CHRISTINE C. QUINN
SPEAKER

THE COUNCIL
OF
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November 29, 2012

Benito Romano
Chair
New York City Districting Commission
253 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Romano:

Thank you for your letter of November 16, 2012, and the accompanying plan for dividing New York City into fifty-one districts for the election of members of the New York City Council.

I recognize the significant work that the Districting Commission has put into developing a plan that fairly represents the very diverse voters in New York City and the efforts that you have made to receive public input. I understand that the Commission was constrained in its ability to maximize public participation through an additional round of hearings due to the challenges caused both by the short deadlines set forth in the Charter and by the significant disruption caused by Hurricane Sandy. Nonetheless, I commend the Commission for providing a plan within the strict time limitations set forth in the Charter.

Notwithstanding your efforts, there is still a need for more public participation. I say this because, in reviewing the lines, I have a few concerns that I believe would have been vetted and addressed during another round of public hearings. The most significant concern I have relates to the new lines for District 34. Given the Commission's laudable interest in continuing the public process, I am requesting in the strongest possible terms that the Commission withdraw its submission to the Council to receive additional input from the public. After you have satisfied your benchmarks for review and public comment, the Commission should then resubmit a plan to the Council with new district lines. I recognize that the Charter still affords the Council the opportunity to vote on the plan after this formal submission.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Christine C. Quinn
Speaker