



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
2012-2013 DISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**253 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10007**

PUBLIC MEETING

**Thursday, October 18, 2012
1:10 p.m. to 2:29 p.m.**

**Borough of Manhattan Community College, Richard Harris Terrace
New York, New York**

Attendees:

Districting Commission Members:

Jamila Ponton Bragg
Scott Cerullo
Kamillah M. Hanks
Robert W. Hart
Linda Lin

Oscar Odom III
Frank Padavan
Roxanne J. Persaud
Madeline Provenzano
Benito Romano

Gloria Carvajal Wolfe
Marc Wurzel
Justin Yu

Staff:

Carl Hum, Executive Director
City of New York 2012-2013 Districting Commission

Minutes by:

Jane Li

Chair Benito Romano began the meeting by welcoming Commission Members and stating that the main objective of the meeting was for the Commission to discuss their findings from the second round of public hearings and direct the staff to address certain areas of interest in the revised map.

The first order of business was to consider and adopt the official minutes of the Public Meeting held on September 4, 2012. A motion was made by Commissioner Oscar Odom III to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roxanne J. Persaud and was unanimously approved by the Commission Members.

The next order of business was a county-by-county briefing by Executive Director Carl Hum on the major themes expressed in the oral testimony at the public hearings and the written testimony submitted online and via mail. Mr. Hum provided a summary of the public testimony received about the proposed Manhattan County districts, which was followed by a discussion among Commission Members led by Commissioner Jamila Ponton Bragg. Following discussion, the Chair made a motion directing the staff to attempt to correct certain areas of interest in the revised map and provide recommendations on other issues. Specifically, the staff was instructed to attempt to correct the following issues: for District 2, keep the district wholly within the Lower East Side; for District 6, maintain Columbus Circle within the district; for District 7, keep Grant Gardens and Morningside Gardens together; for Districts 7 and 9, avoid splitting Morningside Heights and Park West Village; for Districts 7 and 10, unite West Harlem and Upper Harlem and unify the Washington Heights and Inwood neighborhoods; and for District 8, address the shape of the district and restore or remove portions of “el Barrio” in the district. The staff was also instructed to provide recommendations on the following issues: for Districts 1 and 2, unification of the Lower East Side and Chinatown; for District 5, creation of a compact Upper East Side district; for Districts 7, 8 and 9, the split of Manhattan Valley; for District 8, the placement of Randall's Island; and for District 9, the viability of the Unity Plan. Commissioner Jamila Ponton Bragg seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission Members.

Next, Mr. Hum provided a summary of the public testimony received about the proposed Bronx County districts, which was followed by a discussion among Commission Members led by Commissioner Madeline Provenzano. Following discussion, the Chair made a motion directing the staff to attempt to include Jerome Avenue and Grand Concourse, up to 198th Street, in District 14 and include all of Concourse Village in District 16 in the revised map. Commissioner Madeline Provenzano seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission Members.

Mr. Hum then provided a summary of the public testimony received about the proposed Queens County districts, which was followed by a discussion among Commission Members led by

Commissioner Frank Padavan. The Chair made a motion directing the staff to attempt to correct certain areas of interest in the revised map and provide recommendations on other issues. Specifically, the staff was instructed to attempt to correct the following issues: for Districts 19 and 20, place the Northern Flushing area in District 19 and restore the Mitchell-Linden Houses and the entirety of that neighborhood in District 20; for Districts 19 and 23, unify Bayside Hills and Bayside; for Districts 19, 20, and 25, unify Auburndale; for Districts 21, 25, and 29, keep the boundaries of Jackson Heights and Elmhurst neighborhoods intact with the Brooklyn Queens Expressway on the west, Long Island Expressway on the south, Junction Boulevard on the east, and Roosevelt Avenue on the north; for Districts 22 and 26, restore a portion of Woodside between Broadway and Second Avenue to District 26; for District 25, include Brulene, Southridge, and Northridge Co-op apartments in one district; for District 26, unify the Maspeth neighborhood; for District 27 and 31, restore Cambria Heights in District 27; and for Districts 28 and 32, draw a district around Lefferts Boulevard to include both Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park in one district. The staff was also instructed to provide recommendations on the following issues: unification of Springfield Gardens, Bayside and Oakland Gardens, and Briarwood and Jamaica Hills. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Frank Padavan and was unanimously approved by the Commission Members.

Mr. Hum continued his briefing by providing a summary of the public testimony received about the proposed Kings County districts, which was followed by a discussion among Commission Members led by Commissioner Roxanne J. Persaud. The Chair made a motion directing the staff to attempt to correct certain areas of interest in the revised map and provide recommendations on other issues. Specifically, he staff was instructed to attempt to correct the following issues: for Districts 33 and 34, move the Broadway Triangle neighborhood back to District 33; for Districts 35 and 40, revert to Empire Boulevard as the boundary between the Districts; for Districts 42 and 46, include more of the Canarsie neighborhood in one district and move the Bay View Houses to District 46; for Districts 44 and 48, reunite the Sephardic Jewish community, delineated by the area of Avenue I through K, in District 44; for District 45, include the Victorian Flatbush area in the District; and for District 48, include more of the Russian-speaking population in the District. The staff was also instructed to provide recommendations on the following issues: for Districts 32 and 37, inclusion of the Bangladeshi community in District 32; for District 38, the split on 8th Avenue; for Districts 38 and 43, inclusion of the Bay Ridge Towers in District 43; for Districts 38, 39, 44, the community of interest in Borough Park; and for Districts 43, 44, and 47, the Asian district in Bensonhurst and Bath Beach. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roxanne J. Persaud and was unanimously approved by the Commission Members.

Finally, Mr. Hum discussed the public testimony received about the proposed Richmond County districts, which was followed by a discussion among Commission Members led by Commissioner Kamillah M. Hanks. The Chair made a motion instructing the staff to provide recommendations on unifying Westerleigh, preferably in District 50, and uniting Sunnyside in an

area with a parish. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kamillah M. Hanks and was unanimously approved by the Commission Members.

With all business concluded, the Chair made a motion to adjourn until the Commission's next public meeting on October 30, 2012. Commissioner Marc Wurzel seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission Members, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.