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January 25, 2013

To: The NYC Redistricting Commission

From: The Capitol District Management Association Board

Re: Council District 16

In a vote of the Board taken at its meeting on January 23, 2013, its members requested that:

“ The integrity of the 161<sup>st</sup> Street corridor which includes The Bronx Borough Hall and Yankee Stadium be maintained in one Councilmanic district.”

Those voting included the area property owners as well as representatives of:

Councilwoman Foster

Comptroller Liu

Borough President Diaz

Community Board 4

The vote was unanimous with one abstention from the Mayor's representative.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

## **CARLOS SIERRA**

### **TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY DISTRICTING COMMISSION**

Good evening, my name is Lennin Reyes, the assistant press director for Carlos Sierra. As many of you know Carlos Sierra is a community activist and is running for the 16th City Council District in the Bronx. My comments reflect those of myself, Carlos Sierra and the rest of the SIERRA 2013 Political Committee.

We congratulate and thank the Districting Commission for placing the Concourse Village housing development back in the 16th after originally placing it in the adjacent 17th District. This housing complex has a close affinity to the 16th District as it has been a historically strong African American voting bloc and therefore a strong voice of the community.

We are also thankful for the placement of High Bridge north of West 166th Street into the 16th after it was initially being moved to the 8th District. It would have been very hurtful to the spirit of the Community to move High Bridge out of the Bronx into Manhattan, we are happy to see it in the 16<sup>th</sup>.

However, there is a major landmark that is near our District and seems to be a part of it, but yet is drawn into the sprawling District 8. That landmark is Yankee Stadium. If any district's residents are affected the most by anything associated with the stadium, it's those in District 16. Whenever an event takes place at Yankee Stadium, District 16 residents both benefit and suffer from it. While they may bring revenue and attention to the area, residents in Morrisania and High Bridge deal with noise, littering and long commutes thanks to bus reroutes resulting from closures to streets near the Stadium. We ask that you strongly consider placing Yankee Stadium in District 16.

Lastly is an issue in the northern part of the district. While the Districting Commission placed High Bridge into District 16, Morris Heights is now being split between Districts 14 and 16. We would like for you to place more of the West Tremont/Morris Heights area back into the 16th. The maps show that District 14 is overpopulated by 7,592 residents and District 16 is underpopulated by 5,429 residents. Morris Heights has strong socioeconomic ties with High Bridge and Morrisania, as these three high-density, low-income communities feature growing Dominican and West African populations coexisting with longstanding Puerto Ricans and African Americans. We believe a greater inclusion of Morris Heights in District 16 would be appropriate.

In conclusion on behalf of Carlos Sierra and SIERRA 2013 we thank the Districting Commission for hearing our testimony and ask that it be taken into consideration, we also ask that the Districting Commission pass the new maps as soon as reasonably possible.