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**DISTRICTING COMMISSION SELECTS BENITO ROMANO AS CHAIR
AND APPOINTS CARL HUM AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*Commission held first meeting to select Chair and Executive Director; Commission
also announces dates for citywide public hearings*

The New York City Districting Commission announced the appointment of Benito Romano as Chair and Carl Hum as Executive Director of the Commission and at its first organizational meeting held Tuesday evening at City Hall. At the meeting Commissioners were briefed on the latest Census data and demographic changes within the five boroughs by Joseph J. Salvo, Ph.D Director of the Department of City Planning's Population Division and by the Law Department on the Commission's role in the redrawing City Council district lines to reflect changes in the City's population. The Commission also adopted governing principles and announced its first round of public hearings will be held in August. These hearings will be conducted throughout the five boroughs to seek New Yorkers' input on how the Commission should draw the new district lines.

Benito Romano is currently a litigation partner at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. For 20 years, he was a partner and the leader of the white collar defense practice group at Willkie Farr & Gallagher. Before re-entering private practice, Romano served as United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. Prior to being named US Attorney in 1989, Romano was an Assistant US Attorney, and served in a variety of supervisory and executive positions in that office, including Chief of Public Corruption and Chief Appellate Attorney. Romano also served on the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board, including as Acting Chair, on the 1998 Charter Revision Commission, and was a member and former Chair of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund. He serves as Chair of the New York State Interest on Lawyer Account Fund, and is a member of the Oversight Board for Judiciary Civil Legal Services Funds in New York. He is a resident of Manhattan.

The city has undergone considerable change in the last 10 years," **said Benito Romano, Chair of the Districting Commission.** "The Districting Commission and its staff, led by Executive Director Carl Hum, perform the vital function of ensuring that representative government reflects that change. It is a privilege to serve as Chair and I look forward to the work ahead."

Hum's career spans over two decades in public service having served from 2007-2012 as the President and CEO of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce where he increased membership, led a successful advocacy campaign and expanded a health



insurance program for small businesses. Prior to joining the Chamber, Hum led the Mayor's Office of Industrial and Manufacturing Business in 2005. In this role, he led the Office in designating 16 Industrial Business Zones throughout the City, creating industry-specific tax credits and administering the City's 11 Empire Zones. He also served as Chief of Staff and Special Counsel for Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Small Business Services from 2003 to 2005. From 1997 to 2003, Hum worked as an Assistant District Attorney at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office where he counseled police investigations, served in the Domestic Violence Unit and prosecuted felony cases. Hum holds a law degree from Fordham Law School and graduated from Wesleyan University with Departmental High Honors. He is a proud graduate of the New York City public school system and lives in Brooklyn.

"It is an honor to serve as Executive Director of the Districting Commission. I am looking forward to working with Chairman Romano and the Commissioners to fostering full participation among all New Yorkers in this very important decennial exercise of democratic principles."

The Commission will hold its first round of public hearings throughout the five boroughs in August. Dates of those hearings are as follows. Information regarding time and location will be updated on the Districting site.

Aug 13 – Brooklyn
Aug 16 – Queens
Aug 20 – Staten Island
Aug 21 – Manhattan
Aug 23 – Bronx

For more information about the Commission and its schedule of upcoming hearings, please visit www.nyc.gov