

Edward Malone

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Presentation made before the NYC Districting Commission on October 9, 2012 at New Dorp High School concerning the proposed new Council Districts on Staten Island.

My name is Edward Malone and I have been a resident of the Westerleigh community for the past 43 years. In addition I am the Treasurer of the Westerleigh Improvement Society. The Society has represented the Westerleigh community since 1893. The community we represent comprises the area bounded on the East by Manor Rd., the West by Willowbrook Rd., the South by Victory Blvd. and the North by Forest Ave.

In an editorial dated September 17, 2012 the Staten Island Advance referring to the new proposed 50 CD District stated: "with Oakwood Beach, all of Westerleigh, and Todt Hill being included in the revised map." With all due respect to the Advance, even though the proposed boundaries of the 50 CD now include most of Westerleigh, not all of the community that we represent is included. As it now stands a small area south of Forest Ave. and west of Manor Rd still remains in the 49 CD.

I believe that moving this area north to Forest Ave. and including all the area as stated that the Westerleigh Improvement Society serves will facilitate the services that the Society provides to the entire Westerleigh community. In addition I believe that this change will not affect the demographics and will only shift a small portion of the population from the 49 CD to the 50 CD.

Whatever the outcome of your deliberations, we the members of the Westerleigh Improvement Society appreciate the hard work done by the Commission to have the residents of Staten Island properly represented before the City Council.

*NYC Redistricting Commission Public Meeting October 9,
2012*

Good evening everyone and thank you for the opportunity to speak on this very important topic concerning New York City Council Redistricting. This is my 2nd appearance before this Commission.

My name is Joe Granello and I am a home and business owner in the Sunnyside section of Staten Island. Sunnyside is a part of the Clove Lakes Civic Association and the Roman Catholic Parish of St. Teresa of which I'm a member of both.

First, I'll be speaking tonight about the NYC Council Districts Preliminary Draft Plan for 2012 with a focus on Districts 49 and 50. The proposed Plan states that there is a population total of 468,576 in the 3 Council Districts 49, 50 and 51. While the 3 SI Community Boards show a total population of 467,968 or 608 less. Which number is correct? While it is a small difference, it might save the identity of some neighborhoods being torn apart by the proposed Preliminary Draft Plan.

The Plan is tearing our Civic Association and Parish apart into 2 separate Council Districts. Under the City of New York Charter Districting Commission Section 52c it states and I quote:

"District lines shall keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other."

It is not just about the numbers as the Charter and Mr. Thaddeus Hackworth, Senior Counsel, New York City Law Department stated. It is also about and I quote Mr. Hackworth "...staying "away from **odd-looking districts**"..."**You don't want to draw districts based on favorite animals or anything like that. The districts, to the extent possible, should be standard district shapes**". (End quote) Look at districts 49 and 50 in the Castleton and Meiers Corners communities. It sure does look like someone's favorite animal.

I strongly believe that this Commission can surely do a better job! Dr. Joseph Salvo, from the NYC Planning Dept. called Community District 1 an "amazingly diverse place". To the extent possible, let's keep it that way.

Thank you for you time and attention.

Respectively submitted,

Joseph L. Granello

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TESTIMONY TO THE NYC DISTRICTING COMMISSION
WESTERLEIGH IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY
NEW DORP HIGH SCHOOL
OCTOBER 9, 2012

Good evening, my name is Michael Morrell and I am president of the Westerleigh Improvement Society. I would like to thank the commission for giving me the opportunity to present the Society's input regarding the districting process.

Our civic association has represented the Westerleigh community, a close knit neighborhood, since 1893. We have over 600 active members and most are owners of single family homes. Many families have lived in Westerleigh for generations.

For more than two decades our community has been divided between two councilmanic districts, the 49th and the 50th. Our civic group has had to work with two representatives in the City Council. Consequently much of what we do is duplicative. It would greatly simplify our work as a civic group if Westerleigh were in a single councilmanic district. Issues regarding land use among many others are more confusing when the community is divided with representation.

This opportunity to testify regarding city council districts arises only once every ten years. This makes it all the more vital that the Society makes its views known to the commission.

I would urge the commission to seriously consider our request and simplify our City Council representation.