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November 30, 2012

Honorable Christine Quinn
New York City Council Speaker
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Attention: Ramon Martinez

RE: Redistricting of the 33rd Council District

Dear Ms. Quinn:

I am writing on behalf of the Brooklyn Heights Association because we are concerned about the new proposed 33rd Council District boundaries, and we are seeking your assistance in this regard.

As you may know the district has existed for many years comprising Brooklyn Heights, Dumbo, Vinegar Hill, Boerum Hill, parts of Park Slope and South Williamsburg, during which time we were represented by Ken Fisher, David Yassky and now Steve Levin.

What is most troubling to us with the new boundaries is the fact that the 33rd District would be dominated by a majority voting bloc in South Williamsburg, which comprises approximately 66% of the voters in the proposed district who are known to function as a bloc.

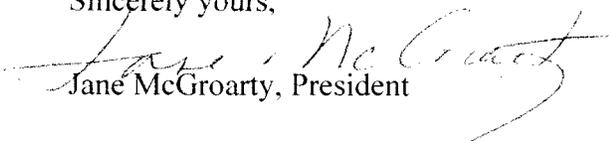
There are numerous ramifications to contemplate: First, the change would mean that the new 33rd District has an extremely slim chance of ever electing a woman, a gay or a lesbian as our city councilperson. The southern portion of the district has increasingly younger and more progressive voters who do not take into account gender, sexual orientation or religion in selecting candidate. In fact they welcome diversity among elected officials.

Further, such a shift in the 33rd's boundaries would effectively separate Brooklyn Heights from brownstone Brooklyn neighbors with whom we share similar interests in education, historic preservation, local retail, land use development issues and traffic. These are the issues that affect Downtown

Brooklyn and its surrounding vibrant residential neighborhoods, and our influence in the growth of this area has been a positive one.

We respectfully appeal to you do all that you can to assist us in maintaining the 33rd Council District as it currently exists. Thanking you in advance for your consideration of this important matter, I remain,

Sincerely yours,


Jane McGroarty, President