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CITY OF NEW YORK
2012-2013 DISTRICTING COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING
New York Law School
185 West Broadway
New York, New York 10013
August 16, 2012
5:18 P.M.

- IN ATTENDANCE:
- MADELINE PROVENZANO
 - FRANK PADAVAN
 - GLORIA CARVAJAL WOLFE
 - LINDA LIN
 - BENITO ROMANO, Chair
 - ROXANNE J. PERSAUD
 - THOMAS V. OGNIBENE
 - OSCAR ODOM, III
 - KAMILLAH M. HANKS
 - SCOTT CERULLO
 - ROBERT W. HART
 - ROXANNE J. PERSAUD
 - JUSTIN YU
 - JOHN ROBERT
 - MARC WURZEL

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1 MR. CROWELL: Thank you. Good evening
2 everyone. I want to welcome everyone here to New
3 York Law School. My name is Anthony Crowell. I
4 am the new dean and president of the law school.

5 Many of you may know me through my former
6 role as Mayor Bloomberg's counsel, and someone
7 who presided as either an executive director or
8 counselor or commissioner of the Charter Revision
9 Commission committees. So I am no stranger to
10 the good-governing community in New York City,
11 and I am very excited that we can host the
12 Districting Commission here tonight.

13 It is part of New York Law School's very
14 strong commitment to fostering as much civic
15 dialogue as we can, and part of our newest
16 initiative is to really be New York City's
17 community center, not only for municipal
18 government, but for the good-government-reform
19 community as well, and I look forward to having
20 more of these events here in the future.

21 Tonight's event, the Commission hearing, is
22 extremely important to the fabric of New York
23 City. As someone, who was heavily involved in
24 the 2010 census, and in the early days of
25 actually helping to form the Commission as a

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1 dialogue between the Mayor's office and the
2 Council got underway, I am really proud that we
3 are having this dialogue here tonight.

4 It is incredibly important to the shape of
5 our city and how democracy plays itself out, and
6 important in terms of ensuring that everyone's
7 voice, in the city, is heard, both at the
8 community level and, certainly, in the City
9 Council. So I welcome you.

10 I look forward to building a stronger
11 relationship with the constituencies and groups
12 in the room and I look forward to having you back
13 at New York Law School as we move forward. So
14 thank you and best wishes for a very productive
15 hearing tonight.

16 (Applause).

17 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Anthony, and thank
18 you New York Law School for hosting us here
19 tonight. Thank you all for coming and welcome to
20 New York City's Districting Commission's second
21 public hearing.

22 My name is Benito Romano and I am the Chair
23 of the New York City Districting Commission. We
24 have the facility until 9 p.m. tonight, I am
25 told, and I want to make sure that we hear from

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1 everyone who is signed up.

2 For those of you who did not sign up and
3 wish to speak, please see one of our staff
4 persons, Jonathan Ettricks, who is Director of
5 Community Outreach, can identify himself, Eddie
6 (unintelligible), Public Affairs Manager, and
7 Brian Flynn, who is the Director of Operations,
8 and he is standing right there in the front of
9 the room.

10 Additionally, if you require a translation
11 of your statement, please let one of our staff,
12 at the registration desk, know. They will ensure
13 that a translator will be provided when it's your
14 turn to speak.

15 Before we begin to take testimony, I want to
16 make a few comments. At the beginning of this
17 month, the Commission advertised in community and
18 ethnic newspapers announcing the Commission's
19 public hearings schedule.

20 An e-mail blast was sent to over 5,000
21 individuals and organizations. Various advocacy
22 groups helped spread the word, through their
23 individual networks, and the hearing schedules
24 were publicized on our Facebook page and Twitter
25 feed. From the look of this room, it seems we

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1 were able to reach many of you. Nevertheless, as
2 we go forward in this process, we will seek other
3 additional ways to maximize participation.

4 Tonight represents the first stage in New
5 York City's districting process that is laid out
6 in the New York City Charter. After the
7 Commission holds public hearings in each of the
8 five boroughs, over the next seven days, the
9 Commission will meet again on August 24th, at 1
10 p.m., at the City Council Chambers, in City Hall,
11 to discuss what we have learned through this
12 hearing process and other important issues.

13 At the August 24th Commission meeting, we
14 will direct the staff to create a preliminary
15 district plan according to the Commission's
16 instructions.

17 On September 4th, at 1 p.m., at the City
18 Council Chambers, in City Hall, the Commission
19 will meet again. This time, to review and adopt
20 the preliminary district plan, that will then be
21 made available for public inspection and comment.

22 Please note that both of these meetings will
23 be open to the public, but there will not be any
24 opportunity for the public to speak or make
25 comments at that point. The public will have an

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1 opportunity to comment on this preliminary
2 district plan during the second round of public
3 hearings, held throughout the five boroughs, 5
4 p.m. to 9 p.m., on October 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 10th
5 and 11th.

6 The precise places are yet to be determined,
7 but the hearing venues will be in different
8 locations, again, to maximize opportunities for
9 participation by the community. Comments from
10 this round of public hearings will then be
11 considered during a stated Commission meeting,
12 scheduled for October 18th, where staff will,
13 once again, be directed to revise the preliminary
14 district plan in response to the comments that we
15 have received.

16 In the next stated Commission meeting,
17 October 30th, the revised plan will be presented,
18 considered and adopted by the Commission. The
19 revised plan will then be delivered to the City
20 Council for its inspection and approval by
21 November 5th.

22 According to the City Charter, by
23 November 27th, the Council must either adopt the
24 revised district plan, at which point the plan
25 will then be filed with the City Clerk, or the

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1 Council can object to the revised plan. In which
2 case, the plan will be returned to the Commission
3 with the Council's comments and objections.

4 The Commission will then have until
5 January 5, 2013, to create a revised plan. This
6 will then set the stage for a new set of public
7 hearings, which have been tentatively scheduled
8 from January 28th to February 8th in each of the
9 five boroughs. Again, we aim to have these
10 hearings in different locations, from the prior
11 two rounds of public hearings, to maximize
12 opportunities for public participation.

13 The Commission will then have until
14 March 5th to create, adopt and submit a final
15 plan to the City Clerk and the U.S. Department of
16 Justice for the Voting Rights Act, Section V
17 preclearance. This process is described in a
18 flow chart that is available for you tonight.

19 Another handout, that is available, are two
20 maps. One map is of the five boroughs, with the
21 current City Council district lines, and another
22 is a map of Manhattan, with the borough's current
23 City Council district lines. Both maps include
24 total population within the districts.

25 The population figures, reflected in the

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1 handouts, have already been adjusted to reflect
2 prisoners serving State sentences, but having
3 residences within the respective City Council
4 districts as of the time of the taking the U.S.
5 census as of 2010. The Commission will take
6 these figures into consideration when drawing
7 district lines.

8 It's important to note that, as we conduct
9 these public hearings, that there are certain
10 factors that obligates the Commission to consider
11 during the districting process. These include
12 the total population deviation, of any district,
13 cannot be greater than ten percent of the average
14 population for all districts.

15 District lines have to ensure fair and
16 effective representation of racial and language
17 minority groups in New York City. District lines
18 should keep neighborhoods and communities, with
19 established ties of common interest and
20 association, intact. District lines should
21 ensure the districts are compact and contiguous,
22 and lines should keep districts within the
23 borough, and avoid diminishing the effective
24 representation of voters.

25 Finally, I want to bring to your attention

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1 our website. www.nyc.gov/districting. The site
2 is the central repository for all documents and
3 videos related to the Districting Commission. It
4 also contains a complete schedule of our public
5 hearings and requests to be added to our mailing
6 list. I hope you all visit the site and let us
7 know how it can be made more effective and more
8 informative.

9 One final note. We have a number of
10 speakers tonight, and each of you has three
11 minutes, which is not very long. But keep in
12 mind that we have a substantial amount of data
13 from the U.S. census and elsewhere. We will also
14 take written submissions, if you wish to offer
15 them. Today will be important to our decision,
16 but these hearings provide critical input as
17 well.

18 Tell us about your neighborhoods. Where are
19 its natural boundaries as you see them. Share
20 that with us. Thank you for participating
21 tonight and we will have our first speaker,
22 Christina Chang.

23 MS. CHANG: Good evening. Thank you to the
24 Districting Commission members, staff and
25 concerned citizens of Manhattan. My name is

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1 Christina Chang, and I am here speaking on behalf
2 of AACCORD, or the Asian-American Community
3 Coalition on Redistricting and Democracy.
4 AACCORD is a nonpartisan coalition, of 14
5 organizations, committed to advancing the
6 opportunity of Asian-Pacific American and
7 minority communities, to meaningfully participate
8 in the political process.

9 AACCORD recognizes that redistricting plays
10 a pivotal and fundamental role in these
11 opportunities, and we support restricting plans
12 that keep together communities of interest, that
13 exist in and around ethnic neighborhoods across
14 New York.

15 We are not working in the interest of just
16 one type of Asian-American, one borough or one
17 type of organization. We include organizations
18 involved in housing issues, social services,
19 legal advocacy and community-based organizing, as
20 well as professional associations and civil
21 organizations.

22 In short, we are a broad coalition, that has
23 been active since the very beginning of this
24 redistricting cycle at the State Assembly, State
25 Senate and Congressional levels.

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1 We are recognized as a voice for the
2 Asian-American community across the city. The
3 City Charter mandates that district lines
4 preserve communities of interest. AACCORD
5 considers Chinatown and the Lower East Side to
6 share many interests and so should be considered
7 a community of interest.

8 There are many shared socioeconomic and
9 housing characteristics that make these two
10 neighborhoods natural counterparts. However, the
11 current configuration joins together the
12 low-income, limited-English, immigrant residents
13 of Chinatown to a vastly different population
14 residing in the Financial District, Battery Park
15 City and TriBeCa. We recommend reconsidering
16 this configuration.

17 I would also like to address an issue that
18 has been part of the redistricting dialogue for
19 some time. We have been, and continue to be,
20 concerned about accusations of the efforts of
21 groups, such as ours, are against diversity in
22 districts and we encourage segregation. Nothing
23 is further from the truth.

24 If you think about it, some terribly
25 gerrymandered districts can go from being the

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1 most diverse, simply from the fact that they
2 fracture multiple neighborhoods, and join
3 together a hodgepodge of residents who are
4 diverse, in quite an unproductive way.

5 On the other hand, a very good district may,
6 in fact, be rather homogenous. It might cover a
7 large area in which residents share socioeconomic
8 characteristics, geographical proximity and,
9 also, ethnicity. This applies to anyone. Such
10 ethnic enclaves are a staple of our city and they
11 are not a product of anything so insidious as
12 segregation.

13 (Three-minute timer alarmed).

14 Sorry.

15 Should I continue?

16 MR. ROMANO: If you could just conclude.

17 MS. CHANG: Sure. Drawing lines, that keep
18 together communities of interest, will sometimes
19 result in districts with a significant
20 concentration of the minority voters. This is a
21 representation that will reflect and respect the
22 local presence of minorities. Thank you for your
23 time and consideration.

24 MR. ROMANO: Thank you. Before we have our
25 next speaker, I would like to ask the Commission

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1 members to introduce themselves.

2 If we could start from my right (indicating)
3 and work our way down?

4 MS. PROVENZANO: My name is Madeline
5 Provenzano. I am from the Bronx.

6 MR. PADAVAN: Frank Padavan from Queens.

7 MS. WOLFE: Gloria Wolfe, Manhattan.

8 MS. LIN: Linda Lin from Queens.

9 MR. HUM: Carl Hum, staff to the Commission.

10 SPEAKER: Eddie (unintelligible), also staff
11 to the Commission.

12 MR. ODOM: Oscar Odom, III, Brooklyn.

13 MS. HANKS: Kamillah Hanks, Staten Island.

14 MR. CERULLO: Scott Cerullo, Staten Island.

15 MR. HART: Rob Hart from Staten Island.

16 MS. PERSAUD: Roxanne Persaud, Brooklyn.

17 MR. YU: Justin Yu from Brooklyn.

18 MR. ROBERT: John Robert from the Bronx.

19 MR. WURZEL: Marc Wurzel from Manhattan.

20 MR. ROMANO: Our next speaker will be Henry
21 Chang from OCA.

22 MR. CHANG: Good evening. My name is Henry
23 Chang and, today, I am speaking on behalf of the
24 OCA New York. Founded in 1976, OCA New York,
25 formerly known as the Organization for Chinese

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1 Americans, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan
2 organization dedicated to protecting and
3 advancing the political, economic, social and
4 cultural rights of Asian-Americans.

5 OCA New York represents the five boroughs of
6 New York City. In Manhattan's Chinatown, we have
7 cosponsored candidates' forums for City Council
8 District 1, the Office of the Mayor, and State
9 Assembly District 64, and we have conducted voter
10 registration on community street corners.

11 We have partnered with Chinatown groups,
12 such as the Chinese American Planning Council,
13 Asian-Americans for Equality, and Chinese
14 Consolidated Benevolent Association, and family
15 associations for voter empowerment, education and
16 combating hate crimes.

17 OCA New York also extends to
18 coalition-building and helping Asians living in
19 Manhattan's Lower East Side. Working with
20 Chinatown Youth Initiatives and the Ana Luisa
21 Garcia Center, OCA New York held its fourth
22 annual Hate Crimes Prevention Art Exhibit at the
23 Educational Alliance and Seward Park, both
24 located on the Lower East Side.

25 We were the lead advocate on securing the

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1 Governor's pardon for Kim Wu, an adult resident
2 of the Lower East Side, facing removal from the
3 U.S. because of a teenage criminal record.

4 Currently, we are the lead advocate for
5 Danny Chen, who grew up in Chinatown and lived on
6 the Lower East Side. Asian soldiers have been
7 charged in connection with his death in
8 Afghanistan.

9 Support for my testimony is based on my 40
10 years of living in Chinatown, and on other OCA
11 New York members' input and data from the 2010
12 census. As a novelist, specializing in stories
13 set in Chinatown, I have written a trilogy of
14 mystery books titled "Chinatown Beat," "Year of
15 the Dog" and "Red Jade." The characters in my
16 books are based on people I have known growing up
17 in Chinatown, events that happened there and
18 crimes that also occurred.

19 Not only do my stories evolve around crime
20 and violence, I also write about low-income
21 people trying to better their lives. At least
22 once a week, I walk the 15, 20 minutes, from my
23 home in Chinatown, through the Lower East Side
24 and Houston Street, which I can shop, and eat,
25 and meet with family and friends.

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1 Regarding the City Council districts for
2 Lower Manhattan, OCA New York supports including
3 more of the Lower East Side in the Chinatown
4 community. The Lower East Side and Chinatown --
5 (three-minute timer alarms) -- shares similar
6 socioeconomic data. Ninety-two percent are
7 renters, which is comparable to 82 percent on the
8 Lower East Side. The median age, in Chinatown,
9 is 40 and 39 for the Lower East Side.
10 Seventy-four percent of Chinese speakers, in
11 Chinatown, speak English as well, comparable to
12 70 percent on the Lower East Side.

13 And 40 percent of Chinatown residents
14 reported income below the poverty level, similar
15 to the 40 percent of Asians on the Lower East
16 Side. With low-income areas, come the lack of
17 services to fight crime, quality health care and
18 other social services. Gentrification is a major
19 threat.

20 MR. ROMANO: Thank you.

21 MR. CHANG: Thank you for your time.

22 MR. ROMANO: Our next speaker will be
23 Margaret Fung of the Asian American Legal Defense
24 and Education Fund.

25 MS. FUNG: Hi. Good evening. My name is

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1 Margaret Fung and I am executive director of the
2 Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund.
3 Ours is a 38-year-old organization, that defends
4 the civil rights of Asian-Americans, through
5 litigation, advocacy, organizing and community
6 education.

7 Voting rights have been a priority for
8 AALDEF for more than three decades. We submitted
9 testimony, in 1991, when the New York City
10 Council was extended from 35 to 51 seats, and,
11 again, in the 2002 redistricting cycle. We have
12 monitored elections, for 20 years, to ascertain
13 whether Chinese- and Korean-language assistance
14 programs are in compliance with the Voting Rights
15 Act.

16 We have submitted comments, to the Justice
17 Department, on redistricting plans and other
18 voting changes. And this year, in coalition with
19 the National Institute for Latino Policy and the
20 Center for Law and Social Justice, at Medgar
21 Evers College, we've developed a unity map for
22 New York Congressional, State Senate and State
23 Assembly districts.

24 As you well know, Asian-Americans are the
25 fastest-growing minority group in New York City.

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1 The Asian-American population increased
2 32 percent over the last decade, and now it
3 constitutes 15 percent of the City's population,
4 numbering over one million. Now, New York City
5 has the largest Asian-American population of any
6 municipality in the nation, and yet only one
7 Asian-American has been elected to the City
8 Council from Manhattan, only two from Queens and
9 none from Brooklyn.

10 Despite rapid population growth, high
11 naturalization rates and steadily increasing
12 numbers of registered voters, the Asian-American
13 community's political representation has not
14 increased at an equivalent pace.

15 District 1, in Lower Manhattan, was created,
16 in 1991, as a 43 percent Asian district, linking
17 low-income Chinatown residents with the more
18 affluent residents of Battery Park City, SoHo,
19 TriBeCa and the Financial District.

20 It was expected that a Chinese American
21 would be elected in 1991, but that did not occur
22 until 2009. And now, this district is 45 percent
23 white, and the Asian-American population has
24 dropped to 36 percent. Two decades ago,
25 District 2, in Lower Manhattan, was created as a

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1 Latino district, but, now, 57 percent of the
2 district's residents are white, only 22 percent
3 are Latino and 11 percent are Asian-American.

4 So in light of these populations, in lower
5 Manhattan, we ask the Commission to consider all
6 alternatives to Districts 1 and 2, that will
7 maintain fair representation for Asian-Americans
8 and Latinos, but also recognize that Chinatown
9 and the Lower East Side are communities of
10 interest and, in fact, one of the last affordable
11 immigrant neighborhoods in Manhattan.

12 These Asian and Latino residents have common
13 socioeconomic backgrounds and limited proficiency
14 in English. They share common educational
15 concerns and they face substantial developmental
16 pressures as tenants in rent-regulation units in
17 public housing. To assist the Commission in this
18 process, AALDEF has already submitted two
19 documents.

20 The first are the Asian-American
21 neighborhood maps, in which we include detailed
22 maps of 15 different Asian-American neighborhoods
23 throughout the city. And the second is the
24 Asian-American Communities of Interest Survey, in
25 which we met with several community groups and

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1 asked them to draw the boundaries, district
2 boundaries, of their neighborhoods, and to
3 articulate the common concerns and issues in
4 their neighborhoods.

5 Finally, we ask the groups to identify the
6 surrounding neighborhoods that are most similar
7 to them and most different from them. So we hope
8 you will consider this communities of interest
9 survey, and with our unity map partners, we plan
10 to submit a 51-district map, that reflects the
11 ever-changing demographics of New York City, very
12 soon.

13 We urge the Commission to ensure that
14 Asian-Americans have a fair opportunity to elect
15 candidates of choice in accordance with the
16 Voting Rights Act -- (three-minute timer alarms)
17 -- and also to keep communities of interest
18 together. Thank you very much.

19 MR. ROMANO: Thank you. Our next speaker is
20 Mae Lee of the Chinese Progressive Association.

21 MS. LEE: Good evening. My name is Mae Lee.
22 I am the executive director of the Chinese
23 Progressive Association. I will keep my comments
24 very brief. The Chinese Progressive Association
25 is a community-based organization located on the

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1 border between Chinatown and Lower East Side.

2 We have been in existence since the
3 late 1970s. I have worked in Chinatown for over
4 20 years and have worked with many of the
5 low-income residents in Chinatown in providing
6 services and also doing organizing. I would just
7 like to, I guess, reiterate some of the support,
8 for some of the arguments here, for keeping
9 Chinatown and the Lower East Side together.

10 Our community, particularly, works with new
11 immigrants and we have seen Chinatown grow to the
12 east and to the north of its traditional core,
13 where there is more affordable housing, so new
14 residents are moving to that area and moving to
15 the area east of the Bowery, as well as moving
16 north of Houston and, in particular, to the
17 public-housing projects, which are right along
18 the river.

19 So we, you know, also strongly support the
20 idea, that you have heard before, about
21 communities of common interest. The communities
22 of common interest have many -- there are many
23 factors involved when deciding that. Ethnicity
24 is one of them, but there is also the
25 socioeconomic background, immigration status,

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1 your country of origin, educational background,
2 access to health care and other services and
3 needs, like housing.

4 So we are not here to propose any kind of
5 lines, but we do want to say that Chinatown
6 belongs with the Lower East Side. While our
7 neighbors currently include the neighbors of
8 SoHo, TriBeCa and Battery Park, we do always make
9 an effort to work with all of our neighbors, no
10 matter who they are.

11 But in terms of drawing a City Council
12 District, the communities of common interest,
13 defined by the characteristics, that I had just
14 mentioned, should be strongly considered. Thank
15 you.

16 MR. ROMANO: Thank you. Our next speaker is
17 Cheryl Pahaham.

18 MS. PAHAHAM: Hi, my name is Cheryl Pahaham
19 and I am a candidate for City Council District 7.
20 I am just here to ask the Commission to consider
21 how to take some of the politics out of
22 redistricting the Council districts. I'm a
23 candidate in District 7 and I just learned of a
24 purported proposal that would move me out of my
25 Council District.

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1 It's not a proposal that does anything to
2 further the voting rights of protected
3 populations, like African-Americans or Latinos.
4 It's a proposal, that appears to be made by
5 politicians, now in office, to support their
6 allies. So I am just asking that, when you
7 consider how to revise the Council districts, you
8 take into account the declared candidates in
9 those Council races. Thank you.

10 MR. ROMANO: Thank you. The next speaker
11 will be Carol Greitzer.

12 MS. GREITZER: I am speaking, today, as a
13 former member of the City Council, where I
14 represented not just one part, but all of
15 Greenwich Village. The Village used to be
16 unified in one district. But for several years,
17 this well-defined community has been
18 gerrymandered into three districts.

19 The result, on virtually every issue, two
20 parts of the Village do not have their elected
21 council members speaking for them, as two of
22 these three elected officials almost always
23 deferred to the third.

24 Not only that, but in a recent vote, one of
25 the Village Council members actually implied that

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1 she was against the project, as were her very
2 vocal constituents, but in deference to her
3 colleague, she would note yes. So much for
4 representative government.

5 Greenwich Villagers had several issues
6 facing them in the last few years, among them
7 Saint Vincent's Hospital, the NYU expansion and
8 Washington Square Park.

9 In each case, two out of the three elected
10 representatives deferred, despite the fact that
11 the loss of a hospital affected all Villagers,
12 not just Speaker Quinn's constituents, and
13 despite the fact that people from all parts of
14 the Village use the park, not just former Council
15 member Thurston's constituents, and all of the
16 Villagers will feel the impact of NYU's expansion
17 plans, not just Council Member Chin's
18 constituents.

19 Greenwich Village has very distinct and
20 clear-cut boundaries, as recognized by the City
21 Council's planning of community board lines.
22 Some past district commissioner felt that since
23 Fifth Avenue was the line demarcating east and
24 west Manhattan, it should also be used to define
25 Council districts. That is why Villagers, east

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1 of Fifth Avenue and south of Washington Square
2 Park, have been gerrymandered out of the district
3 that includes the majority of Villagers.

4 What looks logical, on a map, is not
5 necessarily the way to define communities. I
6 urge you to correct this situation by adhering,
7 as much as possible, to community board lines.
8 Please end this gerrymandering and make Greenwich
9 Village whole again. In doing so, you will not
10 only improve this district, you will, probably,
11 improve the lines of the adjacent districts.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. ROMANO: Our next speaker will be Mark
14 Levine.

15 MR. LEVINE: Good evening and thank you
16 Chairman Romano and members of the Commission for
17 this opportunity to testify. My name, again, is
18 Mark Levine. I am a democratic district leader
19 from the 71st Assembly District, Part A,
20 representing 145th Street to 190th Street west of
21 Broadway.

22 I am here to offer my input on drawing the
23 Council District in my area in the 7th District.
24 The considerable demographic changes uptown, over
25 the past decade, have created challenges in

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1 redrawing the maps in this area. The new lines
2 must make up for a significant loss of population
3 in the 10th District by uniting communities of
4 interest and preserving minority voting power.

5 The need to grow the 10th District will move
6 the surrounding district south. The simplest way
7 to achieve all of the required goals would be to
8 keep together three communities with deep ties
9 and common interests. Those are West Washington
10 Heights, including Hudson Heights, West Harlem,
11 Hamilton Heights and Morningside Heights. These
12 communities all abut the Hudson River along with
13 the adjacent park path.

14 These communities share a common bus and
15 subway line. All have high rates of
16 homeownership, thanks to a large number of co-op
17 buildings in each neighborhood. All are
18 currently united in the 31st State Senate
19 District and each of these three communities is
20 home to one of Columbia University's campuses,
21 with the main campus at Morningside Heights, the
22 new campus at Manhattanville, the medical campus
23 on 168th Street.

24 Critically, united West Harlem Heights with
25 Morningside Heights would put all of Community

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1 Board 9 in a single Council District for the
2 first time in decades, allowing for common
3 representation for a community with common
4 interests. It would also put all of the 26th
5 Police Precinct, which runs from 110th to 141st,
6 in a single Council District, instead of
7 splitting it in two, which is currently the case.

8 One thing I believe is critical, we do
9 maintain in the 7th District, is the connection
10 between Community Board 9 and the western part of
11 Community Board 12, which stretches north of
12 155th Street. These areas are united in
13 virtually every possible way, by a common school
14 district, extensive transit legs, large numbers
15 of nonprofits serving both areas, and common
16 representation of both the Assembly and State
17 Senate and more.

18 The 7th Council District is currently one of
19 the most diverse in the city, with Latinos
20 comprising a plurality of residents, while no
21 single group is in the majority. Under the lines
22 I am proposing, Latinos would remain a plurality
23 and minority residents, in total, would remain 60
24 percent. Minority voting power also would be
25 maintained in adjacent districts, with strong

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1 majorities remaining for Latinos in the 10th
2 District and African-Americans in the 9th.

3 For all of these reasons, I believe that the
4 7th Council District, which includes Morningside
5 Heights, Hamilton Heights and Western Washington
6 Heights, would serve the best interest of local
7 residents while meeting all of the legal
8 requirements of the districting process. Thank
9 you.

10 MR. ROMANO: Thank you. Our next speaker
11 will be Daniel Cohen.

12 MR. COHEN: Good evening. My name is Daniel
13 Marks Cohen. I am on the New York State
14 Democratic Committee representing the 69th
15 Assembly District of Manhattan's Upper West Side
16 and the New York State Democratic Committee. The
17 assemblyman for the 69th is Daniel O'Donnell. I
18 am a lifelong resident of the Upper West Side.
19 My parents live in the district. My wife and I
20 live in the district, raising a newborn son, a
21 third-generation Upper West Sider as well.

22 The part of the Upper West Side I live in,
23 between 96th Street and 125th, is the poorest
24 portion of the 69th Assembly District. It is
25 least served in terms of transportation and has

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1 more crime. I believe at least one reason for
2 that is its consistent and uneven status and the
3 fact that the 69th is cut up into multiple pieces
4 of nine different districts.

5 That has been approved, recently, by Federal
6 redistricting legislation, which went through the
7 two Congressional districts, the 8th, represented
8 by Jerry Nadler, and the 15th, by representative
9 Charlie Rangel. But it is made worse by the
10 three State Senate Districts, Tom Duane of the
11 29th, Bill Perkins of the 30th and Adriano
12 Espaillat of the 31st.

13 The latter, the 31st, is particularly
14 egregious, stretching from 184th along the west
15 coast of Manhattan Island. It looks more like
16 the Latin American country of Chile than a proper
17 State Senate District.

18 Sadly, that is not your in purview today.
19 We are stuck with this absurd district for the
20 next ten years. What is the Commission's charge
21 is the City Council lines, and now we turn to
22 look at the districts. There are four City
23 Council districts in the 69th, Gale Brewer of the
24 6th, Robert Jackson of the 7th, Melissa
25 Mark-Viverito of the 8th and Inez Dickens of the

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1 9th.

2 Including Assembly Member O'Donnell, that
3 makes it ten elected officials representing one
4 community at three different levels of
5 government. It is no wonder that people get
6 confused about whom to talk to about one issue or
7 another. It let's elected officials off the hook
8 of matters that are important to one district or
9 another, or overlapping district issues.

10 What is clear here is if everyone, all ten
11 electors are to be responsible, and truly no one
12 is responsible, this lack of clarity needs to be
13 addressed, and we can correct one issue. The
14 appropriate councilmanic location of Manhattan
15 Valley, which is the area of 96th Street to
16 110th, east of Broadway to Central Park West.
17 Looking more closely at the City Council
18 districts, if you were to stand at 96th Street
19 and Broadway, depending on what corner you were
20 on, you would be in one of three different
21 councilmanic districts.

22 There will always be confusion at the edges
23 of districts, and with the 6th District south of
24 96th Street, represented by Ms. Brewer, that
25 demarcation line is clear. But north of there

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1 gets confusing, depending on which side of
2 Broadway you stand on. You could be represented
3 in the 8th District, by Melissa Mark-Viverito, to
4 the east, or the 9th District, by Ms. Dickens, to
5 the west.

6 Both Council members are dedicated and
7 hardworking, so this it is not a criticism of
8 their individual work ethic. However, it may be
9 time to reconsider the lines that these two
10 members of Manhattan Valley, particularly the 8th
11 District, which stretches all of the way over
12 from East Harlem to Manhattan's West Side.

13 For constituents of limited mobility or
14 restricted income, traveling to 116th Street and
15 Lexington Avenue, to the Council district's
16 office, is a great difficulty. Ms. Viverito does
17 her best with limited resources and extended
18 staff, but it is hard to meet the needs of such a
19 wildly-disparate district, both geographically
20 and economically.

21 Perhaps when Ms. Viverito's predecessor,
22 Phil Reed, represented the district -- and in
23 full disclosure, I was Phil's treasurer in his
24 final election campaign -- (three-minute timer
25 alarms) -- there may have been some justification

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1 in keeping Manhattan Valley District 8 out.
2 Since Phil lived in Manhattan Valley, to redraw
3 the area out of the district would have drawn
4 Phil's home out of the district as well, but that
5 is no longer the case.

6 Ms. Viverito lives on the east side of
7 Manhattan above her district there as well. I
8 propose that the Council redraw the lines more
9 naturally to keep Manhattan Valley's
10 representation on the West Side, where it
11 belongs, rather than as an appendage in another
12 district for incumbency for a demographic reason.
13 I submitted a copy of my testimony when I came
14 in. Thank you very much.

15 MR. ROMANO: Our next speaker is Yang Chen.

16 MR. CHEN: Good evening. My name is Yang
17 Chen. I am the executive director of the
18 Asian-American Bar Association of New York, also
19 known as AABANY, a professional membership
20 organization of attorneys concerning issued
21 affecting the Asian-Pacific American, or APA
22 community.

23 AABANY is part of a core with the
24 Asian-American Community Coalition for
25 Redistricting and Democracy. AABANY urges the

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1 establishment of districts that reflect, and do
2 not divide, contiguous communities that, in
3 Manhattan, represent large populations of APA
4 voters.

5 The 2010 census revealed that APAs make up
6 more than 11 percent of the population in
7 Manhattan, a borough that grew, overall, by 3.2
8 percent since 2000. The growth among APAs,
9 however, showed an increase of 24 percent, eight
10 times greater than the overall Manhattan
11 population. In New York City, APA is now over
12 one million, representing nearly 13 percent of
13 the population. APAs are the fastest-growing
14 racial minority in New York City.

15 The drawing of district lines to accurately
16 reflect the reality of Manhattan communities is
17 not just good policy and good government, but
18 good law. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 mandates
19 that district lines be created that protect
20 minority voting rights and political
21 representation. To that end, they must fairly
22 reflect minority voting strength.

23 While race cannot be the only factor due to
24 the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution,
25 it is clear that race can and should be one of

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1 the many factors considered, as in Shaw versus
2 Reno, 1993.

3 We are asking this Commission to recognize,
4 as required by Bush versus Vera, 1996, that there
5 are communities of interest, that share common
6 interests in Manhattan, that are not reflected in
7 the existing district divisions. Chinatown and
8 the Lower East Side represent neighborhoods that
9 may not be fairly represented.

10 While not specifically defined by the court,
11 it is clear that similarities in socioeconomic
12 background, shared common goals, contiguous
13 geography and common lifestyles are factors that
14 define such communities. The Commission should
15 look to Asian-Americans and the Asian-American
16 Communities of Interest Survey as resources in
17 this endeavor.

18 AABANY urges this Commission to franchise
19 thousands of APA citizens to be active
20 participants in the political process. APAs make
21 up a growing community that is politically
22 maturing, and this is a tremendous opportunity
23 for this Commission to reflect the reality of the
24 demographics of this borough, and to give voice
25 to a community that enhances and enriches

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1 Manhattan.

2 That concludes my remarks. Thank you for
3 your time, and I also submitted, as part of the
4 record, a letter that our association submitted,
5 in 2003, to the DOJ, regarding the districting
6 plan back in 2000. Thank you very much.

7 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Mr. Chen. We do
8 have your written submission. Thank you for
9 that. Our next speaker will be William Stanford,
10 Jr.

11 MR. STANFORD: I was wondering if you called
12 my name, because I understand this party started
13 at five o'clock, and I just arrived here from
14 City Hall. As I said before, the best way to
15 redraw the City Council district lines is to go
16 by the bus corridors.

17 Here in Manhattan, it's very easy. You have
18 145th Street, 125th Street, 116th Street, 106th
19 Street, 96th Street, et cetera, and vertical --
20 I'm sorry -- horizontally -- vertically, Third
21 Avenue, Second Avenue, First Avenue.

22 All I ask is that you keep the neighborhoods
23 together, so the constituents don't get
24 disproportioned, because that is something they
25 complain about, disproportion. Their

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1 neighborhoods are disproportioned.

2 They've felt only one City, State or Federal
3 representative should have to represent them
4 here, for better and equal neighborhoods, and
5 then this one street, in the neighborhood,
6 becomes, the next thing you know, it's separated
7 into two or three. So that's all I ask of you.
8 It's easy.

9 Most of the streets are facing vertically,
10 horizontally, facing sideways, northeast,
11 southwest. It's real easy. Again, as I said
12 before, don't do what LATFOR did. Okay? Please,
13 don't imitate LATFOR. What they did was a joke
14 and I understand they covered State and Federal
15 lines. They covered City lines. Don't do the
16 same job they are doing.

17 Don't make the same mistake they do.
18 Because if you do, it will haunt you ten years
19 from now. You don't want that. So be fair to
20 the constituents. Be fair to all of the City
21 Council here. Just go by the bus corridors.
22 That is the best way. If you need help, contact
23 me. You have my contact information.

24 And I will show you how to -- give you some
25 pointers. I would have done the same for LATFOR,

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1 but they didn't bother asking me. So as I say,
2 let's be fair to the residents and constituents
3 this time. You know? Do what we ask. Do we ask
4 you to do. Not what you wish to do. Meaning,
5 your philosophy should be, do as I say, because
6 -- I mean not do as I say, do as I do -- because
7 that's what I've seen so far.

8 And thank you for keeping your cell phones
9 off or on vibrate. Because one of you forgot to
10 do that on Monday, and I had to tell you you
11 should turn off your cell phone -- (three-minute
12 timer alarms) -- and put it on vibrate before I
13 get to the microphone. So thank you very much.

14 MR. ROMANO: Thank you. Our next speaker is
15 Helen Rosenthal.

16 MS. ROSENTHAL: Hi, Commissioners, thank you
17 for holding this hearing and giving the public an
18 opportunity to talk. My name is Helen Rosenthal
19 and I would like to talk about City Council
20 District 6 on the Upper West Side. I have lived
21 there for over 25 years, and I have been on the
22 community board, which runs somewhat similar to
23 the City Council district, from 59th Street up to
24 110th Street, for 13 years.

25 And I have been elected Chair of the Board

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1 twice and I have also worked with our local
2 community education council. And there are two
3 things that I have seen happen in this district,
4 that I would ask you to consider in redrawing
5 these lines.

6 The first is the nature of the population
7 changes in this district. The population has
8 primarily grown in the southwest quadrant where
9 the Trump Towers went up. That population will
10 continue to grow as Riverside Center gets
11 developed. They are planning over 5,000 new
12 apartments there just north of 59th Street and
13 south of 61st Street.

14 The second place, where there has been a
15 population growth, has been between just north of
16 the Council District, between 96th Street and
17 100th Street, in the northeast side, where,
18 again, some very tall high-rises have gone in.
19 What we learned, with this population change,
20 over the last ten years, is that the schools, in
21 the southern part of the district, became
22 tremendously overcrowded.

23 And as we looked as at the numbers, what we
24 thought and what is played out, is that school
25 overcrowding is moving from the southern portion

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1 of the district up north. I think the community
2 would be best served by having a representative
3 who would be responsible for the entire picture.

4 So as the population grows just north of the
5 district now, those schools around there are
6 going to be having an increasing impact with
7 overcrowding, just in the same way that the
8 schools in the southern part of the district have
9 seen overcrowding in the past ten years.

10 So we urge you to raise the line from 54th
11 Street up to 59th Street, and similar to what
12 Daniel Cohen was mentioning, on the north side of
13 the District, raise it back up to 99th or 110th
14 Street, where it was under the previous two
15 Council members. Thank you very much for your
16 time.

17 MR. ROMANO: Thank you. Our next speaker
18 will be Frieda K. Bradlow.

19 MS. BRADLOW: Good evening. I thank you for
20 the opportunity to address my third Commission on
21 Redistricting. The problem is always the same,
22 keeping communities intact.

23 I have been a resident of the
24 Charlton-King-Vandam Historic District, in
25 Greenwich Village, since 1958. I can only tell

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1 you that the Village was described, in those
2 days, as going from Canal Street to 14th Street,
3 from the Hudson River to the Bowery. That makes
4 a logical district and we acted under one
5 governmental unit as Greenwich Village.

6 What happened in my analysis and long
7 political and social involvement in the issues,
8 is when we went over Robert Moses on two major
9 occasions. One, to keep the entire northwest
10 Village from being bulldozed, and the second, was
11 the Broom Street Expressway, which we
12 successfully fought off. A decision was made
13 that we were too influential, too cohesive and
14 too well-organized.

15 Therefore, the splits began to happen. I
16 watched it first begin in the 1980s, after a
17 redistricting, and then it continued through the
18 1990s. Until now, we are represented in that
19 community, that I described to you, by three
20 different Council members. The cohesiveness is
21 gone.

22 We have had major, major issues in our
23 community that, let's say, the mile that
24 separates the southern part of the community from
25 the northern part of the community is

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1 ill-informed on the issues taking place in the
2 northern part, because there's a difference in
3 representation.

4 We most recently coalesced as a community
5 against the issue of NYU's expansion, but we lost
6 out on that one, because we were represented by
7 three different Council members. That doesn't
8 work too well. When you talk about things in the
9 New York City Charter, your job is very
10 complex -- (three-minute timer alarms) -- to
11 balance out the numbers and other issues.

12 But I want to remind you of this quote:
13 "District lines shall keep intact neighborhoods
14 and communities with established ties of common
15 interest and association, whether historical,
16 racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other."
17 And that certainly is the Village.

18 MR. ROMANO: Thank you.

19 MS. BRADLOW: Thank you.

20 MR. ROMANO: Our next speaker is Brian Paul,
21 Common Cause, New York.

22 MR. PAUL: Good evening. My name is Brian
23 Paul and I am a research and policy coordinator
24 at Common Cause, New York, a nonpartisan,
25 citizens lobbying force in the battle for honest

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1 and accountable government. Redistricting is
2 really a core issue for us. We were very
3 involved in the State process. So I am glad to
4 be here tonight to talk about the City Council.

5 This issue really affects two core
6 principles of representative democracy. First,
7 the ability of citizens to elect people who
8 represent their collective interests, and second,
9 the citizens' right to hold those individuals
10 accountable at the ballot box.

11 And redistricting is really essential to
12 protecting their fundamental principles of
13 democracy. And we would like to thank you, the
14 Commission, for holding these hearings in advance
15 of the draft plans. But at the same time, we are
16 concerned by the apparent lack of progress in
17 online participation.

18 It's disappointing there is not yet some
19 kind of interactive-online tool on the website.
20 One option is to make draft plans available
21 through some kind of a Google Maps tool, that
22 will allow people to tag the map with comments,
23 and specific lines that they like or dislike.

24 This is more doable than the whole tool,
25 that people would draw their own districts, and I

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1 think more people would use it, since they are
2 drawing their own districts, the tool is really
3 too complicated for most people.

4 Encouraging a robust participation should be
5 a guiding principle of any redistricting process,
6 because this process can empower or disempower
7 voters with a similar stroke of the pen. New
8 York City is a city of neighborhoods within
9 neighborhoods. Even small changes in districts
10 can have large consequences on politics and
11 representation.

12 There was witness to these consequences, in
13 mind, that the drafters, of the charter,
14 carefully laid out detailed criteria for this
15 Commission. The Equal Protection Clause and the
16 Voting Rights Act are rightfully at the top, and
17 third is the important concept of representing
18 communities of interest, which others already
19 have quoted the exact quote from the charter, so
20 I will skip that.

21 The charter is really very clear, that the
22 Commission should prioritize this concept over
23 the political considerations of incumbents. This
24 is why it's so important to encourage more
25 participation, particularly online, where many

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1 more people can get involved than at hearings.

2 I will jump to specific comments about
3 Manhattan. Most significant, through the process
4 here, is the population drop in Washington
5 Heights District 10. We have been looking at
6 this on the map. I think it raises significant
7 challenges regarding reconciling the City Charter
8 and the Voting Rights Act. The City Charter
9 clearly states that two districts should not
10 cross the same borough.

11 Currently, District 8 crosses East Harlem to
12 the South Bronx, so the City Charter would appear
13 to prohibit District 10 from crossing also. But
14 it looks to us -- (three-minute timer alarms) --
15 I will close quickly -- it looks to us that
16 District 10 does not cross into the Bronx, it has
17 to pick up populations south, which may create a
18 conflict with the Voting Rights Act by dropping
19 the Spanish share of District 7, and the same if
20 you were to bump District 8 out of the Bronx. It
21 may be the case where you have to override the
22 charter to counter the Voting Rights Act.

23 Just one more thought. We would like to
24 express our support for what many people, who
25 have already testified today, say is the

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1 possibility of uniting Chinatown and the Lower
2 East Side in a single Council District,
3 preferably following the shape of Community Board
4 3, for socioeconomic parity, meaning
5 homeownership and occupation. This is a distinct
6 community of interest. Chinatown and the Lower
7 East Side have more in common than Chinatown and
8 Battery Park and Gramercy as the current
9 districts are arranged.

10 MR. ROMANO: Thank you.

11 MR. PAUL: Thank you for the opportunity to
12 testify.

13 MR. ROMANO: The next speaker is Allison
14 Tupper.

15 MS. TUPPER: Good evening. I am Allison
16 Tupper. I live on 46th Street, in the Clinton
17 Special District, and I thank you for the
18 opportunity to speak here today.

19 VOICE FROM AUDIENCE: Turn the mic on.

20 MS. TUPPER: I want to urge you to take into
21 account the boundaries of the traditional
22 neighborhoods and the community board boundaries,
23 so that we can keep communities of interest
24 together. Districts should be compact and they
25 should be equal in size. I see that you have a

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1 10 percent variation and that's really too much.
2 I hope you can keep the variation down to two or
3 three percent.

4 If one district is 10 percent bigger than
5 another, and another district is ten percent
6 smaller than the average, that is a 20 percent
7 deviation, and that's huge. I hope you can keep
8 your deviation to two or three percent and I hope
9 you can keep communities of interest, like the
10 Clinton Special District Coalition, Chelsea, and
11 Hell's Kitchen, and the community board lines. I
12 hope you can respect those lines. Thank you.

13 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Ms. Tupper. Robert
14 Jackson, Council Member Jackson.

15 MR. JACKSON: Good evening everyone, and let
16 me thank you for being part of this Commission.
17 Obviously, it is extremely, extremely important
18 for the lives of New Yorkers. My name is Robert
19 Jackson. I represent the 7th Councilmanic
20 District, which includes part of Central Harlem,
21 all of West Harlem, which include Hamilton
22 Heights and Sugar Hill, part of Morningside
23 Heights, Washington Heights and Inwood.

24 I am here today to ask the Commission to
25 keep the lines as they are. When you look at the

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1 7th Councilmanic District, and you look at the
2 geographical area, from the southern end, you
3 have Morningside Gardens, which is a huge, huge
4 development of co-ops, and Grant Houses, a public
5 housing, and they work together on so many issues
6 and concerns.

7 And two prime examples of that is they have
8 formed the West Harlem Sanitation Coalition and
9 they work on environmental justice, and they
10 implemented, together, the first NYCHA recycling
11 program, in the City of New York, working
12 together.

13 But also, every year, they have Hands Across
14 The Avenue. Morningside Gardens and Grant
15 Houses. Families coming together. Mind you, if
16 you don't know, Morningside Gardens is a
17 cooperative, where a two-bedroom co-op goes for
18 \$500,000, and right across the street is public
19 housing. They work together on issues of concern
20 and they have become like that for decades.

21 And even ten years ago, they asked me, as a
22 Council member, Please don't allow them to
23 separate us out. We are a family and we want to
24 stay together. In fact, some of the leaders have
25 said that already to me now. When you look at

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1 Northern Manhattan, north of the bridge, the GWB
2 going straight up, people know that if you live
3 west of Broadway, you are in the 7th Councilmanic
4 District. It's clean.

5 If you live east of Broadway, you know that
6 you live in the 10th Councilmanic District. And
7 let me tell you, it's clean as can be. In some
8 parts of the district, you have to ask, Am I in
9 7th or am I in the 10th or the 9th? People don't
10 know. It's important to have continuity.

11 And so as someone, that knows the entire
12 district, that has traveled and walked the entire
13 district, if you ask the people in the 7th
14 Councilmanic District, north of the bridge, in
15 the Washington Heights area, you have an orthodox
16 Jewish community that wants to stay together,
17 and, in fact, you have about five synagogues.
18 You have a yeshiva. You have the senior center
19 there all together. To separate them out and to
20 make a change, in my opinion, they would not want
21 that.

22 When you talk about Inwood, okay, the Inwood
23 community has been that way. You have anchors in
24 the community, such as the Good Shepherd Men's
25 Club. You have the school there and what have

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1 you. People want it the way it is. It doesn't
2 need to be changed. If you ask the people of
3 Inwood, most of them will tell you leave it like
4 it is. If it's not broke. Don't try to fix it
5 (three-minute timer alarms). That's important.
6 There's a lot of institutions in the area, in
7 Hamilton Heights, the Hamilton Heights
8 Homeowners' Association and groups likes that.

9 When you look at the geographic makeups of
10 the neighborhood, racially, it's about 50 percent
11 Hispanic, about 27 percent black, and the rest
12 white with about 2 percent Asian. It's a good
13 mix.

14 Let me just give you a prime example of
15 that. Eleven years ago, when I ran for the City
16 Council, it was about 50 percent Hispanic,
17 32 percent black and about 14 percent white, and
18 there were ten people in the race.

19 Five of those individuals were black, three
20 were Latino and two were white. The people, of
21 the 7th Councilmanic District, elected me to
22 represent them. Now there is going to be a new
23 representative, and I don't know who it is going
24 to be. But I tell you, as someone that has lived
25 in that neighborhood for 35 years, and I have

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1 walked every aspect of my district, it needs to
2 remain the same. It doesn't need to be changed
3 based on the numbers.

4 The numbers are within the percentage. So
5 if you go, yourself, and you go to Morningside
6 Heights, and you ask them, they will tell you.
7 You go to Hamilton Heights and you go to
8 Washington Heights, they will tell you. You go
9 to Inwood, they will tell you. It needs to stay
10 the same. It doesn't need to change.

11 MR. ROMANO: Thank you very much.

12 MR. JACKSON: Thank you very much, and my
13 testimony, I have in writing, is submitted for
14 the Commission.

15 MR. ROMANO: Our next speaker is Larry
16 English.

17 MR. ENGLISH: Good evening. My name is
18 Larry English. I am the former chairman of
19 Community Board No. 9 and I want to thank you for
20 this opportunity to address you on this most
21 important issue. I would like to echo my support
22 for my Councilman (indicating).

23 We didn't work this out, by the way, but
24 Councilman Robert Jackson, of West Harlem,
25 particularly, Community Board No. 9, I believe is

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1 one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the
2 city, both in ethnicity and race, but also
3 economically.

4 And as you look at this process, I would
5 urge you to resist the opportunity to gerrymander
6 these districts for political purposes, because,
7 ultimately, that's not what it is about. With
8 all due respect to the elected officials, they
9 come and go. The residents have to be here long
10 after the elected are put in place.

11 And Community Board No. 9, I would encourage
12 you to try to, if possible, put it all together.
13 But also, we would also encourage you to look at,
14 when you are looking at this map, it is important
15 that there is some diversity in these
16 neighborhoods. It's important that there is some
17 economic diversity in these neighborhoods.

18 The worst thing you can have is to have a
19 particular Council District that is not
20 representative of the broader city, both
21 racially, but also economically, to have a
22 district comprised of nothing but housing
23 projects, with no other social and economic
24 diversity, I believe would not be in the best
25 interest.

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1 Community Board No. 9, West Harlem, again,
2 it functions well. It's functioned great under
3 the political leadership of Mr. Jackson. It has
4 a long history of working together. That whole
5 district has dealings with the Columbia
6 expansion, which is certainly a part of this
7 process as you move forward. So once again, we
8 would ask that you keep the neighborhood, the
9 existing district, together as much as possible.

10 But as when you look at drawing out, not
11 only the district of Community Board No. 9, but
12 across the table, it's important that these
13 districts be drawn in a way that they bring
14 diversity, both racially and economically, also.
15 I thank you for your time.

16 MR. ROMANO: Thank you very much, Mr.
17 English. Our next speaker is Kathleen Treat.

18 MS. TREAT: Good evening. I am Kathleen
19 Treat, Chair of the Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood
20 Association, a proud member of the good
21 government community. I wanted to thank the
22 Commission for the map outside. Until I saw
23 that, I had no idea that District 3 included so
24 much of the Village. And I would like to echo
25 Carol Greitzer, that certainly, to include

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1 Charles Street in District 3 is absurd. They
2 belong back in the Village.

3 Other than that, please do not change our
4 District 3, which works just fine, thank you. In
5 other words, as Mr. Jackson said, if it works,
6 don't fix it. The Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood
7 Association works splendidly alongside our
8 Community Board 4.

9 Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea must remain
10 unified. There is power in numbers and our
11 neighborhoods are facing enormous challenges.
12 One being changes to the Hudson River Park Act.
13 We must continue to face these challenges
14 together as a unified whole. Thank you very
15 much.

16 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Ms. Treat. Our next
17 speaker is Debra Cooper, Democratic State
18 Committee 67th Assembly District.

19 MS. COOPER: Well, since you have introduced
20 me, I won't do it again. I represent the Upper
21 West Side. The 67th Assembly District is, more
22 or less, contiguous and overlaps a good deal of
23 the 6th Council District. It goes from 44th
24 Street to 97th Street. So it represents a good
25 portion of the Upper West Side. So I am very

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1 familiar with the district.

2 And recently, I testified before LATFOR, the
3 Commission charged with redistricting the State,
4 and that was not a very praiseworthy outcome, as
5 other people, before me, have said. And I
6 certainly hope, for the sake of my community,
7 that next time there will be something to praise
8 from this Commission.

9 And from what I have read about your goals,
10 and your principles, and your working methods, it
11 does seem a significantly more likely possibility
12 that the outcome will be much a more accredited
13 Commission and to the benefit of the communities.

14 I am going to reprise my testimony from
15 LATFOR, because it also describes Council
16 District 6. I usually tell people I represent
17 the Upper West Side, and almost everywhere I go
18 around the country, people know exactly what I am
19 talking about. Now, that's because the Upper
20 West Side is an easily-identifiable, historical,
21 social and political entity. It is the very
22 definition of a community of interest.

23 Those of us, who live there, think of
24 ourselves in many of the terms we use to
25 characterize the neighborhood. The Upper West

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1 Side has just about the highest voting
2 performance in the city, and so that means in the
3 state as well. It is, historically, a
4 progressive district. It's kind of out there and
5 inclusive and assertive. It's opinionated and
6 it's long been a political powerhouse.

7 And unlike some people, who don't like the
8 shape of their district, I think a lot of us are
9 very happy with how boring the actual shape is,
10 because it's a nice, square, rectangle, that goes
11 from 56th Street to 96th Street, from the river
12 to the park.

13 What LATFOR did to the Upper West Side would
14 meet none of the standards you are setting out,
15 which is compact, contiguous, meaningful
16 communities of interest. LATFOR cannibalized the
17 Upper West Side. It was carved out, like a
18 Thanksgiving turkey, into five, and later four,
19 separate, almost irrational districts, that
20 violated almost every tenet of the idea of
21 community of interest.

22 I live at 74th and West End, which is one of
23 the worst gerrymandered districts in the state.
24 It goes from a few small blocks on the West Side,
25 between Broadway and West End, and goes to

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1 Spanish Harlem and the South Bronx. And the 31st
2 is a much skinnier version of the country of
3 Chile, as I said back at the LATFOR hearings.
4 LATFOR dismembered the Upper West Side into lots
5 of small -- (three-minute timer alarms) --
6 districts that didn't represent anybody. And so
7 I urge this Commission to keep the district in
8 the same basic shape and configuration it is.

9 The population difference is minor and it
10 can be solved by going north a block or two or
11 south a block or two. I think that that really
12 would serve the interests of the people, who live
13 there, and, historically, their boundaries are
14 very similar for the last 40 or 50 years, so
15 thank you.

16 MR. ROMANO: Thank you. Our next speaker is
17 Yolanda Donato, National Mobilization Against
18 Sweatshops.

19 MS. DONATO: (Speaking in Spanish through a
20 translator) Good evening. My name is Yolanda
21 Donato and I am a member of NMAS, the National
22 Mobilization Against Sweatshops. I lived in the
23 Lower East Side for 40 years. I have raised my
24 kids and my grandchildren here.

25 We, in Chinatown and the Lower East Side,

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1 have many problems in common. We are facing
2 displacement, rent increases, poor conditions in
3 our apartments and we still have health problems
4 from 9/11. So we don't not want to be divided.

5 Together, we have more power and we can
6 demand what we need. That's why we have been
7 united to demand for 100 percent low-income, New
8 York community programs and affordable spaces for
9 businesses. We want to focus on working people.
10 Not the rich. We do not want representatives, of
11 race, to sell us out to developers. For this
12 reason, I have supported AALDEF's united
13 proposal. Thank you.

14 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Ms. Donato. Our
15 next speaker is Wendy Cheung of the CSWA.

16 MS. CHEUNG: Hi. My name is Wendy Cheung.
17 I am with the Chinese Staff Workers Association
18 and, also, we are a coalition member of the
19 People First Campaign. I am here to state our
20 support for the AALDEF's plan and position for a
21 unified Lower East Side and Chinatown. I am
22 represented by the Unity Map.

23 For too long, our communities have been
24 divided, the Lower East Side and Chinatown.
25 Working-class, low-income people, of color, have

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1 been split. Instead of dividing this line over
2 territory, our communities have been fighting and
3 organizing for a united community, most recently,
4 against the East Village Rezoning Plan and, also,
5 right now, calling for 100 percent voting on
6 housing (unintelligible). We have been doing
7 this, also, along with the People First rezoning,
8 as a plan that will protect this community and
9 call for a united, not divided, low-income
10 representation.

11 The need for low-income housing, and
12 services, and jobs, for this community, has been
13 critical. We see this every day, when hundreds
14 of people have been signing petitions, off the
15 streets, demanding our voices be heard and be
16 truly represented, the interests of low-income,
17 working people, who make up a majority of this
18 community, whether they are immigrant or
19 native-born.

20 And I, myself, being born and raised in the
21 Lower East Side, Chinatown, having grown up in
22 Chinatown and, also, in public housing, that has
23 been split in many different districts, and I
24 think this is a very pertinent issue, and this
25 speaks to a lot of the critical issues in

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1 low-income, working communities, where we see
2 common interests between our communities. And
3 instead of being split, the Lower East Side and
4 Chinatown, we need to see it as a united
5 community.

6 We, also, don't want elected officials, who
7 represent the interests of developers instead of
8 the interests of working people, and so we, also,
9 want to state that as well. So thank you for
10 your time.

11 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Ms. Cheung. Our
12 next speaker is Marc Landis.

13 MR. LANDIS: Thank you. My name is Marc
14 Landis. I am an elected democratic district
15 leader on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. I
16 also serve as the chairperson of the New York
17 County Democratic Committee. I am the co-Chair
18 of the Campaign Election Committee. I am also a
19 candidate for City Council residing in what is
20 currently District 6.

21 I am a steadfast supporter of
22 democratic-party principles, but the issues and
23 challenges posed by the semiannual redistricting
24 process supersede any partisan concerns. Good
25 districting ensures that people's voices will be

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1 heard and the council members will be able to
2 effectively represent their districts, regardless
3 of party membership.

4 My neighbors and I are counting on this
5 Commission to ensure a fair districting process,
6 where we hope the communities of common interest
7 remain in the same district, so the strength of
8 community views will be heard in government.
9 When our Council member's voice, of a single
10 constituent's concern, will be reflected, by
11 echo, throughout the district.

12 The Upper West Side is, clearly, a community
13 of common interest. My neighbors come from
14 diverse demographic backgrounds, whether they
15 live in public housing or penthouse condos, we
16 are clearly one community.

17 We don't agree on every issue all of the
18 time, but we share the same fundamental concerns
19 about improving our public schools, expanding
20 housing opportunities and protecting our
21 qualities of life.

22 The chief challenge, before you, is to
23 determine where to draw district lines for a
24 concise, exact district. The existing District
25 6, which encompasses West 96th to West 54th

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1 Street, Riverside Park to Central Park, as well
2 as a small park south of Central Park, is,
3 functionally, a good model for an Upper West Side
4 District.

5 However, Upper West Side residents, between
6 West 96th and West 100th Street, who are in the
7 same community board district have instead been
8 placed in two other districts. Currently
9 Districts 8 and 9. Their inclusion in the Upper
10 West Side City Council District is imperative to
11 satisfy the goals of district coherence,
12 collective voter power and representative
13 effectiveness.

14 Accordingly, I propose the Commission to
15 establish an Upper West Side district that runs
16 from West 57th or West 59th Street up to West
17 100th. This would allow the residents of Central
18 Park Gardens, Tower West, the Tower West Complex,
19 now known as Stonehenge Village, Park West
20 Village and Columbus Square to share the district
21 with the rest of its Upper West Side neighbors,
22 and with nearby access to constituent services.

23 Logically, the next district, to the north,
24 starting from West 100th Street, would keep
25 Manhattan Valley, Morningside Heights and

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1 Manhattanville in a single district, rather than
2 dividing it up into three separate districts.

3 Thank you for taking the time to consider my
4 testimony. I urge you to ensure that our Upper
5 West Side neighborhoods will be fairly
6 represented once your work is completed. Copies
7 were made available. Thank you.

8 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Mr. Landis. Our
9 next speaker is Henrietta Lyle.

10 MS. LYLE: Good evening. I am Henrietta
11 Lyle and I have lived in the Central Harlem
12 community for over 40 years. I am here to talk
13 about our Council District, which is the 9th
14 Council District. I am also the elected Chair of
15 Community Board 10, and I am also speaking for
16 the people in the Central Harlem community.

17 The central Harlem community has fought, for
18 many years, to get the perfect representation in
19 our Council District. And with all due respect,
20 now is not the time to change the Council
21 District lines, for the New York City Council
22 District lines control the most important aspects
23 of our lives, and redistricting may keep a
24 community together or split it apart.

25 As it relates to the Central Harlem

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1 community, it will split us apart. Our community
2 needs our representative, that we have now, in
3 our district lines. We need a representative who
4 feels and understands Central Harlem's concerns.
5 If redistricting occurs, Central Harlem may lose
6 essential funding for services. Funding that is
7 important to our community.

8 We need to protect voting in the Council
9 District. We need to ensure that the current
10 lines are maintained. Redistricting should not
11 harm our community. However, it will, if it
12 happens. We are a community of interest. A
13 community of interest should be kept together
14 within the same district to whatever extent
15 possible.

16 I am asking you, on behalf of our community,
17 to not change our district lines. We are a
18 growing community and we need to continue growing
19 by what we have in new resources. So thank you.

20 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Ms. Lyle. Our next
21 speaker is Jonathan Geballe.

22 MR. GEBALLE: Thank you for the opportunity
23 to speak. I did not bring any prepared remarks.
24 I am the president of Village Independent
25 Democrats, which is the longstanding, reformed

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1 democratic club in Greenwich Village.

2 And I would state that we very much just
3 echo what you have heard from Council Member
4 Carol Greitzer and Frieda Bradlow in terms of the
5 unfortunate split of Greenwich Village into three
6 Council districts, which has not worked for us,
7 and hasn't worked for us now for many years.

8 But what I really want to talk about is what
9 I have heard tonight, because tonight,
10 interestingly, looking at these numbers, I don't
11 see a lot of radical shifts in population,
12 radical differences in the councilmanic
13 districts, which would call for sharp changes in
14 the boundaries.

15 And you are hearing mostly, from what I can
16 tell from the speakers, they don't want the
17 districts changed too much. They, pretty much,
18 want the districts to stay where they are. That
19 is what we are hearing. The only place we are
20 hearing something different, in a consistent
21 fashion, is the minority population in Lower
22 Manhattan, which seems to be growing into the
23 Lower East Side, and we are hearing something
24 different in Greenwich Village, which is that we
25 would like to restore and regain the historic

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1 center of that population and that neighborhood.

2 So we have a moving center of population in
3 Lower Manhattan. It's now growing and changing,
4 and we want to restore the neighboring population
5 to its center. And I ask that the Commission pay
6 attention to that, because it seems that that is
7 really where, if there is going to be changes,
8 that's where it should be.

9 And it seems like that change, moving the
10 Greenwich Village boundary, councilmanic
11 boundary, over to the Bowery and changing the
12 minority representation in Lower Manhattan, is
13 something that could be done with some fair
14 sensitivity, but not too wild changes or radical
15 changes, and the rest of the Manhattan, pretty
16 much, wants to stay where it is. So I leave you
17 with that reaction from what I have been hearing
18 today. I thank you for your time.

19 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Mr. Geballe. Our
20 next speaker is Jim Fouratt, Seniors Take Action.

21 MR. FOURATT: Thank you, Commissioners.
22 Greenwich Village is in the house, and I am here
23 representing Seniors Take Action and the Lesbian
24 and Gay Elders' Circle. I am 50-year resident of
25 the West Village and I want to ask you to really

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1 look at what has happened downtown.

2 I think the representatives of the minority
3 communities, principally Chinese, have been
4 pretty clear about their needs to make sure that
5 representation remains on the City Council for
6 the community. I am going to suggest that you
7 look at this formula and I agree with the Carol
8 Greitzer, the former City Councilperson, and
9 Frieda Bradlow.

10 I suggest, to you, that you look at Canal to
11 50th Street with Broadway and West Street being
12 the simple, not gerrymandered, sections. Let me
13 tell you why. Because, as the mandate in your
14 charter talks about communities, there are a
15 variety of communities, both residential and
16 business, within the district I have talked to
17 you about.

18 You have the theater community. I am a
19 member of the gay and lesbian community. If we
20 haven't had the redistricting the way it has
21 been, I don't know if we will have the same kind
22 of representation and the progressive movement
23 forward of equality within the city. You have
24 the fashion industry. You have the digital
25 industry.

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1 There is friction between all of these
2 residents and between all of these different
3 communities to work and live in this community.
4 You also have education. We have just been
5 through a terrible time because of the way we
6 have three representatives. We lost. The
7 community was united almost as one.

8 Saint Vincent's, we have no hospital. We
9 have a pipeline going in with the potential of a
10 blast explosion. We have no hospital. We have
11 NYU gobbling up everything, which will change the
12 quality of life, and what was, historically, a
13 community, and other issues that have not been
14 represented, because of the political ambitions
15 of our City Council person.

16 So I am going to ask you, please, please,
17 keep our community and the people within it
18 (three-minute timer alarms), and I am going to
19 particularly talk to you about the need to
20 continue to have a district that has
21 representation for all of the residents, but
22 particularly for the lesbian and gay community.

23 We need to be visible. We need to be on
24 board and we stand behind -- or I stand behind
25 the demand that has been put forward by the

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1 Chinese-American community, to protect
2 representation, too. Thank you.

3 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Mr. Fouratt. Our
4 next speaker is Christopher Kui.

5 MR. KUI: My name is Christopher Kui. I am
6 the executive director of Asian Americans for
7 Equality, a citywide organization with concerns
8 for social services and homeownership. Our main
9 clientele, based in New York City, are Asian and
10 Asian-American residents. Today, Asian and
11 Asian-American residents constitute 13 percent of
12 the city's population, numbering over one
13 million. In our own study, published last year,
14 "Distinct Places, Shared Opportunities," we found
15 that over one million residents, of Asian
16 descent, live in the city.

17 While Asians are the fastest-growing
18 segment, they are still the least represented
19 minorities on the City Council. While a
20 population, of this size, can conceivably be
21 represented by five or six Asian-American Council
22 members, today, we still have only two
23 Asian-American City Council representatives,
24 Margaret Chin, and Peter Koo, in Flushing,
25 Queens.

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1 But even this was only possible, because 30
2 years ago, the redistricting commission met and
3 heard testimony, and with tremendous foresight,
4 created three districts, 1, 2 and 3, so that
5 major pluralities were able to achieve political
6 representation without impinging on each other.

7 This allowed Chinese-American, the LGBT
8 community, and a Puerto Rican, who is also in his
9 own right, is a champion of the LGBT community,
10 to represent all of the constituents and major
11 pluralities of the districts.

12 This was not done with the purpose of
13 electing a specific individual. On the contrary,
14 the districts were drawn so that an
15 infrastructure was in place to allow for multiple
16 candidates, drawn from major pluralities, drawn
17 from major fields, to have viable choices for
18 local voters. Current lines keep a specific
19 official in office. Considering each election,
20 after the redistricting 20 years ago, has since
21 featured multiple candidates, in District 1, of
22 Asian-American descent.

23 The boundaries are doing what it was
24 designed to do, to allow for real plural choice
25 and more than one candidate from more

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1 pluralities. As a result, history was made,
2 barriers were broken, and for the first time in
3 160 years, Chinatown, the original Asian-American
4 neighborhood in New York City, was able to elect
5 a Council member, of Chinese descent, to
6 represent itself.

7 At that time, and still now, arguments are
8 made to combine the Asians and Latinos into one
9 district, because from this, it ensures at least
10 one minority, Asian or Latino, being elected.
11 The premise of this argument is flawed, in subtle
12 respect.

13 Firstly, this arbitrarily forces
14 disenfranchisement, aided by a neighbor's
15 situation, where it creates a forced choice of
16 either/or, when the population is still large
17 enough to create opportunities -- (three-minute
18 timer alarms) -- for both.

19 No redistricting should be done at the
20 expense of other groups, but to achieve and form
21 neighborhoods where Asians and Latinos can elect
22 representatives, through the political will and
23 aspirations of minorities in the borough. It
24 cannot be done by passively lumping Asians with
25 the plurality of other districts. This will only

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1 foster division and put representatives against
2 each other. Secondly, --

3 MR. ROMANO: Thank you.

4 MR. KUI: -- there is one argument on the
5 assumption of declining populations,
6 particularly, a percentage decline in Asians in
7 the core Chinatown area. Asian-Americans and
8 organizing groups, regardless of where one stands
9 on district lines, can attest to the fact that
10 population loss is not what is being experienced
11 in the grassroots.

12 The gentrification and dislocation of
13 low-income households does not simply make people
14 disappear. Tenement after tenement find that
15 households are doubling and tripling, in
16 apartments, and are staying under the radar to
17 avoid eviction.

18 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Mr. Kui.

19 MR. KUI: Similarly, accepting population
20 loss might not be Constitutional under the
21 representation laws, especially in
22 higher-plurality districts flung together with
23 another on that false assumption. We are in
24 strong support in keeping the current districts,
25 1, 2 and 3, more or less, intact during this

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1 districting process.

2 Any modification should be done to
3 strengthen both Asian and Latino districts.
4 While we are open to minor modifications, we fear
5 that current major groups will not keep the
6 integrity of the neighborhoods, and the
7 aspirations of the electoral process will be put
8 against each other.

9 MR. ROMANO: Thank you.

10 MR. KUI: So let me conclude, other folks
11 have stated -- and I am almost done -- that
12 low-income Asian and Latino residents share
13 common struggles. This is indeed true, but it is
14 better that there are two voices in our City
15 Council, fighting for those interests and needs.
16 Not just one lone voice from the neighborhood.

17 As we look at the track record of Chin and
18 Mendez, there is a strong collaboration, in the
19 City Council, on issues of affordable housing,
20 seniors, schools, public housing, immigration and
21 public health and we see the wisdom of having
22 multiple strong voices for our residents.

23 So let us protect our current lines, that
24 the Lower Manhattan community achieved in the
25 last 20 years, and let us keep these districts

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1 intact, so we might continue to tackle the issues
2 our residents continue to face. Thank you, very
3 much, for the extension of time. Thank you.

4 MR. ROMANO: Our next speaker is Ross
5 Wallenstein. Ross Wallenstein? Zenaida Mendez?
6 For the audience's benefit, we are going through
7 the persons who preregistered first, and then we
8 are taking people who showed up this evening.

9 MS. MENDEZ: Good evening, distinguished
10 Commissioners. Thank you for the opportunity to
11 speak at this important hearing. My name is
12 Zenaida Mendez. I am a concerned citizen and the
13 founder of the National Dominican Women's Caucus.

14 The National Dominican Women's Caucus is a
15 nonpartisan organization that unites activists
16 and advocates in pursuit of inclusiveness in
17 forming policy. They are inclusive to all New
18 Yorkers. In order to motivate more participation
19 of the civic society, in general, we are out to
20 work to foster participation and expansive
21 responsible government.

22 The compass has one focus, for the training
23 of women. Latinas, in particular, are
24 understanding the United States funding of
25 government. The last few years, we have focused,

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1 in New York City, on political participation in
2 the letter opposing working with naturalized
3 citizens.

4 Since 2010, we have been monitoring the
5 redistricting process across the nation,
6 including the particular conditions of district
7 lines of different Latino communities throughout
8 the United States. At a hearing, at City Hall, I
9 was particularly concerned because the presenter,
10 from the City's planning, continued to refer to
11 Latinos versus animals, or something to that
12 effect.

13 I am an Afro-Latina and I am very concerned
14 about that. Latinos, we are mainly from three
15 ethnicities. We are native Indian, African and
16 from Spain. Therefore, we all have a common
17 language, and most of us, a common culture. So I
18 ask this Commission to, please, look at us as a
19 United States with 21 countries. We are united
20 here. Even though we come from 21 countries, and
21 the Caribbean, in the United States, we are one
22 Latino community.

23 I ask, that you keep in mind, that focus.
24 Therefore, the more you divide us, these United
25 States, to keep dividing and dividing and

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1 dividing, we don't need to get divided. When you
2 draw the lines, keep that in mind. We want to
3 continue to have a common district. I agree with
4 the gentleman that speak before me. The lines,
5 as they are now, are fantastic. We have great
6 representation.

7 But because of the population, I understand
8 you -- (three-minute timer alarms) -- need to
9 redraw the districts, but we, as a Latino
10 community, like I said before, we don't need to
11 be divided as black Latinos and white Latinos.
12 Thank you very much.

13 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Ms. Mendez. Our
14 next speaker is Yetta Kurland.

15 MS. KURLAND: Hi. Good evening. My name is
16 Yetta Kurland. I am a resident of the 3rd City
17 Council District. I was a candidate for City
18 Council in 2009. I am speaking in my personal
19 capacity, but I sit on the board of Marriage
20 Equality New York, as well as the New York City
21 chapter of the National Lawyers Guild and the
22 Stonewall Democratic Club of New York City.

23 And I will start by saying that
24 redistricting should never be about any single
25 candidate, but rather about the wholeness of a

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1 community. I echo the sentiment of many who have
2 already testified. A community is a cohesive
3 unit that must be represented. The political
4 districts, at question here, are New York City
5 districts and must reflect New York City
6 realities.

7 Federal, voter-rights laws require two basic
8 things: First, the district must be equal in
9 population, and second, they must not be drawn in
10 a way to disadvantage groups as it relates to
11 race and ethnicity. I support this and I hope
12 everyone here does.

13 There is one other consideration I hope will
14 be observed. Community, as we understand it in
15 New York City, must be observed. Chinatown, as a
16 community, must be observed. Harlem, as a
17 community, must be observed. Brooklyn Heights,
18 as a community, must be observed. And as a
19 resident of the Lower West Side, I must say the
20 Lower West Side, as a community, must be
21 observed.

22 Further, the LGBT, lesbian, gay, bisexual
23 and transgender community, as a traditionally
24 underrepresented community, must be observed and
25 preserved. As a proud member of both of these

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1 communities, I am here to respectfully give
2 support to this process, which I expect will be
3 done with fairness and without partisanship, so
4 that it raises the mantle of our democratic
5 process and does not diminish it.

6 As the song goes, "You know it don't come
7 easy," as George Harrison says, but it must be
8 done right and with a commitment to protect
9 adequate representation and government. But the
10 diversity and the community that makes our city
11 so vital, must be a part of this process. And in
12 summary, sometimes less is more. Thank you for
13 your time.

14 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Ms. Kurland. Our
15 next speaker is Corey Johnson.

16 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening. Thank you
17 Commissioners, and Benito Romano, for having us
18 here tonight. My name is Corey Johnson, and I am
19 the Chair of Manhattan Community Board 4, and I
20 am a resident of Chelsea. The boundaries of
21 Community Board 4 is 14th Street, to the south,
22 to 59th Street, to the north, and the Hudson
23 River on the west, and the boundary in Chelsea,
24 is Sixth Avenue, and it goes over to Eighth
25 Avenue in Hell's Kitchen.

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1 I am also the candidate for City Council in
2 the 3rd Councilmanic District, and that district
3 is, basically, Canal Street, to the south, to
4 56th Street, to the north, and the Hudson River
5 on the west, and the eastern boundary is one that
6 zigzags along Thompson to Fifth Avenue, around
7 Washington Square Park, Madison, Park Avenue.
8 There is a strange eastern boundary.

9 I am here tonight to talk a little bit about
10 how the Lower West Side community should stay
11 intact, and there have been some good folks that
12 have testified before me tonight, including
13 Jonathan Geballe, Jim Fouratt and Frieda Bradlow,
14 that have talked about the importance of keeping
15 Greenwich Village intact, as one community,
16 instead of being split between three different
17 councilmanic districts.

18 But I wanted to just hit on something
19 related to the LGBT population on the West Side
20 of Manhattan. The U.S. census calculates LGBT
21 residents not based on singular people, but as
22 couples. So when you fill out your census form,
23 you don't say "I am a gay man." You only mark it
24 down if you are in a same-sex relationship and
25 that's how they tally people.

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1 In 2000, the corridor of neighborhoods along
2 the West Side, stretching from the Village all of
3 the way up to Hell's Kitchen through Chelsea, had
4 25,906 self-identified LGBT couples. Ten years
5 later, that number has gone up to 32,972 same-sex
6 couples, a 27 percent increase in ten years. In
7 a small portion in Chelsea, from 18th Street to
8 22nd Street, Sixth Avenue to Eighth Avenue, 22
9 percent of all couples, in those blocks, identify
10 as LGBT.

11 And I mention this because the concentration
12 in the neighborhoods along the West Side have
13 given our community representation in the City
14 Council and the State legislature. And I think
15 it's really important to keep in mind these
16 numbers, along with the ethnic, racial,
17 socioeconomic and other numbers that are
18 considered in drawing lines.

19 And so I am not going to speak,
20 particularly, about the boundary lines. But I
21 hope that when you are looking at census data and
22 moving forward, you keep in mind LGBT people and
23 the numbers that were given from the U.S. census,
24 this year, showing an increase of LGBT couples in
25 the district, and, hopefully, keeping a compact

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1 district that keeps that representation. Thank
2 you for your service and thank you for being
3 patient with all of us and hearing what we have
4 to say tonight.

5 MR. ROMANO: Our next speaker will be
6 Elizabeth Ritter.

7 MS. RITTER: Good evening. I didn't think I
8 would get called up so quickly.

9 MR. ROMANO: You preregistered.

10 MS. RITTER: I did preregister and I wrote
11 my testimony out and I decided I don't really
12 like it, so I am going to use a slightly
13 different version of it. But at least now, I
14 actually have your attention, which is a good
15 thing, because we have been listening to a lot of
16 people, and you are probably bored.

17 My name is Elizabeth Lorris Ritter. I am
18 the founder and president of the Hudson Heights
19 Owners Coalition. It is an association of 36,
20 owner-occupied, residential properties located in
21 the Washington Heights neighborhood of Hudson
22 Heights. That's the northern portion of the 7th
23 Council District.

24 In Washington Heights, in Northern
25 Manhattan, we have a serious problem in terms of

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1 what happened with the census, and the loss of
2 population, and the 10th, and the 9th. So
3 clearly, you are going to have to seriously
4 redraw the boundaries of something, and that is
5 going to have an impact on my Council District.

6 It could have stayed the same, its
7 population not having varied, but its neighbors
8 have varied quite a bit, so you are going to have
9 to change the boundaries quite a bit. I have to
10 congratulate whoever came up with this map, which
11 does not create the weirdly-shaped districts that
12 were delivered to the entire State of New York
13 from Albany.

14 And I hope that you are able to find
15 reasonably contiguous, nicely-shaped districts.
16 Having said that, I think it is a good idea to
17 add real estate to the 10th District by moving
18 Inwood, the portion of Inwood that is currently
19 in the 7th, over to the 10th -- you have heard
20 testimony on this already -- and by extending the
21 7th down south.

22 One of the other reasons I say that this
23 would be an extremely good idea is that, among
24 the core activities in which HHOC has engaged in,
25 is uniting with other owner-occupied properties

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1 to work on issues related to parts of the
2 waterfront, and to work on issues related to
3 Columbia University.

4 If you were to extend down the 7th to
5 Morningside Heights, you would unite all three of
6 the campuses together, you would keep all of the
7 Hudson Heights, core-catchment areas within one
8 councilmanic district, and you would allow us to
9 stay within a single assembly district.

10 I have written testimony, which expands on
11 some of these points, which I will submit to you
12 subsequently. So I thank you for your attention
13 and for your service to the city.

14 MR. ROMANO: Thank you. We will take the
15 testimony. Our next speaker is Curtis Arluck.

16 MR. ARLUCK: Hello. I am Curtis Arluck,
17 democratic leader for the 69th AD, which,
18 essentially, covers West 106th to 125th Street,
19 all of Morningside Heights, much of Manhattan
20 Valley and the Upper West Side. Ten years ago, I
21 had a very positive experience testifying for
22 this august body. As Councilman Jackson said,
23 two key complexes in my district, once great
24 houses, were split up and we said this is not a
25 good idea.

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1 The Commission agreed. They are back
2 together, and we hope they will stay together for
3 the next ten years, but that's not why I am here.
4 I am here on behalf of a larger, much larger
5 community, the West Side of Manhattan, 96th
6 Street to 125th Street, bounded by the parks and
7 the river, which like the Village, is currently
8 divided amongst three different councilmanic
9 districts, and we would like, very much, to be
10 together in one district.

11 This is not meant to disparage the current
12 incumbents of Districts 8 and 9, both of whom I
13 admire and supported for the election in 2009.
14 It is simply a recollection of the reality that
15 no Council members can effectively represent
16 far-flung districts, and, inevitably, it's the
17 most remote, inaccessible and tacked-on parts of
18 the district, in this case, the Upper West Side
19 from 96th to 125th, that is left unserved.

20 City Council districts are service-oriented
21 districts. Residents of these districts need
22 easy physical access to the office of their
23 Council member. In Manhattan, above 14th Street,
24 services run north/south. Police, sanitation,
25 community board districts all run north/south.

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1 This is especially true of 59th Street to
2 110th Street, where there is a very large and
3 very famous park, that separates the West Side
4 from the East Side, Morningside Park. From 59th
5 to 96th, no City Council District jumps apart
6 from the East Side to the West Side. But in the
7 smaller area from 96th to 125th, it jumps twice
8 in the 8th and the 9th Districts.

9 The effect of these mappings is the people,
10 who live on the Upper West Side from 96th to
11 125th, themselves, live in a community board and
12 police district that are completely disassociated
13 from the districts that the locus of those
14 districts are in. Board 9 is mostly in -- we are
15 -- the West Side is mostly in Board 9. Council
16 District 9 is also in Board 10, et cetera, et
17 cetera.

18 Now we come to transportation. Subway lines
19 run north/south. People, who live on West 96th
20 to 125th, have to go east/west to visit the
21 offices of their Council members. There are no
22 streets, let alone bus routes, which run between
23 96th and 125th, except for 110th, which there is
24 a bus that runs only to Fifth Avenue and does not
25 go into East Harlem, the focal point of the 8th

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1 District.

2 And this means it is almost impossible for
3 people, who live in the most economically
4 disadvantaged -- (three-minute timer alarms) --
5 part of the Upper West Side, Manhattan Valley, to
6 go to their district office to get help with
7 their problems.

8 With more geographically sensible Council
9 districts, this would not be the case, and many
10 more needy constituents would be helped.

11 MR. ROMANO: Thank you.

12 MR. ARLUCK: I will wrap up. I note the
13 current 8th and 9th Districts exist largely
14 because of the imaginings of what the Voting Act
15 requires. We can all speculate on this, but I am
16 sure it doesn't mean placing poor, minority
17 residents into remote, inaccessible districts,
18 somehow strengthens minority voting rights,
19 especially when there is a better way.

20 What is the better way? Keep 96th/125th
21 together, and if you ran it up further over
22 125th, you might also get a district which could
23 elect a Latino Council member. But if you
24 absolutely can't do this, please do what was
25 suggested by Mark Levine and Liz Ritter, which is

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1 to bring the 7th District down to 110th, or even
2 a little further south, and then bring the 6th
3 District up, keeping this on the West Side where
4 it belongs. Thank you.

5 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Mr. Arluck. Our
6 next speaker is Bob Botfeld. Bob Botfeld? Our
7 next speaker is Keesha Gaskins. Keesha Gaskins?
8 Keesha Gaskins? Mr. Brad Taylor?

9 MR. TAYLOR: Good evening. My name is Brad
10 Taylor and I have my written testimony, which I
11 will distribute to you. Before I get started
12 with that, I just wanted to say I wanted to thank
13 Curtis Arluck for his comments. My comments are
14 related to Districts 7 and 9 as well. Up until
15 Curtis Arluck's and Marc Levine's and Liz
16 Ritter's comments, I really felt like I was in
17 some kind of alternative reality.

18 I heard the Chair of CB 10 rightly say that,
19 you know, we should keep a Central Harlem
20 district. But if you look at CB 9 on the map, I
21 mean, District 9 on the map, you would be
22 hard-pressed to say that Riverside Drive and West
23 End Avenue, at 96th Street, are in Central
24 Harlem. Similarly, our Council member, who I
25 respect greatly, talked about not wanting to

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1 split up the Grant Houses with Morningside
2 Gardens.

3 Well, absolutely, no one wants to do that,
4 but the proposal to extend the 7th District will
5 not do that at all. In fact, what it would do is
6 actually retain the coherence of the Community
7 Board 9 boundaries, much more so than the
8 gerrymandered lines that we see now in the 7th
9 and 9th Districts.

10 We also heard from the former Chair of CB 9,
11 who seemed to feel that the community districts
12 were fairly well-represented by the 7th District.
13 That is not, in fact, the case, which may explain
14 why he was only the Chair of Board 9 for one
15 year, because one third of the residents of his
16 district actually live in Community District 9.

17 Now, for my written testimony. I just want
18 to say that I have been a resident of Morningside
19 Heights for 20 years and I am thankful to have
20 this opportunity to speak before you. I support
21 the redrawn 7th Council District, that extends
22 south to 110th Street, that would unite all of
23 Community District 9 based on the community
24 district lines, pretty much.

25 I mean our district goes to 110th to 155th,

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1 the Hudson River over to the drop-off between the
2 Heights and the point which is formed by
3 Morningside Park, Saint Nicholas Park and Jackie
4 Robinson Park.

5 These communities have so much in interest
6 and many of the services are reflective of the
7 topography and geography of our district. And so
8 what you would be doing, by extending the 7th
9 District down, you would be making -- helping the
10 coterminality of services to our constituents.
11 So I would really encourage you do to that.
12 That's, basically, are my comments. I have the
13 written testimony.

14 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, very much,
15 Mr. Taylor. Our next speaker is Louise Velez.

16 MS. VELEZ: Hello. Good evening. My name
17 is Louise Velez. I am here to represent the
18 People First Campaign. I support the united
19 proposal that Asian-American Legal Defense and
20 Education Fund is proposing. Chinatown and the
21 Lower East Side should be one district. Not
22 split into two like it is. By dividing us, it
23 makes it worse for all of us who have the same
24 issues. Working people, low-income, poor, it
25 doesn't matter if we are black, Hispanic,

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1 Chinese. We all want similar things. We are all
2 going through the same things.

3 We are fighting for the same things. We
4 want 100 percent, low-income housing and to
5 protect our communities. We also want to be able
6 to vote for someone who represents our interests.
7 Not some developer or someone who wants to help
8 developers or the rich. Thank you.

9 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Ms. Velez. Next
10 speaker is Maria Garrett. Did I get that right?

11 MS. GARRETT: Yes. It is Maria. I would
12 like to thank everyone tonight for having me
13 here. I am from Canarsie, Brooklyn. I missed
14 the Brooklyn hearing. Sorry about that. But I
15 still would like to speak tonight.

16 I am here on behalf of the residents of
17 Canarsie. As it is now, we are split between
18 three Council people, and we want to be under one
19 or two Council people. One resident asked that I
20 ask the Commission to consider drawing the lines
21 from Avenue D to the shoreline and then from
22 Ralph Avenue to 108th, because as it stands right
23 now, one part of 108th is governed by a City
24 Council person from East New York. When we need
25 to have things done, he doesn't have -- they

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1 don't have the same interest that we have on that
2 side of Canarsie.

3 So we want to have all of Canarsie together,
4 because we have tree-lined homes and we want to
5 keep it that way. Actually, the part I am
6 talking about is over by a nature preserve, a
7 beautiful preserve. Five years ago, there was an
8 incident with the preserve, that it needed to
9 have a cleanup, and, you know, it was being
10 destroyed. I reached out to my Council person,
11 who I thought was my Council person, but it
12 wasn't.

13 When I went to the Council person, that was
14 my Council person, he was not interested in what
15 I was talking about. So I had to organize a
16 cleanup, you know, with 150 residents, to clean
17 up that preserve. It is called Fresh Creek
18 Nature Preserve. Now, because of my hard work,
19 they are now restoring that preserve.

20 It is going to be, by the end of this year,
21 looking like Central Park. Okay? It is a
22 beautiful preserve and we want to keep it that
23 way. So I ask again, that, do not split up
24 Canarsie. Bring it back together the way it was.
25 That's not what I had written out here, but I

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1 have a little something to hand to you guys.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Ms. Garrett. Our
4 next speaker is Regina Smith.

5 MS. SMITH: Good evening, Commissioners.
6 Thank you for allowing me to offer testimony,
7 this evening, on this important question. I
8 would like to say, from the outset, that I
9 believe it is highly important that the
10 Commissioners take great pains to keep in place
11 the existing, protected, voting rights district.

12 In fact, I strongly urge you to do so. The
13 reason is that, as the record clearly bears out,
14 the district, in which I live and work, is part
15 and parcel of a generally protected district,
16 and, again, that's my councilmanic district. The
17 voting district, itself, is one of the main
18 vehicles, residents of Harlem, have to let their
19 voices being heard during this democratic
20 process.

21 Significant modification will stifle the
22 voice of a minority population, for their social
23 and economic issues, and not be given a fair
24 hearing by policymakers. This is especially true
25 during these tough economic times, particularly

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1 when unemployment is at a record high throughout
2 our community.

3 Many of our minority-elected officials come
4 from Harlem. They were born and raised there and
5 have firsthand knowledge of the protracted
6 problems the residents of Harlem face each and
7 every day. Since these officials have lived and
8 breathed these problems, they are uniquely
9 qualified to speak to them with authority,
10 conviction, political courage and passion.

11 Having said that, and in conducting your
12 population data analyses, I strongly urge you to
13 take note of the glaring and significant omission
14 in the census, the individuals who are homeless
15 and living in shelters. Granted, the census now
16 reflects the prison population, however, it does
17 not do justice to the districts' homeless and
18 shelter populations.

19 Related to that, in conducting your review,
20 I also urge you to honor, apply and safeguard the
21 historic term that defines "minority." It is
22 true that over the years, "minority" has been
23 broadened. However, I submit that Harlem remains
24 the historic meaning of the term "minority," and
25 should be protected, as I trust you will do.

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1 For the above-compelling reasons, I
2 respectfully, but urgently, request that the
3 Commission preserve our historically-protected
4 voting rights districts. And again, I am
5 grateful for allowing me to present this
6 testimony this evening. Thank you.

7 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Ms. Smith. Council
8 Member Gale Brewer.

9 MS. BREWER: Thank you very much. I know I
10 came in late. Thank you. I am Gale Brewer and I
11 represent the 6th Council District, the Upper
12 West Side and Northern Clinton. I have been
13 there since 2002.

14 I think you know the 6th Council District,
15 as currently drawn up, extends from the north
16 side of 54th Street to the southern side of 96th
17 Street, from Central Park to the Hudson River.

18 I think this is probably the most compact,
19 contiguous district in the whole city. And it's
20 my opinion -- I think many share -- that the
21 district lines should not dissect additional
22 neighborhoods. Neighborhoods, in New York, as we
23 know, just like us, have distinct personalities,
24 and they should be represented by elected
25 officials who are familiar with unique

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1 neighborhood issues.

2 There has been much discussion, over
3 decades, of how best to define communities of
4 interest throughout neighborhoods and throughout
5 the whole city. We know West Siders differ from
6 East Siders, and the list goes on. I think only
7 West Siders or only folks in Washington Heights
8 understand the issues.

9 The Upper West Side is a distinct place and
10 community with its own social and political
11 history, it's own landmarks, gathering places,
12 institution, bus routes, shops and so on, and
13 everyone knows where it is. It is demarcated on
14 maps, and the political representatives live
15 within it, as they show the natural boundaries.

16 This is as it should be. It's not an
17 artificial construct created by a committee or
18 some arbitrary lines on a map. It's a real place
19 with recognizable, physical boundaries and a
20 constituency that knows where it lives and who
21 represents it.

22 I have a few other points. I do believe
23 that it is important for Council districts -- and
24 I may be the only one who feels this -- to have
25 more than one community board. I believe that it

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1 is fabulous if Council District 6 includes part
2 of Community Board 4 and part of Community Board
3 7, a majority of Community Board 7. Let me be
4 specific as to why I think that.

5 Just recently, we had Amanda Burden's
6 support, the City Council's support and the
7 Mayor's support, and we passed the Upper West
8 Side Neighborhood Retail Street Proposal, and we
9 couldn't have done it without my colleagues to
10 the north of me.

11 It was a huge amount of effort, and I think
12 that kind of dual representation on the community
13 board, or in this case, three representatives,
14 helps the community board think more creatively
15 and the whole neighborhood benefits.

16 I want to also back up what Curtis Arluck
17 said. I talked about 96th Street to 110th.
18 Maybe he talked to 125th Street. Those
19 constituents reside in different Council
20 districts. But to be very honest with you, those
21 constituents come to my office, because Curtis
22 Arluck indicated people move on a north/south
23 access in Manhattan. And on the West Side --
24 (three-minute timer alarms) -- they come right on
25 down.

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1 We have to figure out what to do about that.
2 I just know you have a hard job, and a very short
3 period of time of time do it, and we look forward
4 to hearing from you. Thank you very much.

5 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Council Member
6 Brewer. Our next speaker is Aya Keefe.

7 MS. KEEFE: Thank you Chairman Romano and
8 members of the Commission for holding this
9 important hearing today. I hope my friend Liz is
10 wrong, in that you are not too bored to hear my
11 testimony, and the rest of the testimony you have
12 to heard tonight.

13 My name is Aya Keefe and I am vice president
14 of the Barack Obama Democratic Club of Upper
15 Manhattan. We are an independent, multi-ethnic
16 force for progressive politics in the up and
17 coming neighborhoods of Washington Heights, West
18 Harlem, Hamilton Heights and Inwood.

19 Our membership covers the 71st Assembly
20 District, Part A, which is contained almost
21 entirely within the current lines of City Council
22 District 7. I am here to recommend District 7
23 remains intact to better our political community.
24 District 7 should be extended south to 110th
25 Street, which is not right now, but continue to

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1 include Hudson Heights, Hamilton Heights and
2 Morningside Heights.

3 Over the past three years, our club worked
4 with members of this community to create a
5 coherent, unified voice and to hold our
6 representatives accountable, to us, on the issues
7 we are concerned about. As Council Member
8 Jackson said, during this year, the members of
9 our club learned that these communities share
10 many of the same interests and are well-suited to
11 advocate on their behalf.

12 For example, many of the big landlords are
13 building throughout this neighborhood, and
14 tenants must deal with housing availability and
15 living conditions. Our neighborhoods have shared
16 environmental agendas, when it comes to our parks
17 and to the Hudson River, and each of those
18 neighborhoods has dealt with some expansion of
19 Columbia University in the past, and would
20 greatly benefit from dealing with the university,
21 in the future, as one unit.

22 Finally, this neighborhood is mostly in the
23 same school district. This is District 6 and it
24 gives us the opportunity to continue fighting
25 together to improve our schools. Our club has

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1 been working hard to get residents of Upper
2 Manhattan involved in the democratic process, and
3 I am sure most people here, in the room, know
4 that is a hard thing to do. We would like to see
5 the districts simplified, so that it's easier for
6 us to identify the districts they are in and,
7 also, know who represents them.

8 District 7 makes the various districts
9 better-aligned with each other. The majority of
10 residents, of District 7, are also State District
11 31st and Assembly District 71st. They are also
12 mostly, as I mentioned, part of School District
13 7. It's straightforward. It's simple. We like
14 it that way and we would like to keep it that
15 way.

16 In conclusion, I believe that District 7,
17 which includes Western Washington Heights, West
18 Harlem, Hamilton Heights and Morningside Heights,
19 will best represent the interests of our
20 community and continue to allow us to fight for
21 social issues we are concerned about together.
22 Thank you so much. Have a good night.

23 MR. ROMANO: Our next speaker is Bob
24 Botfeld.

25 MR. BOTFELD: My name is Bob Botfeld and I

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1 am a democratic district leader, from the Upper
2 West Side, in the area, roughly, from 96th to
3 110th Street. I am also a 42-year resident of
4 the Upper West Side, and I am here to speak about
5 Council Districts 8 and 9, and to repeat and to
6 voice, again, the request that the Upper West
7 Side be represented by a single district.

8 And I am talking about a district from 110th
9 Street going to 125th Street. This is the
10 natural district. As Council Member Brewer has
11 spoken of, the district is a natural district.
12 Everyone knows what the Upper West Side is. It
13 is the area roughly west of Eighth Avenue and
14 west of Central Park.

15 And it is an absolutely magical community.
16 It is a shopping district. Every other local
17 district, planning district, looks at the Upper
18 West Side in a north/south way. It is a shopping
19 district. The community board districts are both
20 north and south. School districts are north and
21 south. The old judicial districts are north and
22 south. West End Avenue, as you can remember, as
23 the old lawyers know the old traditional
24 districts, represent the old community courts.
25 So they represent nine local communities.

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1 The library districts are north and south.
2 The recreation districts are north and south.
3 Everything, every local assembly district is
4 north and south. Every single local, city
5 planning is north and south, except the Council
6 districts.

7 And we had have been represented by two
8 Council members. This is a community that knows
9 each other. They have the same interests and
10 they have worked together. It's not just a
11 community in name only. And the last ten years,
12 the community has come to together, across the
13 two Council districts, and worked on common
14 zoning issues.

15 In 2007, there was the Upper West Side
16 Retail Zoning, that crossed the 8th and 9th
17 Council Districts, and this was driven entirely
18 by community members. In the last four months,
19 there was, as Gale Brewer mentioned, there was
20 the Upper Retail Zoning, which, again, the upper
21 north/south way, the community got together and
22 worked to preserve their shopping district.

23 Recently, there was the school districts
24 working together. P.S. 163 and P.S. 145, they
25 are two blocks away, in two different Council

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1 districts, but they, hundreds, and hundreds, and
2 hundreds of their parents, and children, turned
3 out to preserve the community schools.

4 Again, this was, again, across two Council
5 districts, but, again, another indication of the
6 Upper West Side folks working together.

7 I ask you, very strongly, to look at the
8 Upper West Side, and make a Council District that
9 represents -- that matches all of the other
10 single-planning districts, that the city and
11 local communities have. Thank you.

12 MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Mr. Botfeld.

13 Is Ross Wallenstein here?

14 Keesha Gaskin?

15 We appear to have called upon everyone, who
16 preregistered and registered this evening. We
17 have no other speakers, with hearing cards, that
18 have been filled out.

19 If there is anyone, who wants to address the
20 Commission this evening, I ask you to indicate if
21 you are interested in talking to us by
22 approaching one of the staff people.

23

24 (Continued on next page.)

25

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1 It appears then that all speakers, who wish
2 to be heard, have spoken, and we will adjourn
3 this hearing until our next hearing next week, on
4 Monday.

5 Thank you very much.

6 (Whereupon, at 7:46 p.m., the above matter
7 was concluded.)

8

9

10 I, JOSHUA B. EDWARDS, RPR, a Notary Public
11 for and within the State of New York, do hereby
12 certify that the above is a correct transcription
13 of my stenographic notes.

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JOSHUA B. EDWARDS, RPR

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