

Linda Orlando

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Brooklyn, New York 11220-6505

718-██████████

August 13th, 2012

City of New York
Redistricting Commission Hearings
209 Joralemon Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Bay Ridge 43rd Council District

Dear Commissioners:

The Towers of Bay Ridge are a State of New York Mitchell-Llama Housing Co-op complex with 811 apartments on 65th Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenue and between 3rd and 4th Avenue in Brooklyn. They were built in 1972. At that time they were in the 43rd Council District. In 1981 they were redistricted into the 38th Council District.

I would like to ask the Commissioners to move the boundary line two blocks, from Wakeman Place back to 65th Street, and return the Towers to the 43rd Council District.

Bay Ridge is a Naturally Occurring Retirement Community NORC with many seniors who have lived here all their lives and would like to remain in this community for the rest of their lives. The seniors who live in the Towers and many other seniors in the neighborhood avail themselves of the services provided by the Bay Ridge Community Center on Ovington Avenue and 4th Avenue, Seniors on the Move bus service, and many of the other senior services and health and medical facilities available in the Bay Ridge area.

During the last 40 years the shareholders of the Towers have patronized every business in Bay Ridge. They visit all the doctors and lawyers. Their children attend the Bay Ridge schools. Their seniors are members of the senior center and veterans' chapters. They have accounts in all the banks. They are members of all the Bay Ridge community organizations. They worship in all the churches. All the stores know our refrigerator, stove and air conditioner requirements and our floor and window dressing requirements. The shareholders frequent all the stores on 86th street, 3rd Avenue and 5th Avenue. They should be in the same district and be represented by the same council member that represents all the businesses in which are located all the Bay Ridge shopping areas.

The Towers have always been an integral part of Bay Ridge and should be included in the 43rd Council District. Above Wakeman Place is the Belt Parkway 65th Street entrance and exit ramps surrounded by a grassy area. There are no structures involved other than the Towers of Bay Ridge in my redistricting request. Please move the boundary line from Wakeman Place to 65th Street so the Towers of Bay Ridge would be back in the 43rd Council District.

Thank you,

Linda Orlando

cc: Council Member Vincent Gentile, 43rd Council District

Statement of Steve Chung

United Chinese Association of Brooklyn
To the
New York City Districting Commission
Public Hearing, January 10th, 2013
Brooklyn, New York

My name is Steve Chung, president of United Chinese Association of Brooklyn, aka UCA. UCA was founded in 2002 and its goal is to improve the well being of the Chinese immigrants and families in Bensonhurst. UCA is a member of The Asian American Community Coalition On Redistricting and Democracy (ACCORD). Today, we would like to express our opinion regarding the Brooklyn Asian neighborhood relating to the redistricting.

Current Districts in Bensonhurst

Bensonhurst is an Asian American community of interest that consists of over 200,000 people and it constitutes one of the fastest growing Asian populations in the city. The recent commission redistricting draft map divides Bensonhurst Asian neighborhood into four districts – 38, 43, 44 and 47. It severely dilutes the Asian community voting strength in electing a legislator of their choice.

As the Asian community leaders in Brooklyn, our purpose in the redistrict process is to propose to - keep the current districts which support and represent the Asian community interest and value and adjust those which are not.

Comment Brooklyn Districts

We agree with the commission draft map of district38, which ties the Sunset Park's Asian population with the Latino community since both groups share many of the immigrant commonality and value. district38's councilwoman, Sara Gonzalez is also a strong advocate for Asian community. Finally, both groups are categorized as minority and are protected by the Voting Right Act.

Regarding district44, which is represented by Councilman Greenfield; since he was elected in 2010, Councilman Greenfield has continually provided major source of discretionary grants to support the Bensonhurst's Asian community youth and senior programs. In addition, he has also appointed two Asians into Community Board 11 to have a fair Asian representative. We sincerely ask the commission to minimize change in district44.

UCA supports ACCORD and OCA-NY's concept of keeping Bensonhurst neighborhood boundaries together into one district, which the commission office can also look into Unity Map's district47 as reference. The Unity Map's district47 adequately reflects the Bensonhurst neighborhood's Asian population which is about 33%. In year 2013, district47 will be opened for a new council position due to the current incumbent term expiration. With an Asian

population of 35% in district47, it will increase its chance to select a new councilman who can represent and voice for the Asian community.

Conclusion

In Bensonhurst and Sunset Park, the Asian Americans new comers continue to inject new economic liveliness in turning many of the empty warehouses into supermarkets and restaurants. They pump in new businesses and bring in millions of tax revenues into our city. Their economic contribution cannot be denied, but their political engagement needs to be encouraged. The commission can help the Asian community by minimizing change to those districts, such as 38 & 44, which strongly advocate for Asians community and maximizing the protection of Asian neighborhood boundary in those opened district, like district47.

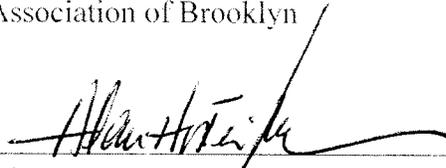
The following signees support the above testimony:



Steve Chung
President of United Chinese
Association of Brooklyn



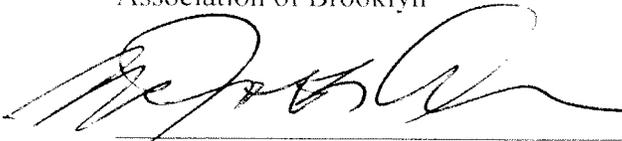
Rosita Pie
Chairwoman of Brooklyn Community
Improvement Association



Alan Mok
Founder of United Chinese
Association of Brooklyn



Ray Chen
President of Brooklyn Community
Improvement Association



Tim Law PhD.
Member of
Community Education Council 21



Louis Liu
V. President of Brooklyn Community
Improvement Association



Denny Chen
Community Board 7 (member)



Shin Kwan Leung
V.P. Chinese Businessman Ass.

Wei Xiang Chen

WEI XIANG CHEN
owner of Howlong Restaurant.

May Heng
Chenatrust USA BANK.

ChungYuan Corp
Hung Shuai Liu

STEPHEN WU
Stephen Wu

TING GUANG MAI
Ting Guang Mai



Joe Shue
Secretary General
American Chinese
Commerce Association

SUNNY MUI
SUNNY MUI
WING SING SUPER NOKE

GARY CHEN, M.D
Gary Chen
UCA medical advisor


(TONY CHAN)
Vicepresident, UCA

My name is Dr. Tim Law and I am a 35-year resident of Brooklyn Bensonhurst. My remarks on NYC council redistricting would be as follows:

1. In my opinion, the NYC Districting Commission's new Council District (CD) Map regarding Bensonhurst offers little change compared to year 2000's. However, the new 43 CD has only 22.3% of Asian population and the new 47 CD has 22.1% of Asian population. The Asian population of these two new CDs are far below the average Asian population of 33% in Bensonhurst. Therefore, I strongly suggest a new CD, which includes the current 47 CD and a part of current 43 and 50 CDs, should be established. I also believe that the primary purpose to establish a new CD is to serve the general public. Most importantly, the funding allocation will be distributed fairly and reasonably by elected officials to meet the needs of our local residents in the district. This will allow the community currently in the 44 CD who are familiar with their current elected officials to remain in the 44 CD.
2. Because of cultural and language background, the Asian population are more comfortable to share their feelings and communicate with each other concerning their problems. Most importantly, they can share information about governmental benefits, entitlements, and applications.
3. No matter they go to work, school, or other places, most Asians are settling down along the subway lines N or D where they can easily travel from Brooklyn to Manhattan and back.
4. Since 1990, most Asian Families have chosen to live in the aforementioned neighborhoods because of the school districts (20 and 21) can provide their children with different special programs, such as ESL, Bilingual, Music. Gifted and Talented Classes. etc. This proposed district, based on the abovementioned reasons, will be more compact and much more easier to understand, by adding to the 47 CD the area between 86 Street and Cropsey Avenue and between 18 Avenue and 19 Avenue from the 50 CD and 43 CD and

then placing them into the 47 CD and then taking from 18 Avenue to 27 Avenue between Bath Avenue and Shore Parkway from the 43 CD to the 47 CD and removing from the 47 CD from Avenue V to Avenue Y between MacDonald to Coney Island Avenue.