This email was sent on February 18, 2013 to 4,771 individuals on the Districting Commission's email list.

Dear fellow New Yorker:

As you know, on November 19, 2012, the NYC Districting Commission submitted its plan for the boundaries of the fifty-one City Council districts in the City of New York to the City Council for its consideration. However, in response to the strong public desire for additional opportunities for the public to be heard by the Commission, the Commission withdrew its plan from consideration and held a third round of public hearings, including one in each of the five boroughs.

Earlier this week, on February 6, the Commission approved a revised plan for the City Council district lines after reviewing the considerable public testimony provided during the public hearing process, in addition to the comments provided to the Commission by mail, e-mail, and through its website at http://www.nyc.gov/districting.

During the course of this seven-month process, over 1,791 people attended the public hearings and more than 493 of those provided testimony regarding how the City Council districts should be drawn. The Commission also received and reviewed comments from thousands of individuals who submitted statements via e-mail or hard copy, and nearly22 alternative maps that were submitted on-line and/or created in the Commission's "Resource Room" with the assistance of Commission staff. The Commission's Community Outreach team also addressed over 50 local community boards throughout the five boroughs educating the public about the districting process.

Having considered this multitude of public comment, the Commission believes that the newest revised plan reflects what was shared with the Commission, within the legal parameters set forth by the New York City Charter. As a result, the revised plan incorporates many of the requests made during the third round of hearings, while continuing to contain a total of 35 Council districts in which protected racial and language minority groups represent an overall majority of the total population in the council district—over two-thirds of the 51 total Council districts in the City. By comparison, this is five more of such districts than the previous 2003 districting plan, which had 30 "majority-minority" districts at the time of adoption. In addition, as with the previous revision, Staten Island will have three districts wholly contained within its borders, and will no longer share representation with residents of Brooklyn.

Furthermore, in line with its ongoing efforts to promote transparency, the Commission took the unprecedented step of directing Commission staff to publish, along with the revised plan, a memorandum detailing the justifications for the Commission's changes to the City Council districts within the context of the provisions of the New York City Charter and federal law. That report is available for download on the Commission's website at: http://www.nyc.gov/html/dc/downloads/pdf/Feb6_memo.pdf.

The proposed City Council district plan itself can be viewed online through the Commission's website at http://www.nyc.gov/html/dc/html/maps/maps.shtml.

You may also view the proposed plan in person at the following locations:

MANHATTAN:
NYC Districting Commission Office

253 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10007

BRONX:
Bronx Borough Hall
851 Grand Concourse, Suite 301
Bronx, NY 1045

QUEENS:
Queens Public Library at Flushing
41-17 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11355

BROOKLYN:
Brooklyn Borough Hall
209 Joralemon Street
Brooklyn, NY 11209

STATEN ISLAND:
Staten Island Borough Hall
10 Richmond Terrace
Staten Island, NY 10301

Pursuant to the requirements of the New York City Charter, the Commission is today submitting the revised plan to the City Council for its consideration. According to the Charter, the plan will be deemed adopted unless, within three weeks, the City Council adopts a resolution objecting to the plan and returns it to the Commission. If the City Council objects to the plan, the Commission will hold additional public hearings regarding the plan, on dates to be determined, before the plan is finalized by the Commission.

On behalf of the Commission, I thank you for your participation in the New York City Council districting process and encourage you to continue participating until a plan is finalized.

Sincerely,

Carl Hum
Executive Director

ATTACHMENT

Districting Commission
www.nyc.gov/districting

Commissioners

Benito Romano, *Chair*

Jamila Ponton Bragg
Scott Cerullo
Kamillah M. Hanks
Robert W. Hart
Linda Lin
Oscar Odom III
Thomas Ognibene
Frank Padavan
Roxanne J. Persaud
Madeline Provenzano
John Robert
Gloria Carvajal Wolfe
Marc Wurzel
Justin Yu

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February 8, 2013

Dear fellow New Yorker:

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Executive Director