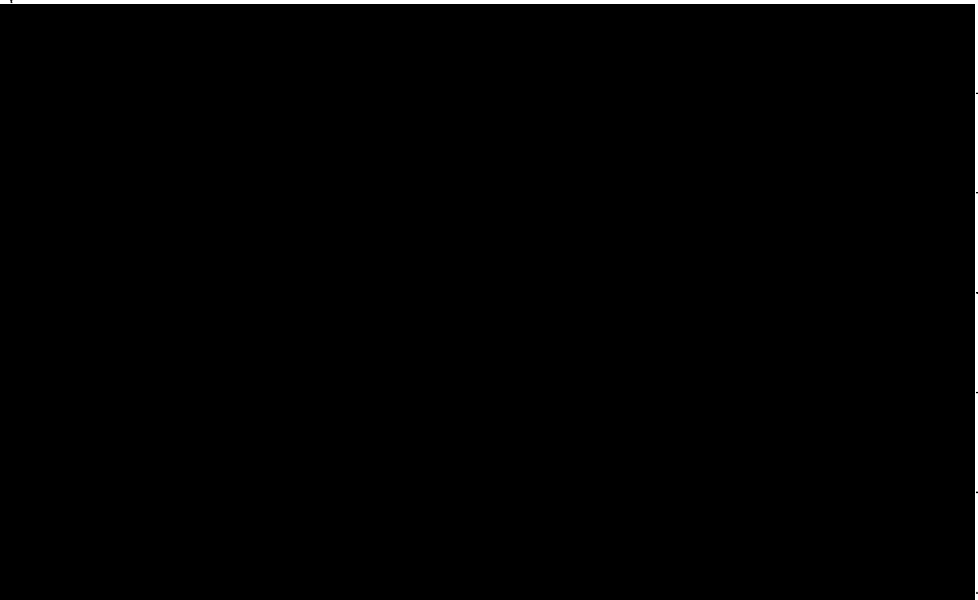
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
JOSEFA ULTARTE	 1025
Rene Vega	
Ismael Rodriguez	
DIMMA CABR	
XAVIER PEREZ	
Amy Stack	

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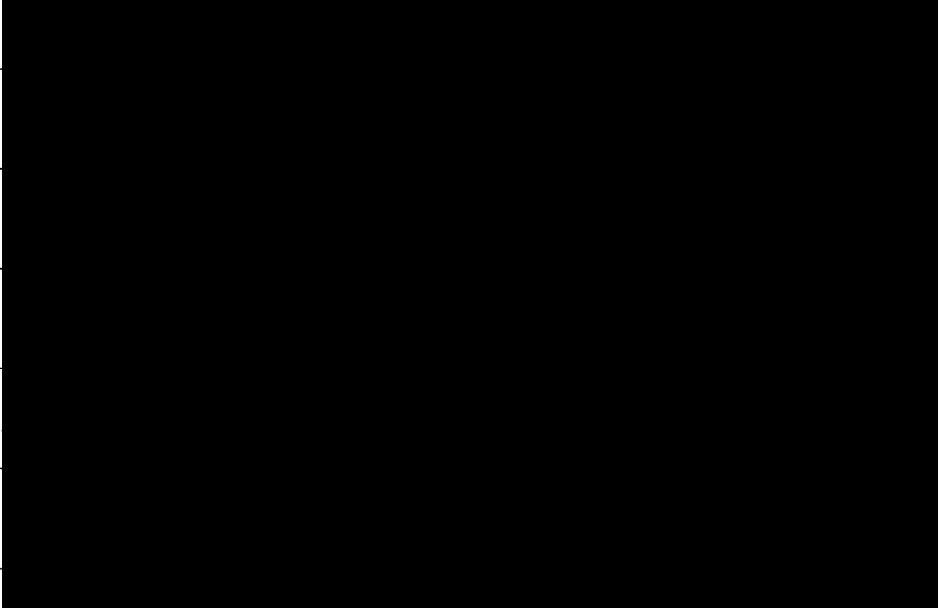
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
B. Seales	
Luis A. Rodriguez	
RAFAEL G. ORTEGA	
José Rodriguez	
SANDALIO QUIÑONES	
Mildred. Ayala	

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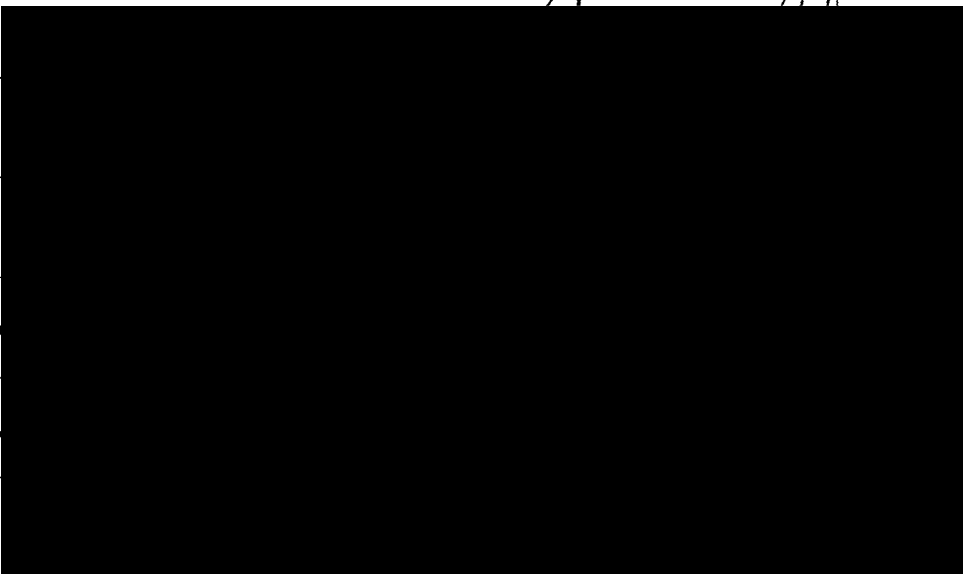
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Mariela Espada	
Silvia Reyes	
Erick Baer	
Schirah Lopez	
Dominic Mayh	
Darius Mayh	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Juan Reyes	
Viviana Reyes	
Alberto Alvarez	
Carlos Reinoso	
RAUL A REYES	
María Alvarez	

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234E

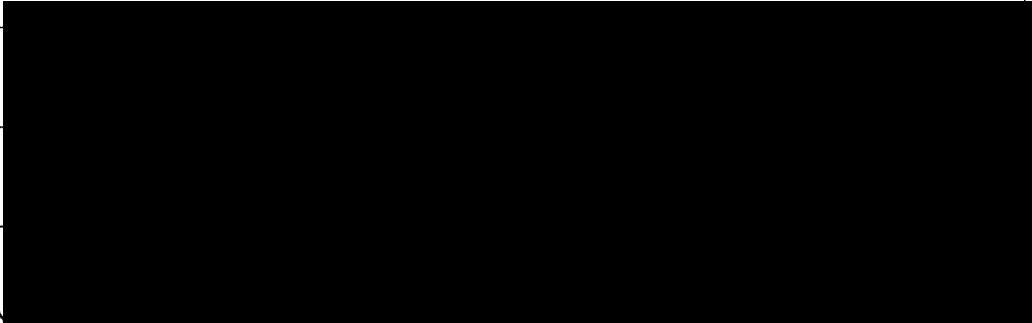
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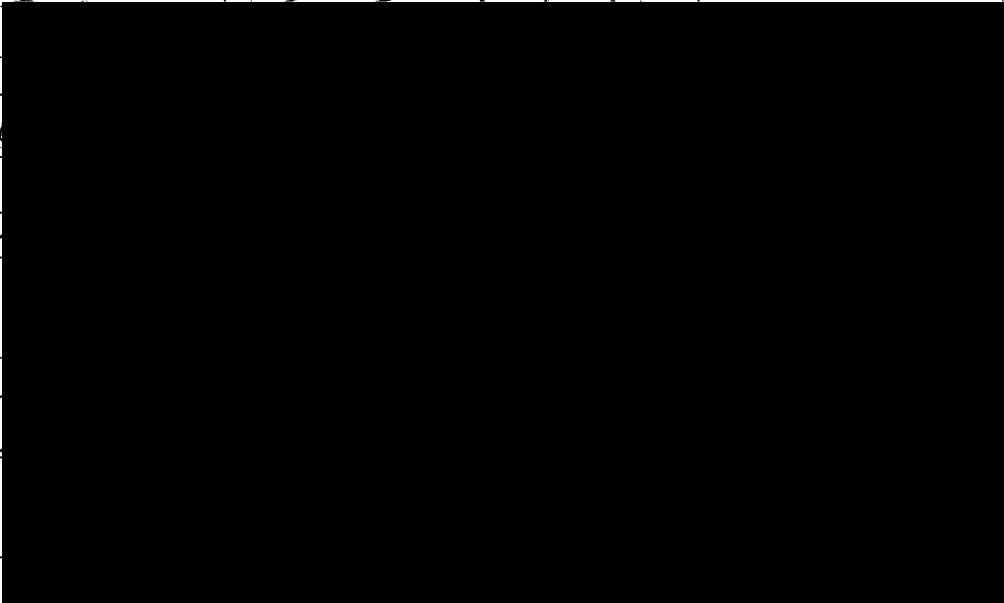
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Killy y Angel Arce	
836 Montgomery St	
Brooklyn N.Y. 11213	
Rafael Calderon &	
Frank Palmero	
Linda Colon	

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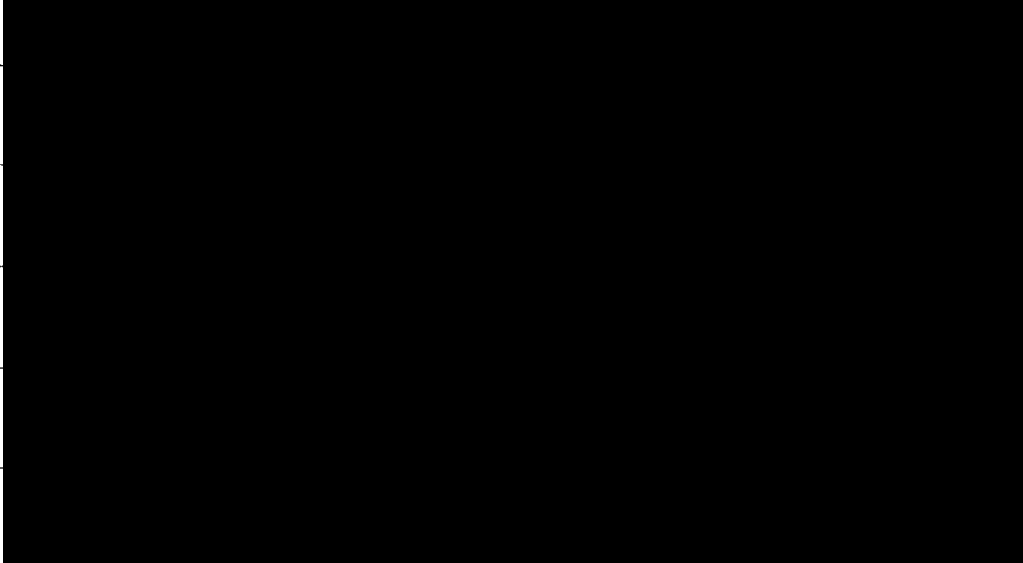
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Michael Ramirez	
MARIO RIZZA	
Carmen Hernandez	
Angel Lacort	
ANGEL GURIA	
Esperanza Barrera	

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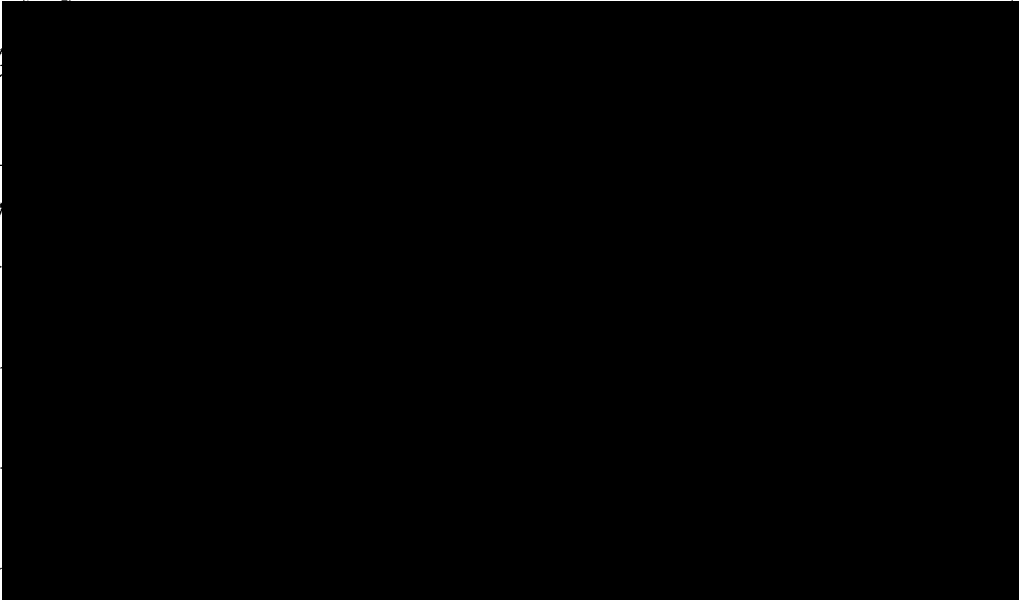
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Treme Plaza	
Johnathan Ruiz	
Calief Hill	
Carmen Zazario	

EL BARRIO'S CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT IS UNDER ATTACK!

The City is proposing to change the City Council district lines to further divide the El Barrio/East Harlem community, and move more of Council District 8 into the Bronx. This will dilute our neighborhood's political power. Important landmarks like La Marqueta will no longer fall entirely in our community's primary Council district. The Unity Coalition has released a proposal that would preserve more of El Barrio's boundaries. **We demand that our Council District be kept whole!**

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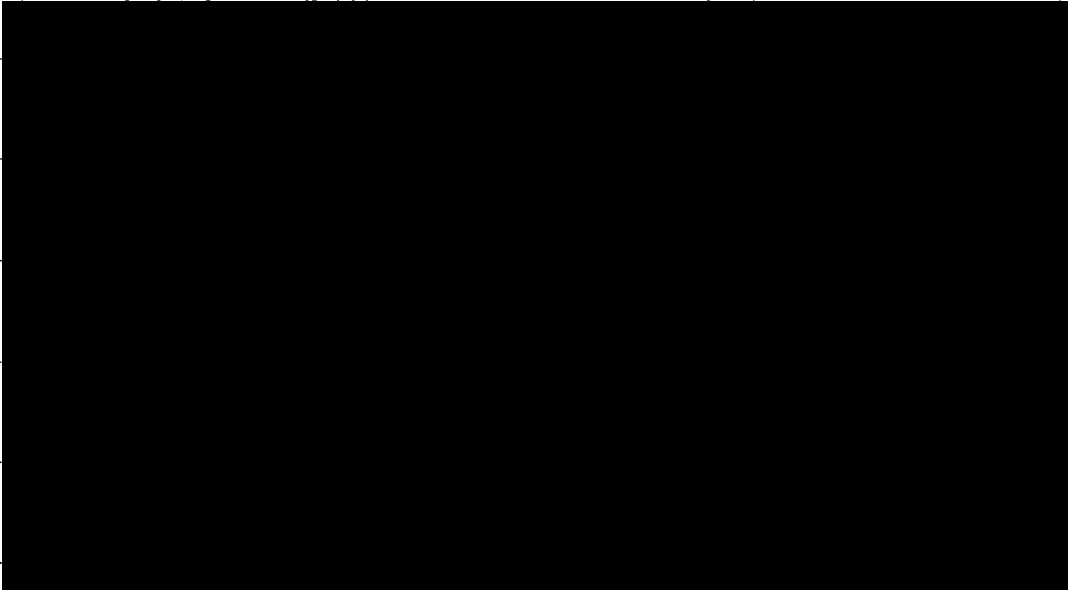
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Ana Cintas	
Stephen Marshall	
Amanda Hernandez	
Nancy Thompson	
[Signature]	
[Signature]	

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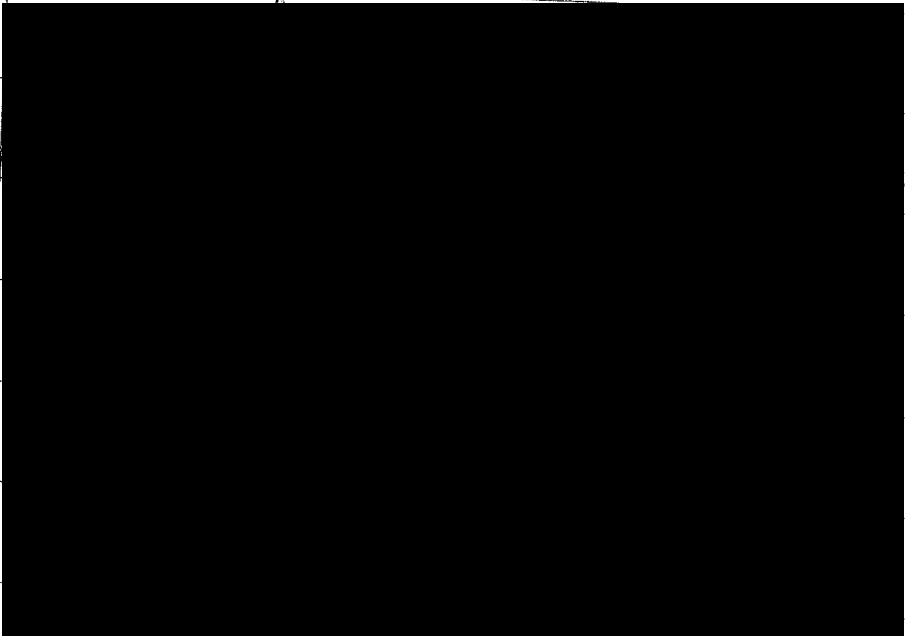
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Mildred Laverne	
Mircea Cruz	
J. Larch	
Aichrosten BAH	
VERGINA MARTIN	
Shaji Venable	

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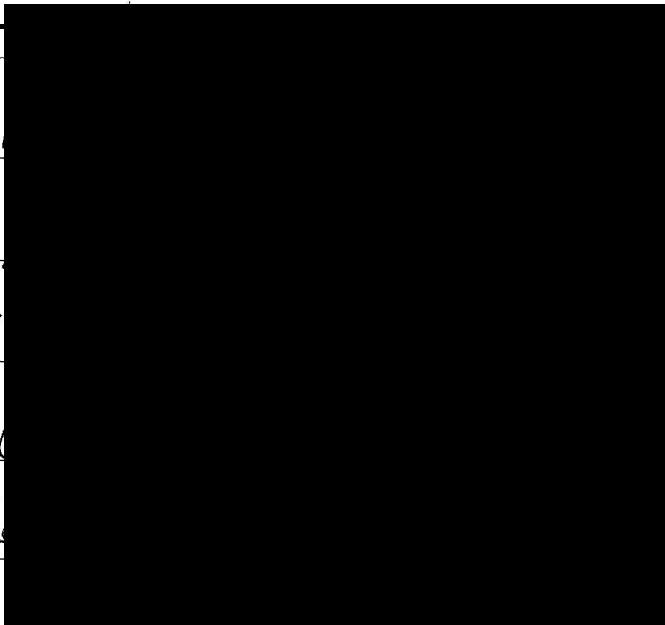
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Ruth Spry	
Camelo Colon	
Cruzada Wt	
Boltoni Jor	
MD. N. Hiram	
8- Rose	

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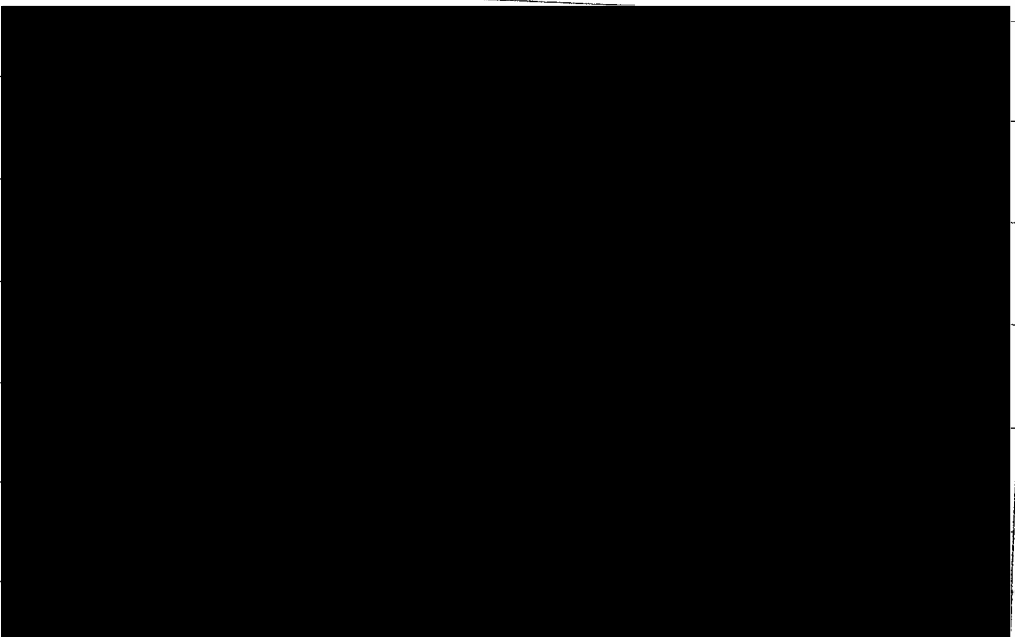
NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Irmy Ortiz	
Darren Ayala	
Margarita Rodriguez	
Diego Battista	
Luis Hill	
Genee Taylor	

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NAME/NOMBRE	ADDRESS/DIRECCION
Kimberly Hill	
Louis S. Minor	
May Ward	
Deanna Fyass	
James Hunt	
Norma Vargas	

Ralph J. Rangel Tenant Association
159-70 Harlem River Drive-Suite 12-A
New York, New York 10039

e-mail: [REDACTED]

October 4, 2012

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

Re: Redistricting of Harlem

Dear Mr. Ettricks;

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Bernadette McNear, I am the current president of the Ralph J. Rangel Resident Association under the auspice of New York City Housing Authority. The Ralph J. Rangel Houses is a 984 apartment complex located in upper Manhattan in New York City providing a home for 2347 tenants. The goal of the executive board is to strengthen the relationships within our complex and surrounding communities.

This letter is intended to address the notion of the redistricting of Harlem. Many officials are in discussions about moving 155th street -159th street to the Washington Heights. Our development is in the plan for redistricting. This proposal is preposterous.

Upper Harlem has many places that have Landmarks status or have been registered as Historic Places. I have taken the liberty of attaching a list of these landmarks. How do you move known Harlem landmarks to a different district?

- 155th St Viaduct land bridge leading to Macombs Dam Bridge
- Harlem Hospital Center
- The Harlem School of the Arts
- Rucker Park

I also have attached signatures of individuals from Rangel houses and our surrounding community, to stress the fact that they would prefer to be within the 9th district under the support and confines of the honorable Inez Dickens. More importantly being in district 9 will allow the African-Americans of upper Harlem to have representation from an African-American. Yes, we to have a voice and she is the face and voice for the African Americans of Harlem.

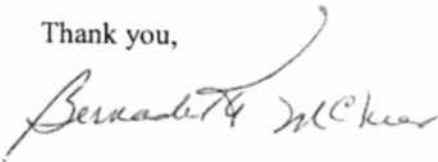
For argument purposes the zip codes that make up Harlem are 10026, 10027, 10029, 10030, 10031, 10035, 10037, and 10039. Rangel Houses is in the 10039 zip code and in the 9th district. Upper Harlem is within the 9th district and this new redistricting will put certain areas in the Washington Heights 10th district.

Bernadette McNear-President James Isom-Vice President
Seretta Patterson-Treasurer Otha Tanks-Financial Secretary
Gwendolyn Hubbard-Business Manager Rita McClinton-Secretary
Renee Harrison-Sergeant of Arms Sheila Cherry-Parliamentarian

Harlem was once the community that no one wanted to be associated with. It was known for high crimes, drug epidemic low income, burned out and abandoned buildings. The majority of the people that lived in Harlem during the times of hardship were African Americans and our local political representatives (Rangel, Farrell, Sutton, Powell, Patterson and Dickens) they stood strong when everyone else had written off Harlem as a lost cause. Harlem was once seen as a breeding ground for judicial dictatorship. The children were seen as un-teachable, adults were unemployable. However, through all the rhetoric and negativity the community flourished. Now due to regentification and the building up of property, Harlem is seen as breath of fresh air to many.

It appears that outside entities are all vying to be the leadership voice for our community. We want politicians that recognize our plight in Harlem as well be the African-American face that symbolize the African-Americans within Harlem. Please do not misinterpret the purpose of this letter, Washington Heights district 10 is overwhelmingly Hispanic and it is represented. We the African American of Harlem want to be afforded the same courtesy, and that is being represented by a face that is African-American.

Thank you,



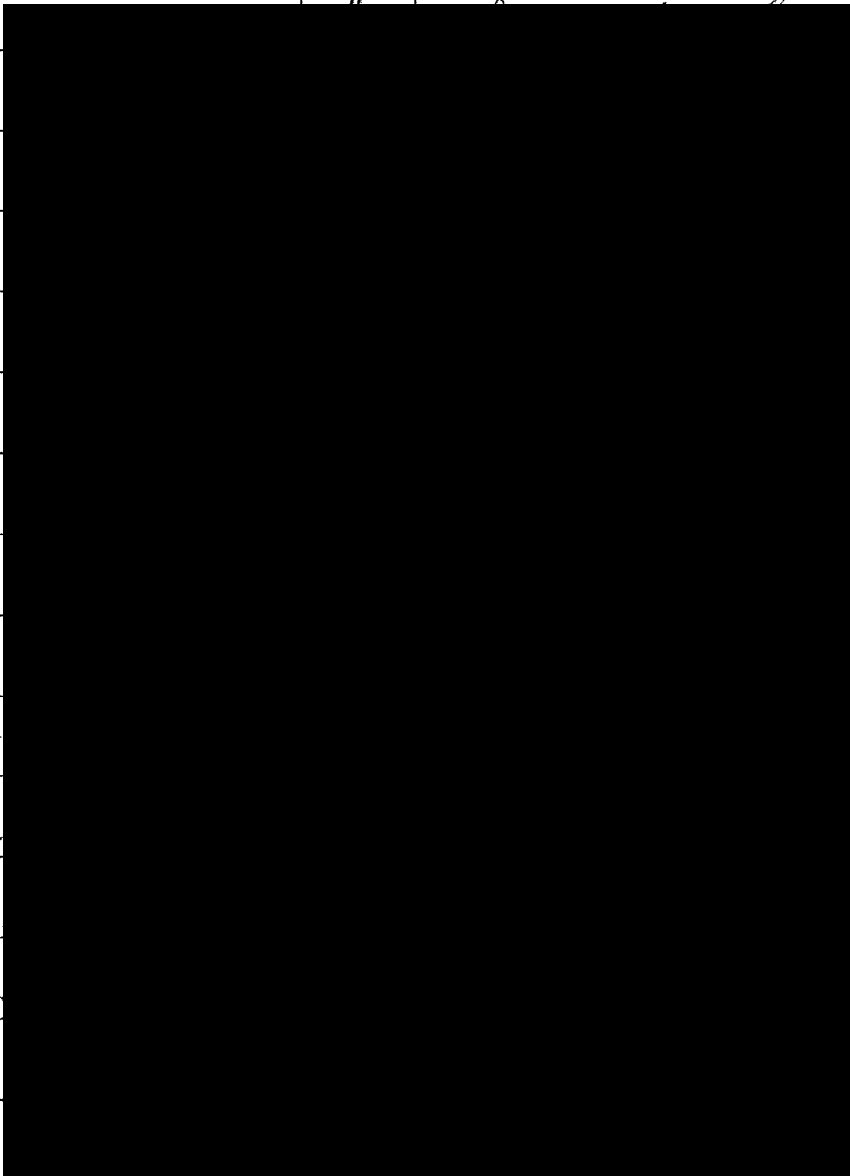
Bernadette McNear
Rangel Houses Resident Association President

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Gwendolyn Hubbard-Business Manager Rita McClinton-Secretary
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I am a tenant of the Ralph J. Rangel Houses located in the Village of Harlem. I am
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 have a voice in my community. I live in Harlem and want to remain a part of
 Harlem. Therefore, I vote NO to being redistricted to the Washington Height 10th
 district.

Name (Print)	ADDRESS	APT #	Signature
Diane Staggos			
Diane Sarata			
Cynthia DAVIS			
Luan Morgan			
Loyd R. R. R.			
Christina Harris			
Frederick K. K.			
Earl K. K.			
Natasha Todman		15	
K. M. Washington		15	
LeRoy Colazzi		15	
Marnalagan		15	
Marquise Williams		15	
Christopher Williams		15	

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Name (Print)	ADDRESS	APT #	Signature
Dorothy Freeman			
ANAKIE LEON HAMMONDS			
MacLance Booker			
Mitchana Booker			
Reverie Thomas			
Nydia Jylia			
JAMES COOPER			
Jeanette Rodriguez			
Cristina Colon			
CAROL WILLIAMS			
Blanche Glover			
Matesia Girden			
ANWASIA VIZCARRA			
Ronny Salcedo			
Martha Cheatham			

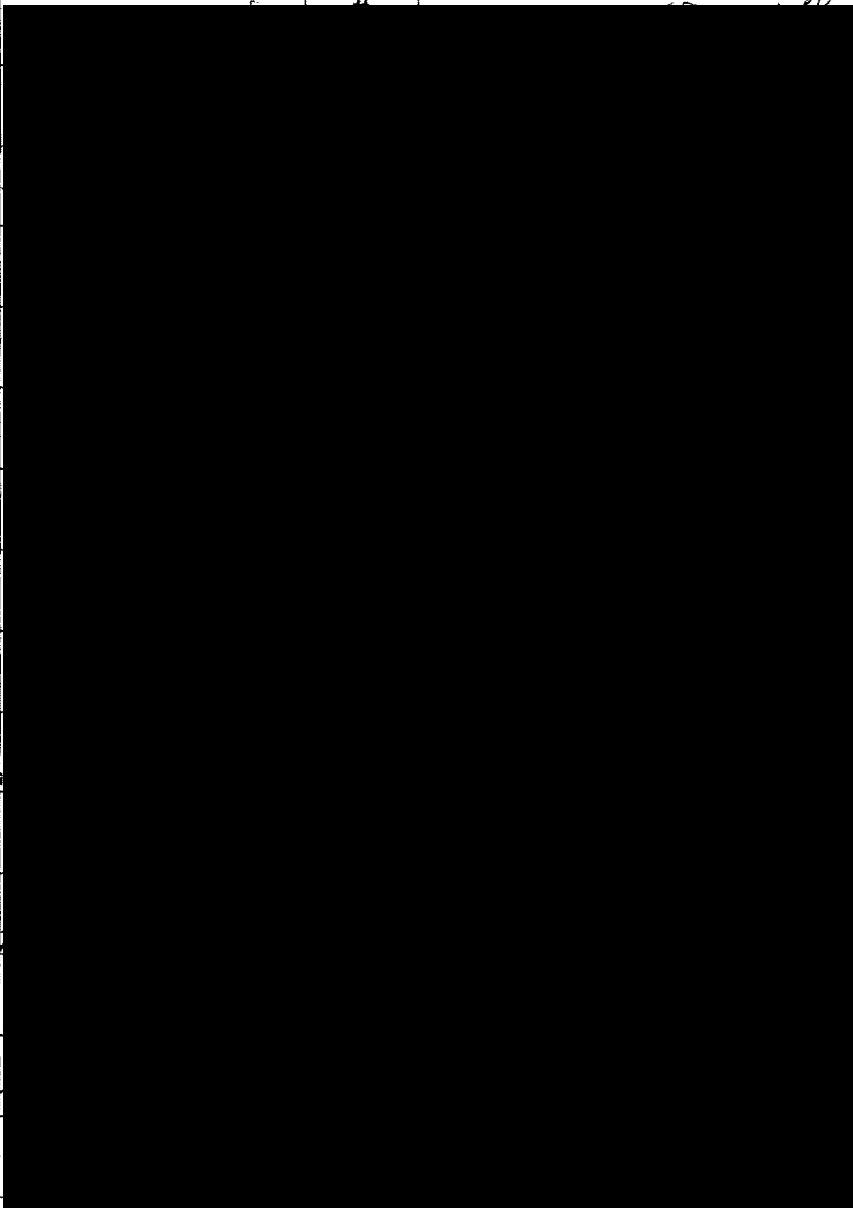
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Name (Print)	ADDRESS	APT	Signature
John GROVES			
MARIA ROSARIO			
HOWARD EVANS			
Victor Brutista			
Crystal Alexander			
Sharon Bush			
Ernestine Blain			
Shelley Perkins			
Dorothy ROBERTS			
E. Benjamin			
Perseus WOMEN			
Betty Mitchell			
ELIJAH McNeil			
Victor Downing			
Ivy Forman			

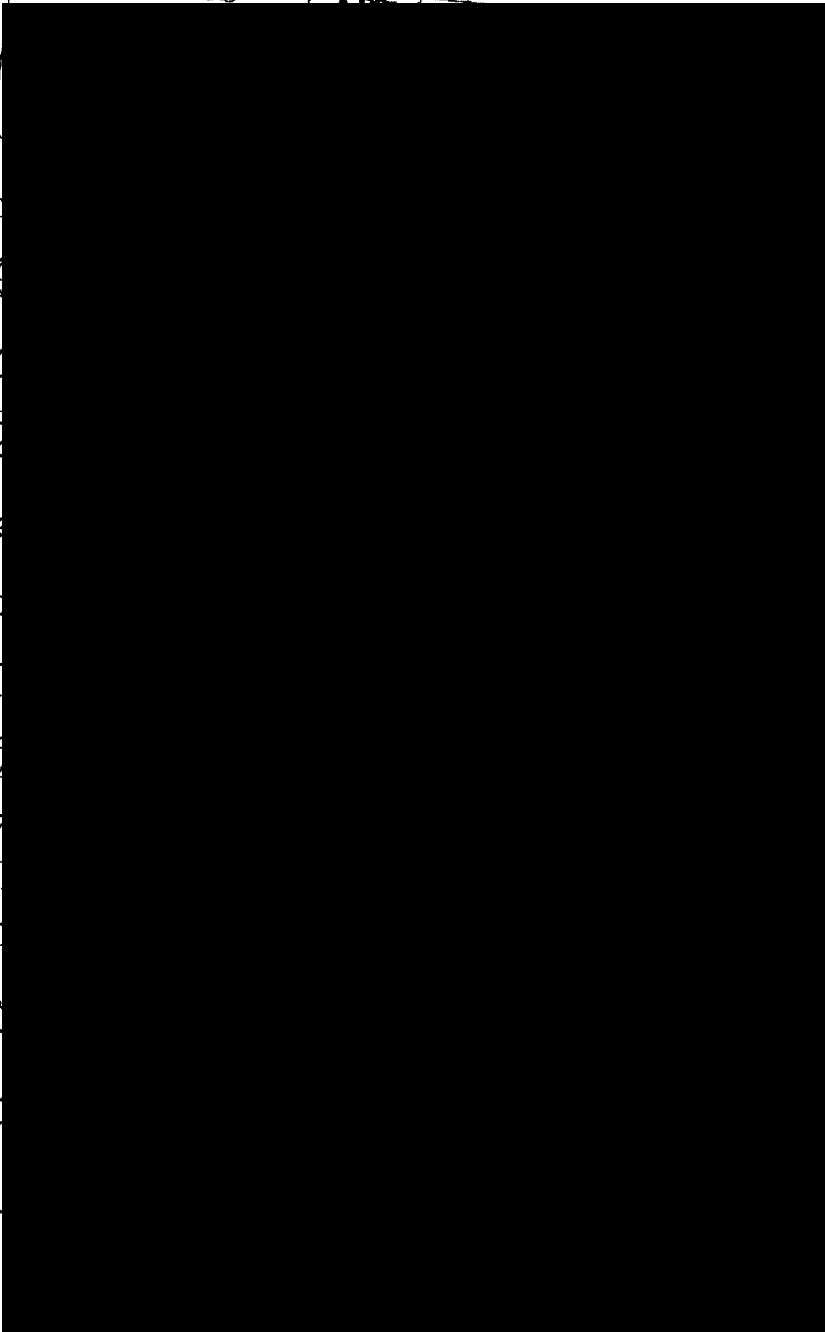
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Name (Print)	ADDRESS	APT #	Signature
Carlos Cruz			
Dorothy Harris			
Estella Simmons			
Sark J. Sanchez			
Theodora Loveday			
JUNE SKATES			
Kyle Freeman			
JANET QUERTON			
Carmen Otero			
LORRAINE McGUIRE			
Marsha Pickett			
Maria Lopez			
Avian Cedeno			
Andrena Brice			


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Name (Print)	ADDRESS	APT	Signature
Michelle Perez			
Barbara Kemp			
Atagracia Mardax			
Christopher Jones			
Dorothy Carlisle			
Robert Harrison			
Harold Yiggs			
Barbara Jordan			
Dawnielle Manning			
Queenie Miller			
Evangeline Walker			
Michelle T. Rodriguez			
Elsie Whitaker			
Janae Yearwood			

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Name (Print)	ADDRESS
Ernestine Mack	
Margaret Boyd	
Yvonne Johnson	
Louise Mitchell	
John Johnson	
Rex Lee Williams	
Betty Jean Dawson	
Rodney Mackey	
Annelle Cordera	
Mr. Peguero	
Ruth Lewis	
Robert Harrison	
Tomatina Clark	
Sharon P.	
Marie Viveller	

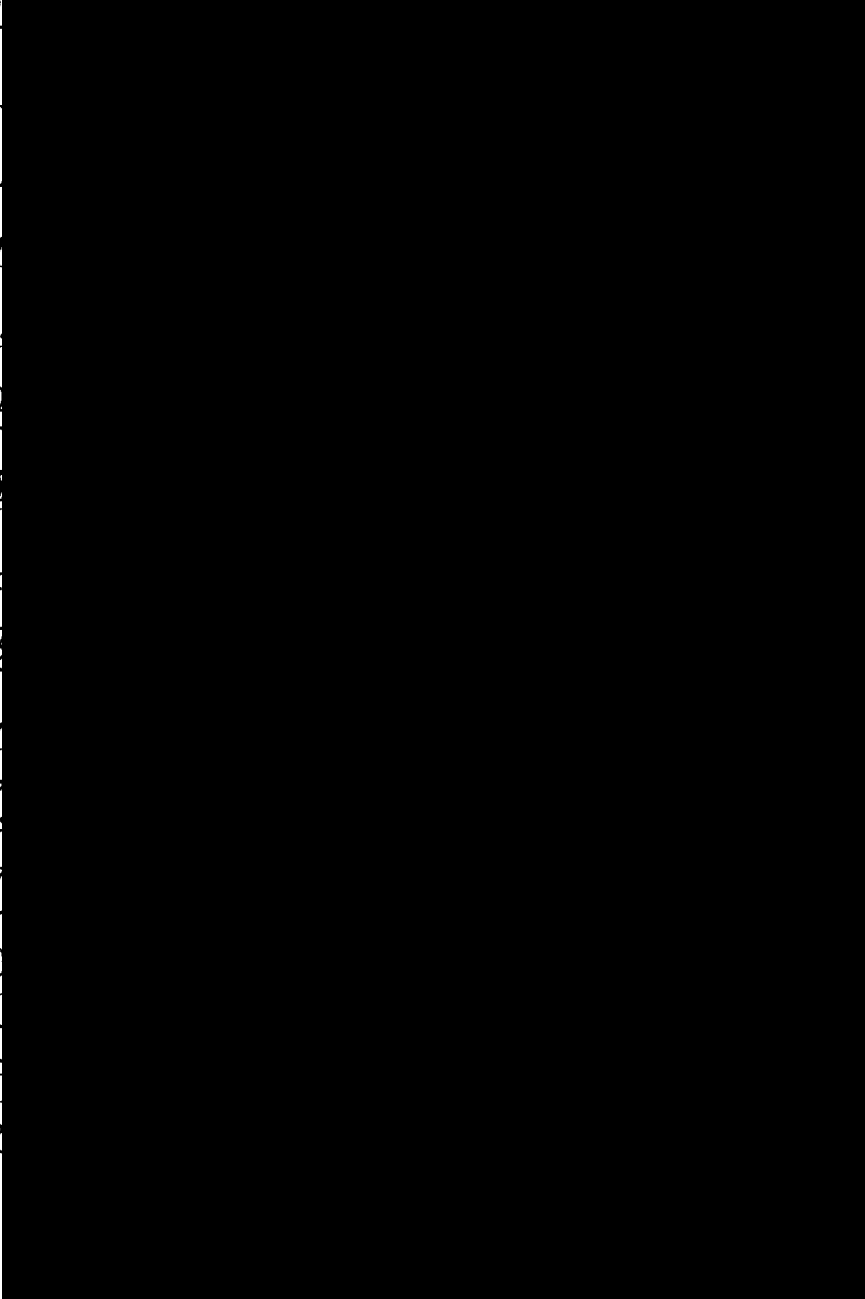
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Name (Print)	ADDRESS	APT #	Signature
Santa Clark			
McDonald			
Jeannie Perez			
Yvonne Seaman			
Wanda Fields			
VERNA ARMSTRONG			
David Womble			
Jose Rodriguez			15
MAFIE C ANDRIEN			
Ethel Anderson			15
Ronald Anderson			15
B. J. M. 20			15
Jessica Garcia			15
0 on 1500			150

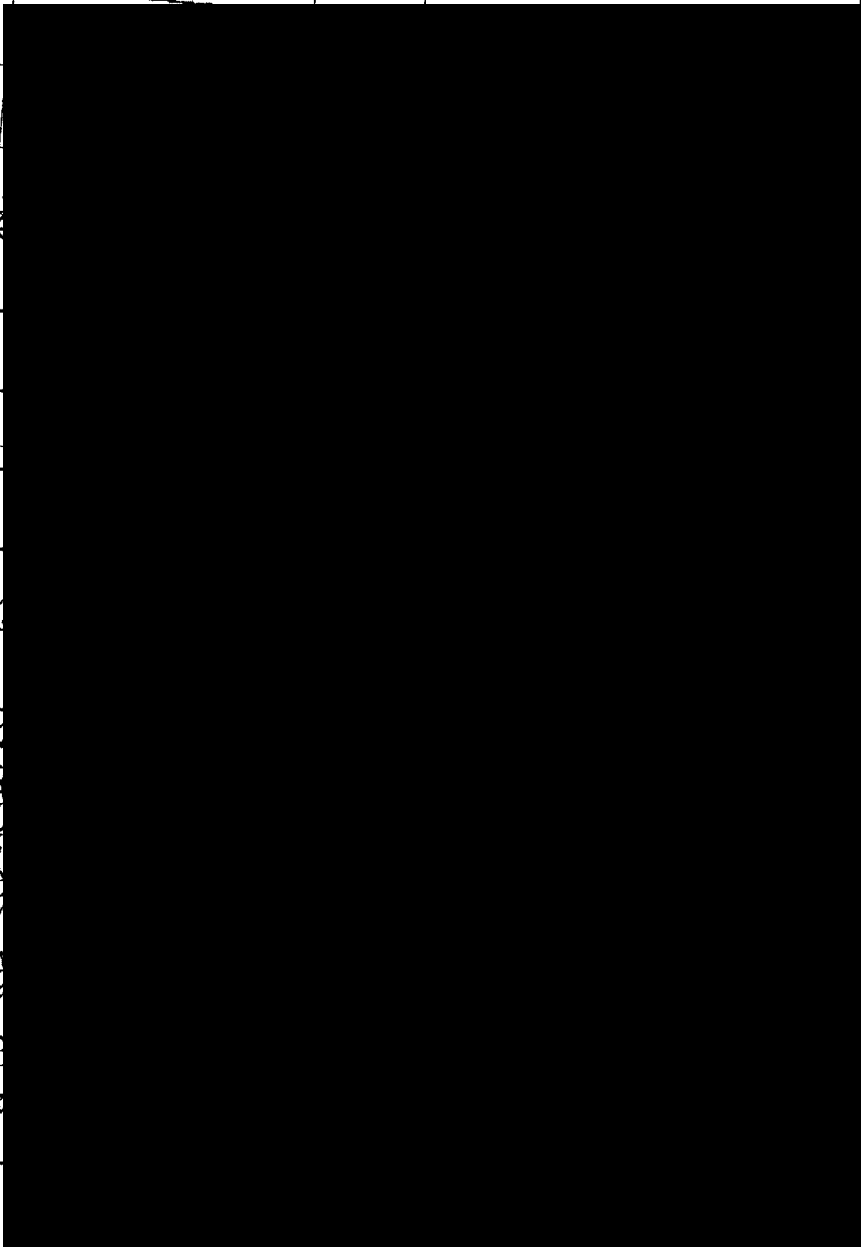
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Name (Print)	ADDRESS	APT
Chenise Medina		
Tiffany Brown		
Jarion Jenkins		
Miguel Olivares		
George Brown		
Terrell Terry		
Hector Estrada		
Renee David		
Patricia Jones		
Keris Alvarez		
Susan Muse		
Lynn Bowens		
Zerrell Davis		
JOHN MARSH		
Verna Davis		

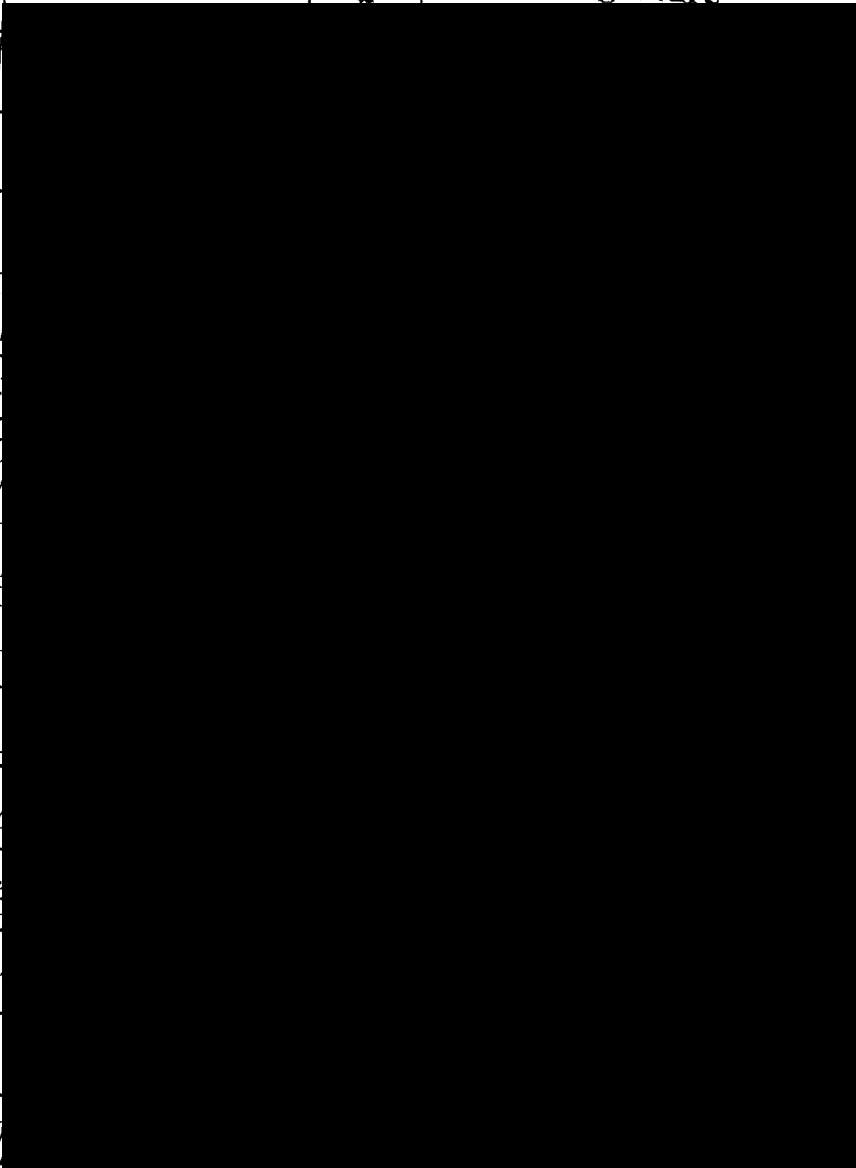
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Name (Print)	ADDRESS	APT #	Signature
Antoinette Edgefield			
ALICE MULLINS			
OTHA TANKS			
Barbara Morton			
EDITH BAILEY			
EARNESTINE ALLEN			
Anna Wilson			
LUCILLE MARTIN			
Mary Andrews			
Judy Wilson			
EVA ISAAC			
Charles Goodale			
Rosa Kofa			
Cherry Lisa			

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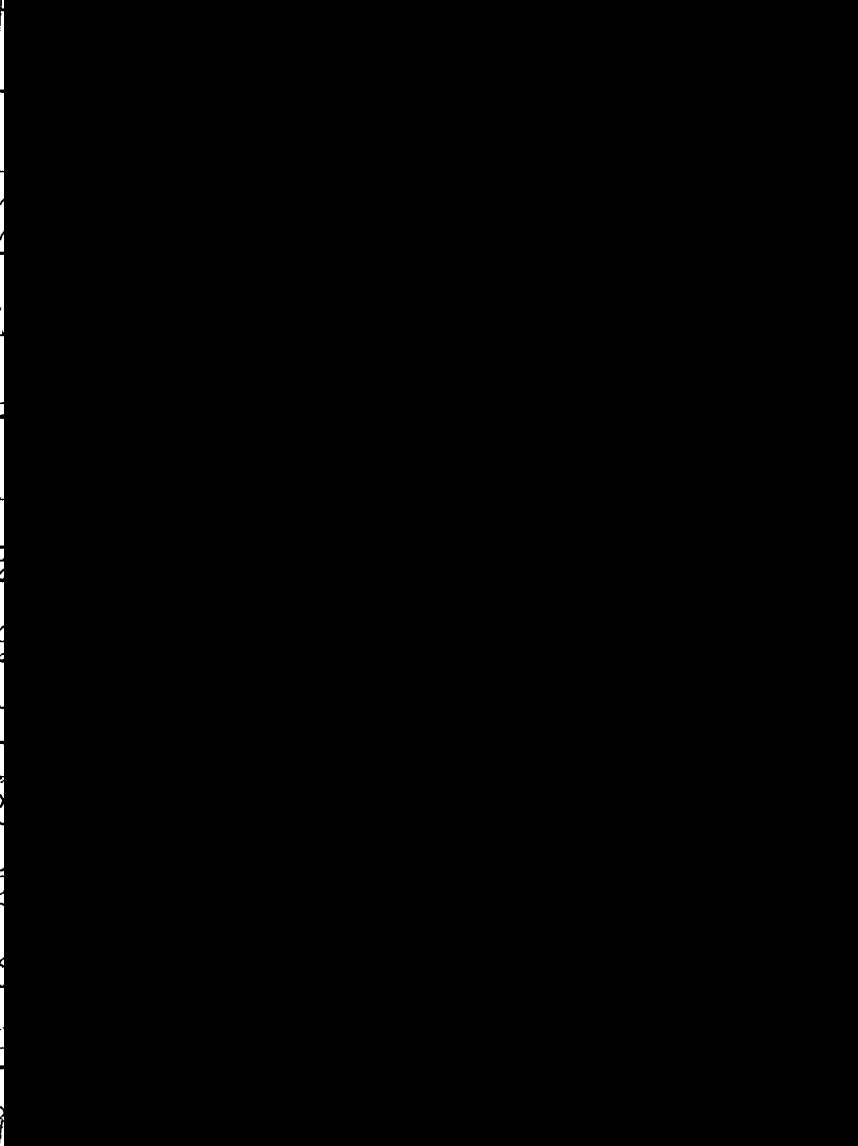
Name (Print)	ADDRESS	APT #	Signature
Latisha Jenkins			
Mary A. Dudley			
Laurenna S. Smith			
Sandra Fendek			
Alfred Henderson			
Rodney Batista			
Myra Torres			
MIA C. HAGAN			
Carolyn Rouse			
Cassandra N. Armstrong			
Douglas Walker			
Jose Ferrer			
Martin Bradley			
and Perez			

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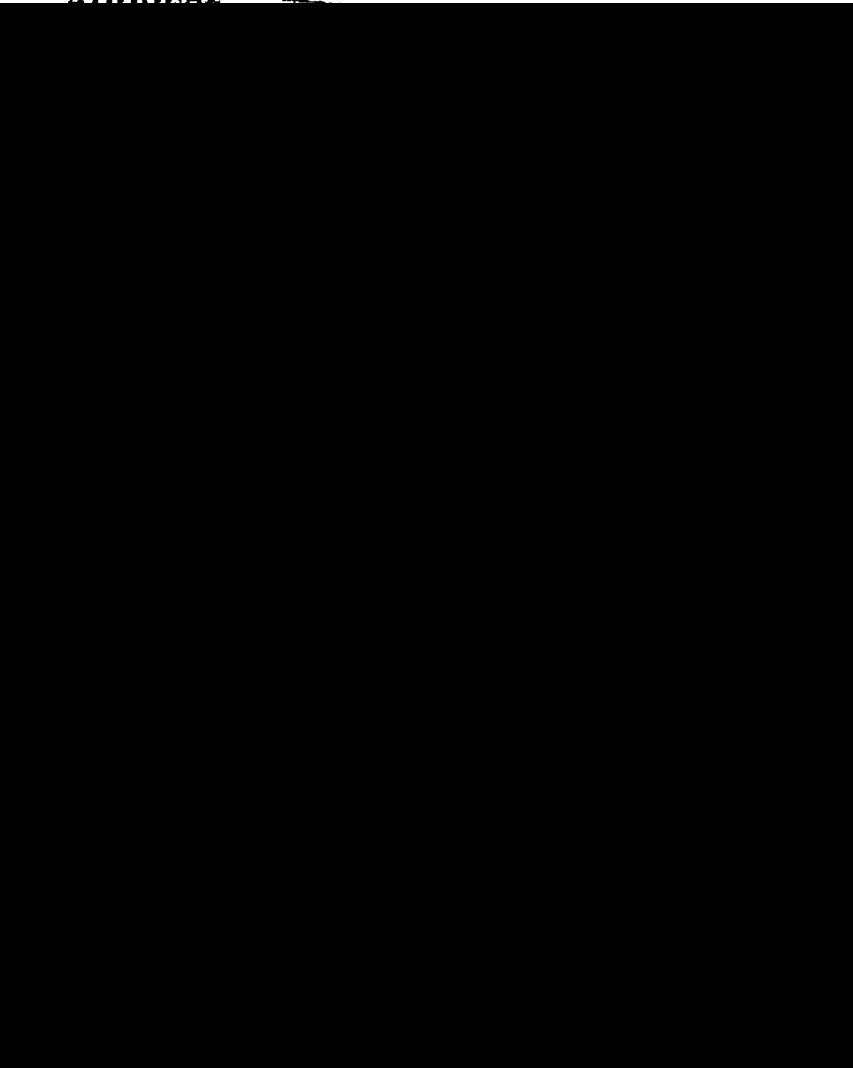
Name (Print)	ADDRESS	APT #	Signature
AMPARO BORGOS			
Venesa Duarte			
Michelle Duarte			
Vanelline Duarte			
Gregory Keen			
Roberto Riano			
Maria Ramirez			
EVELYN STANLEY			
IDA WILLIAMS			
FREDERICK DORR			
Ramon Salas			
Guillermo Cajigas			
René Jones			
Herminda Jenkins			

7

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Name (Print)	ADDRESS	APT #	Signature
T. S. G. M.			
J. P. M. #			
Mary E. Keller			
Joseph H. Kelley			
VERA Coley			
Shirley Brown			
Marie Turner			
Juanita Morgan			
Ramona Batista			
Ruth Williams			
Michele Harrison			
Dominique Harrison			
Shagun Harrison			
Nickie Scott			
Prere Scott			

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Name (Print)	ADDRESS			
Frieda Brown				
Gwendolyn				
MARU Haberk				
EAR HARLOW				
Cynthia McFadden				
DONNA Brown				
Cassandra Newton				
Leatrice Lane				
Krystle Gordon				
Hassan Gordon				
Marvin Culler				

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[illegible]

SoHo Alliance

A Volunteer Community Organization

PO Box 429 Prince Street Station
New York, NY 10012
phone/fax: 212.353.8466

email: info@SoHoAlliance.org
www.sohoalliance.org

October 26, 2012

NYC Districting Commission
253 Broadway – Suite 1749
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioners,

The SoHo Alliance is a volunteer, umbrella organization representing the various SoHo Block Associations. Founded in 1981, we are concerned with zoning, landmarking, traffic and quality-of-life issues and several of our members serve on Community Board #2.

We define SoHo as the area designated by the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission and by the M1-5a,b zoning district, a zoning district unique to only SoHo and our neighbors on the other side of Houston Street, an area some call NoHo.

In reality, NoHo IS SoHo, SoHo IS NoHo, the same neighborhood artificially divided by a wide boulevard: Houston Street.

Our two areas share so much in common: their history, their evolution, their struggles, their development, their demographics, their housing stock, their landmarks designation and their zoning uniqueness. NoHo and SoHo work together on so many of these issues that are unique to us and to us alone, sharing them with no other neighborhood.

That is why the SoHo Alliance is flabbergasted that the Commission is considering removing "NoHo" from CD1 to CD2, but keeping "SoHo" in CD1. It is wrong to divide a common neighborhood.

Such a change will split our Community of Interest. That is not what the Commission should be doing.

For example, there is an effort afoot to change the zoning in the M1-5a,b. If it progresses, we neighbors on either side of Houston Street need to be united and share the same council representative as we always have, if we are to have a common front and strength.

We in SoHo cannot urge the Commission strongly enough not to take the area north of Houston Street up to Astor Place, Broadway to Bowery, out of CD1 but maintain the current status, which has made everyone happy and effective.

Sincerely yours,

Sean Sweeney, Director
SoHo Alliance



NEW YORK CITY DISTRICTING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT COUNCIL DISTRICT MAP

**TESTIMONY OF DAVID NOCENTI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
UNION SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION**

October 4, 2012

Chairman Romano and members of the New York City Districting Commission (“Commission”), thank you for the opportunity to testify here today.

My name is David Nocenti, and I am the Executive Director of Union Settlement Association, which is the oldest and largest social service provider in East Harlem. Union Settlement has been an integral part of the East Harlem community since 1895, and we assist thousands of local residents each year with a wide array of programs and services, including child care, after-school and summer program, ESL and GED classes, mental health counseling, college prep, job readiness training, senior centers, Meals on Wheels, home health care and more.

I am here today to express my significant concerns about the preliminary draft district map that the Commission released last month, and in particular the way in which it tears portions of East Harlem out of Council District 8.

East Harlem – also known as Spanish Harlem or El Barrio – lies east of Fifth Avenue and north of 96th Street, and is a vibrant community of strong and committed neighbors working together to succeed.

The preliminary map inexplicably removes 21 blocks of East Harlem from Council District 8, and moves them instead to Council District 9. There is absolutely no reason for the Commission’s decision to divide the East Harlem community. Although the northwest corner of East Harlem is already in Council District 9, that is a portion that

should be been restored to Council District 8, rather than having the community divided even further.

Indeed, the Commission has proposed to move La Marqueta – the historic and much beloved heart of El Barrio – out of Council District 8. It is unimaginable that the Commission would ever consider moving the Apollo Theater out of Council District 9, or the Empire State Building out of Council District 3, and so it is shocking – and appalling – that the Commission somehow felt comfortable moving La Marqueta out of Council District 8.

But La Marqueta is just a symbol of a larger problem. Our concerns are much broader than those relating to a single location, and the affront cannot be addressed by simply moving La Marqueta back into the district. Instead, the problem is the axe that was used to cleave all 21 blocks of East Harlem away from the rest of our community.

This is not just a perception problem; it is a legal problem. As the Commission is well aware, the New York City Charter sets forth some very specific criteria that must be applied when dividing the city into districts. While these criteria are not inviolate, the Charter specifically says that they must be applied “to the maximum extent practicable.” Not “to the extent practicable,” but “to the maximum extent practicable.”

I will not repeat all seven Charter criteria here, but instead will focus on just two.

First, the Charter requires that district lines “keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other.” New York City Charter, § 52(c).

The Commission’s proposed preliminary map clearly violates that requirement, by further dividing the East Harlem community, rather than keeping the neighborhood intact.

And make no mistake about it – East Harlem truly is a “neighborhood” and a “community” with “established ties of common interest and association.”

Thinking just of my own organization, Union Settlement Association, we are members of the East Harlem Chamber of Commerce, the Human Services Consortium of East Harlem, the East Harlem Community Alliance, and Manhattan Community Board 11, all of which cover the same geographic neighborhood north of 96th Street and east of Fifth Avenue. We also work closely with other organizations with the exact same community of interest, such as the East Harlem Business Capital Corporation, the East Harlem Mexican Chamber of Commerce and the East Harlem Council for Community Improvement.

There is no justification for the Commission’s failure to keep our East Harlem neighborhood and community intact. And the Commission’s proposed map divides not

just East Harlem, but also the Manhattan Valley area of the west side of Manhattan, and the High Bridge area of the Bronx.

As the Commission is well aware, in August LatinoJustice PRLDEF, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the National Institute for Latino Policy, and the Center for Law and Social Justice of Medgar Evers College released a joint proposed “Unity Map,” setting forth district proposed lines that seek to strictly meet the Charter’s redistricting criteria. That Unity Map keeps Manhattan Valley intact and does not add the large section of the Bronx to Council District 8, thereby demonstrating that the Charter’s “common interest” criteria can be met, and that the Commission’s proposed map fails to meet the “to the maximum extent practicable” requirement.

The second Charter criteria that is particularly applicable here is the “compactness requirement,” which provides that each district “shall be compact and shall be no more than twice as long as it is wide.” New York City Charter, § 52(c).

This requirement similarly is violated by the Commission’s preliminary draft map. Excluding Central Park – where no one lives – the current Council District 8 is relatively compact, and is approximately as long as it is wide.

The Commission’s proposed new district, in contrast, removes the entire western portion of Council District 8, as well as portions in East Harlem, and inexplicably adds a

large, narrow portion of the Bronx, all the way up to High Bridge. Even without Central Park, the new proposed district is more than three times as long as it is wide.

Once again, the Commission cannot claim that it is maintaining compactness “to the maximum extent practicable,” because the Unity Map amply demonstrates that a map can be drawn that strictly complies with this requirement of the Charter.

In sum, we strongly urge the Commission to re-draw the boundaries of Council District 8, to restore the portions of East Harlem moved to Council District 9, to eliminate the large, narrow portion that was added in the Bronx, and to retain to the maximum extent possible the district’s current compact design, which unites rather than divides communities.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify here this evening, and I would be happy to answer any questions the Commission might have.

[Westsiders for Public Participation, Inc.](#)

[P.O. Box 20093, Park West Station, New York, NY 10025](#) mail@wppnyc.org

October 4, 2012

To the New York City Districting Commission:

NEW NORTHERN UPPER WEST SIDE DISTRICTS
ARE ARBITRARY AND NOT COMPACT

I was one of the persons who testified on August 16, 2012, in favor of a compact and geographically contiguous Upper West Side district to the north of District 6. The Upper West Side is historically agreed to extend between 110th Street and 59th Street to the north and south – corresponding to the boundaries of Central Park. As Councilwoman Brewer testified before you on the same day, **Upper Westsiders know who we are**, and such a prevalent self-identification alone is sufficient to bind us all into a single community of interest. We shop together along the same central commercial corridors and travel together along the same central public transit corridors. We are active colleagues at meetings of Manhattan Community Board 7. Several daily news blogs are exclusive to our local concerns. Our devotion to diversity of all kinds is both legendary and sincere. We are personally interconnected just by virtue of our shared Upper West Side identity.

Little did I expect to see a **new** map proposed that partitions the northern Upper West Side arbitrarily between the proposed new Districts 7 and 9, along an elongated and irregular north-south line that's **even more** unmeaningful to northern Upper West Side residents than the illogical distinctions of the current map. This **new division** of a strongly self-identified community of interest is impossible to justify under the Commission's chartered mandate to **maintain communities of historical interest and association**. *N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, Section 52(1)(c) (2004)*.

Furthermore, the proposed new Districts 7 and 9 fit no definition of the term "compact." They are the **most overlong and narrow** districts proposed for all of Manhattan. The district offices would be literally miles away from many constituents, and not necessarily connected by any central public transportation corridor. Both of these new districts violate the Commission's chartered mandate to create districts that **cannot be more than twice as long as they are wide**, in a manner that **minimizes** the sum of the length of their boundaries. *N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, Section 52(1) (d)(g) (2004)*.

HISTORICALLY UNITED PARK WEST VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD
MUST NOT BE DIVIDED

Westsiders for Public Participation was founded in 2008 by long-term stakeholders of the Park West Village neighborhood of Manhattan. Park West Village proper was founded under Title I of the 1949 Housing Act, and continues to this day as a single, strongly bonded community of interest, despite four of its seven buildings having been converted to private

condominium ownership about 25 years ago. Park West Village is comprised of two superblocks bounded by West 100th Street and West 97th Street to the north and south, and by Amsterdam Avenue and Central Park West to the east and west.

The recent infill development of Columbus Square along Columbus Avenue between the two superblocks has not altered the traditions through which the residents of Park West Village have been historically interrelated. The residents of Columbus Square are our neighbors now, too.

The residents of the buildings along the south side of West 97th Street have become close community colleagues over many years, and we consider them, too, to be an integral part of the Park West Village neighborhood.

Irrespective of which redistricting plan is ultimately decided now, please do not divide the Park West Village neighborhood, a community of historical interest and association that has thrived together and worked collaboratively with **all** of its legislative representatives for more than 50 years.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Bunten
President, Board of Directors
Westsidiers for Public Participation, Inc.

Westsidiers for Public Participation, Inc., is a non-profit corporation formed under the laws of the State of New York and exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our mission is to improve the quality of debate and level of community involvement in public life on the Upper West Side of Manhattan and throughout New York City.

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Taina Bien-Aimé

October 22, 2012

Mr. Benito Romano

Chair

NYC Districting Commission

253 Broadway, 7th Floor

New York, NY 10007

RE: Next Phase of the Commission's Work

Dear Commission Chair Romano:

As the Districting Commission enters the next phase of its work at today's hearing, the Women's City Club of New York asks that all members of the Commission pay particular attention to the testimony you have received on the importance of keeping intact "Communities of Interest." This is especially true with regard to the Asian-American Community whose population has been divided in ways that dilute its voting power and separate its neighborhoods in the Commission's Draft Maps for Brooklyn and Queens. It is also true for East Harlem, which your Draft Map splits in two.

Providing for fair and effective representation in a City as diverse and complex as ours is a difficult task and we know that the Commission is sensitive to the requirements under the Voting Rights Act. However, as the Commission begins to revise its proposals for presentation to the City Council today, we hope that you will be especially mindful of the importance of communities with established ties of common interest and association, as the City Charter outlines them. The City Council Districts that the Commission draws, while compact and contiguous, must also reflect the heart of a community not just lines on a map.

Founded in 1915, the Women's City Club of New York is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that shapes public policy through education, advocacy and citizen participation. Since its founding nearly 97 years ago, the WCC has fought to improve the lives of New Yorkers. We wish the Commission well as it completes its work.

Sincerely,

Taina Bien-Aimé

Taina Bien-Aimé
Executive Director

Pam Elam

Pam Elam
Vice- President



Youth Action Programs & Homes, Inc.

An Affiliate of YouthBuild USA • YouthBuild / AmeriCorps Program

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Testimony before the New York Districting Commission Presented by David Calvert, Executive Director, Youth Action YouthBuild in East Harlem

October 11, 2012

Good evening. I am David Calvert, Executive Director of Youth Action Programs and Homes, Inc. We usually call our nonprofit organization “**Youth Action YouthBuild in East Harlem.**” We run one of YouthBuild programs across the United States, but we are proud to say that ours is the original YouthBuild program, and that the model was first developed right here in East Harlem/El Barrio. Through YouthBuild, teams of East Harlem youth and adults have renovated 13 formerly vacant five-story tenements, creating 120 units of affordable housing.

I myself grew up in the neighborhood, a product of Washington Houses, local streets, public schools, and warm and friendly neighbors as well as solid family support. From birth on, I was trained to love my neighborhood, to appreciate its uniqueness and history, its diversity and languages, and its prominent role in social movements, including the roles played by the Union Settlement, East Harlem Protestant Parish, East Harlem Interfaith, the Save Metropolitan movement, the original I Have a Dream Program, *Teatro Cuatro* and the *Museo del Barrio*, and of course, YouthBuild.

By now I have lived and worked over 40 years in the neighborhood, and I feel qualified to comment on the proposed Redistricting proposal as it pertains to East Harlem / El Barrio.

I have serious concerns about the Commission's preliminary draft lines for my beloved neighborhood.

The traditional boundaries that make up our neighborhood should be respected. They form part of the social fabric that generates pride and identity, that generates the social capital that sustains us even when we have no money and the jobs dry up. The El Barrio I speak of has been immortalized in song and in art, in our memories and in our murals. It is part of our culture, it matters to us and to New York as a whole, and it should not be slashed in half by this Commission.

In a big city like New York, the importance of relating to our local community is intensified. Downtown, most of us are little people performing low-paid jobs. But back uptown, we are respected, people see us as leaders, and we feel connected and alive. Please don't divide us artificially from neighbors with whom we share this common past and present, by sending them to another district, and at the same time connecting us by a dotted line to a large Bronx population that is separated from us by a river and much more. Nothing against The Bronx or the good people of the South Bronx... we love you, but we have a neighborhood feeling in El Barrio that should not be diminished by arbitrary line-drawing at the table of a Districting Commission.

I join my neighbors in strongly urging the Districting Commission to use the Unity Map proposal as a starting point in re-drawing the 8th District, also taking into account additional feedback you receive from the community through the hearing process. This proposal, crafted by LatinoJustice PRLDEF, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College and the National Institute for Latino Policy, maximizes representation for people of color in our city while truly preserving communities of interest and respecting neighborhood boundaries. I also urge the Commission to consider another round of hearings after this one, where the public would be invited to comment on a final set of draft lines.

Thank you for your consideration of these petitions.