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CITY OF NEW YORK
2012-2013 DISTRICTING COMMISSION

THIRD ROUND
PUBLIC MEETING

St. Francis College
180 Remsen Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201

January 10, 2013
6:00 P.M.

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8

9 IN ATTENDANCE:

10 FRANK PADAVAN

11 GLORIA CARVAJAL WOLFE

12 LINDA LIN

13 BENITO ROMANO, Chair

14 ROXANNE J. PERSAUD

15 OSCAR ODOM, III

16 KAMILLAH M. HANKS

17 JAMILA PONTON BRAGG

18 SCOTT CERULLO

19 ROBERT W. HART

20 JUSTIN YU

21 JOHN ROBERT

22

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1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Good evening, and thank
2 you for coming tonight, and welcome to the third
3 round of the New York City Districting
4 Commission's public hearings. My name is Benito
5 Romano and I am the chair of the New York City
6 Districting Commission. On behalf of the
7 Commission, I want to thank President Brendan
8 Dugan, of St. Francis College, for hosting us
9 here tonight.

10 I, also, would like to note, however, that
11 St. Francis' most-immediate, past president was
12 Dr. Frank Macchiarola, Jr. In addition to being
13 the longest-serving chancellor of the New York
14 City public school system and dean of the Cardozo
15 Law School, Dr. Macchiarola chaired the
16 Districting Commission in 1991.

17 Dr. Macchiarola passed away last month. We
18 wish to acknowledge his passing and the
19 contributions he made to this Commission and to
20 the City of New York.

21 We have this facility for only a few hours
22 tonight and I want to make sure that we hear from
23 everyone who is signed up. For those of you who
24 did not sign up, and wish to speak, please see
25 the staff at the registration table.

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1 Additionally, if you require interpretation
2 of your testimony, please let the staff, at the
3 registration desk, know. They will make sure
4 that an interpreter is provided when it is your
5 turn to testify.

6 Before we take testimony, I would like to
7 make a few preliminary remarks. In December, the
8 Commission advertised, in community and ethnic
9 newspapers throughout the City, announcing the
10 Commission's public-hearing schedule for the
11 third round. An announcement was circulated to
12 the press. An e-mail blast was sent to over
13 5,500 individuals and organizations.

14 Advocacy groups help spread the word through
15 separate networks. The hearing was noticed in
16 The City Record and the hearing's schedule was
17 publicized on our website as well as on our
18 Facebook page and Twitter feed.

19 The hearing, tonight, is part of the third
20 round of public hearings that the Commission will
21 conduct throughout the City. Over 1,150 people
22 attended the first two rounds of hearings in late
23 August and October, and the Commission heard
24 testimony from more than 230 of them.

25 On October 15, 2012, the Commission adopted,

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1 by unanimous vote, a revised plan for the 51
2 councilmanic districts that reflect the testimony
3 during the first two rounds of hearings, in
4 addition to online submissions of testimony and
5 alternative maps that were received or created
6 through our free, map-making software on our
7 website.

8 Both, prior to that meeting and immediately
9 thereafter, we heard from the public and numerous
10 advocacy groups, including Common Cause, the
11 Asian-American Legal Defense and Education Fund,
12 Latino Justice, the Center for Law and Social
13 Justice, and the City Council's Black, Latino and
14 Asian Caucus, calling for another round of
15 hearings to enable the public to provide
16 additional commentary on the revised plan before
17 the City Council took action.

18 Only by maximizing public input will we
19 create a district plan that accurately reflects
20 the complexity and diversity of the city. In our
21 transmittal letter, that accompanied the revised
22 plan submitted to the City Council on
23 November 19th, the Commission noted that it would
24 welcome additional input from the public, but
25 that the Commission was constrained by the

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1 deadlines set forth in the City Charter, which
2 directed the Commission to submit the revised
3 plan to the City Council by early November.

4 That said, given the possibility that the
5 Council would not return the revised plan to the
6 Commission to allow for further public comment,
7 and that the Council might, instead, allow the
8 plan to be adopted simply by taking no action for
9 the three-week period specified in the Charter,
10 the Commission considered mechanisms that would
11 allow for another round of public hearings.

12 After consulting with the New York City Law
13 Department, our legal counsel on such matters,
14 the Commission convened on December 4, 2012, to
15 consider continuing the public-hearing process by
16 withdrawing the revised district plan from the
17 City Council. The Commission approved such a
18 measure by a vote of 12 to nothing, with one
19 abstention.

20 Now that the Commission has withdrawn the
21 revised plan from the City Council, we are in a
22 position to conduct this third round of public
23 hearings. The Commission is eager to hear
24 tonight's testimony and comments on the advised
25 district plan. As a result of tonight's

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1 hearings, and the third round of hearings in its
2 entirety, the Commission will consider all of the
3 comments it will receive during the next
4 scheduled public meeting on January 23, 2013.

5 At that meeting, the Commission will charge
6 the staff to make any amendments to the revised
7 district plan that the Commission deems
8 appropriate in light of the comments received
9 during this round. Then, at the Commission's
10 public hearing on January 30th, an amended
11 district plan, reflecting those instructions,
12 will be presented and the Commission will decide
13 whether to adopt the plan.

14 If the Commission adopts the plan, it will
15 then be submitted to the City Council, which will
16 have three weeks to either adopt or reject the
17 plan. If the Council takes neither action, it
18 will be deemed adopted. If the Council objects
19 to the plan, the Commission will then have
20 another opportunity to revise the plan, and this
21 will trigger a new set of public hearings to
22 receive comment and feedback on such a plan.

23 It is, again, worth noting that there are
24 certain factors that the law obligates the
25 Commission to consider during the districting

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1 process. These include the plan should provide
2 that the difference in population, between the
3 least populous and the most populous districts,
4 should not exceed ten percent of the average
5 population of all districts. The plan should
6 ensure the fair and effective representation of
7 racial and language minority groups in New York
8 City.

9 The plan should keep neighborhoods and
10 communities, with established ties of common
11 interest and association, intact. The districts,
12 provided for in the plan, should be compact and
13 contiguous. Wherever possible, districts should
14 be kept within a single borough and the plan
15 should avoid diminishing the effective political
16 representation of voters.

17 I want to bring, to your attention, our
18 website at www.nyc.gov/districting. The site is
19 the central repository of all of our documents
20 and videos relating to the Districting
21 Commission. It contains a complete schedule of
22 our public hearings, all documents and plans
23 created and sent for submission, our online
24 mapping tool and a portal, where you can
25 preregister for all hearings, and be added to our

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1 mailing list. I hope you will all visit the site
2 and let us know how it can be made more
3 informative and interactive.

4 I want to say just a few words about the
5 obvious limitations and constraints from drawing
6 up any map. We are required, by the City
7 Charter, to draw lines. Lines inherently divide.
8 Depending on your perspective, you may see the
9 line as being inclusive or exclusive. And to
10 many, lines will almost always appear arbitrary
11 and do not organize themselves in districts of
12 ideal population size.

13 The lines are never perfect. Neither in
14 ensuring that the districts capture only
15 communities that actually share common interests,
16 nor in the districts of ideal population size.

17 We, on this Commission, have worked very
18 hard on this revised map, and we believe we are
19 getting close to a map that, as a whole,
20 reasonably accommodates all of the factors set
21 out in the City Charter. We are very much
22 interested in hearing your suggestions and are
23 looking forward to your testimony tonight.

24 Now, that concludes my remarks. And at this
25 point, I would like to have the Commissioners

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1 introduce themselves starting with Commissioner
2 Frank Padavan.

3 MR. PADAVAN: Queens. Hi.

4 MR. YU: Justin Yu, from Manhattan.

5 MS. LIN: Linda Lin, from Queens.

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

7 MS. BRAGG: Jamila Ponton Bragg, Manhattan.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Benito Romano Manhattan.

9 MR. HUM: Carl Hum, executive director of
10 the Commission.

11 MS. WOLFE: Gloria Carvajal Wolfe,
12 Manhattan.

13 JOHN ROBERT: John Robert, the Bronx.

14 MS. PERSAUD: Roxanne Persaud, Brooklyn.

15 MR. CERULLO: Scott Cerullo, Staten Island.

16 MR. HART: Rob Hart, Staten Island.

17 MS. HANKS: Kamillah Hanks, Staten Island.

18 MR. HACKWORTH: Thaddeus Hackworth, general
19 counsel to the Commission.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Mr. Hackworth will review
21 some of the ground rules, covering tonight's
22 testimony, and then we will call our first
23 speaker.

24 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you, Chairman Romano.
25 Because of the large number of speakers that have

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1 preregistered to give testimony tonight, each
2 speaker will have two minutes to testify. When
3 your two minutes have expired, you will hear a
4 chime. At that point, please finish your
5 sentence and yield the microphone to the next
6 speaker.

7 Because the Commission only has the use of
8 these facilities until nine o'clock, taking more
9 than your two minutes of time may result in your
10 neighbor or fellow community member not being
11 able to speak at all. Please keep that in mind
12 and be respectful of others wishing to testify.

13 If you would like to provide more detailed
14 testimony to the Commission, you are encouraged
15 to submit your written testimony by providing a
16 copy at the registration desk, or by e-mailing it
17 to hearings@districting.nyc.gov, or by mailing it
18 to the Commission's office.

19 I will first call those who have
20 preregistered to speak, then if time permits,
21 those who have registered today at the desk. I
22 will announce the next speaker as well as the
23 following speaker. When you hear your name
24 called, please approach the nearest microphone,
25 so that you can be ready to give your testimony

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1 when your name is called.

2 There are two microphones, one at the front
3 of either aisle. If you have any questions,
4 please ask our staff members at the registration
5 desk. I will now call our first speaker, the
6 Honorable Council Member Michael Nelson, to be
7 followed by the Honorable Council Member Letitia
8 James.

9 MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, members of the
10 Committee, New York City Council Districting
11 Commission, my name is Michael Nelson, member of
12 the New York City Council since February of 1999,
13 representing the 48th Council District. I submit
14 this testimony to strongly urge the Commission to
15 accept the preliminary draft map that was
16 designed by the Commission, at least as close as
17 possible.

18 During my terms in office, the 48th Council
19 District has embodied New York City's diversity
20 with countless different ethnic and religious
21 communities living and doing business within our
22 borders. These groups include individuals of
23 varying income levels, native-born Americans, as
24 well as members of diverse immigrant communities
25 from the former Soviet Union, China, Pakistan,

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1 Turkey, Mexico and many other places around the
2 world.

3 Furthermore, our district is home to the
4 largest concentration of senior citizens in the
5 city. Diversity is not only something members of
6 the 48th District embrace, but it's also
7 absolutely necessary to ensure the fairness of
8 our government.

9 Upon being elected to the City Council, I
10 immediately recognized how essential it was that
11 my staff and I establish a relationship with
12 different communities in the district -- I mean,
13 duh -- so that everyone's needs could be met. I
14 fear that with the newly proposed lines, which
15 were drawn only to the serve the interests of the
16 Russian-American community, according to the
17 expressed words of the Districting Commission,
18 true equality, would vanish.

19 In recent years, the Russian-American
20 community has achieved great success in many
21 years of American life, including politics, which
22 I commend and I have totally supported over the
23 years. Members of the Russian-American
24 community, who have achieved electoral success in
25 the existing 48th Council District, include New

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1 York State Senator David Storobin, New York State
2 Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny -- (two-minute
3 timer alarmed) -- uh-oh. Okay.

4 Do I have to hurry it up?

5 Do I have another two seconds?

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Finish that sentence.

7 MR. HACKWORTH: If you could finish.

8 MR. NELSON: Thank you. Okay.

9 Anyway, these electoral victories occurred
10 in districts where Russian-Americans did not
11 constitute a majority and the candidates are
12 required to succeed based upon merit. And too
13 bad the rest of it really is better than the
14 beginning. So, I am sorry I didn't speed it up
15 myself. But in all fairness, I will end. You
16 have copies of my statement.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We have a quick question.

18 MS. BRAGG: Can I ask: What are your
19 proposed lines?

20 MR. NELSON: Very similar to your first
21 proposed district. You will see, and we do have,
22 my office, I believe it was presented to
23 Chair Hum.

24 MS. BRAGG: "Chair Hum"?

25 Okay.

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1 MR. NELSON: I hope so.

2 MR. HACKWORTH: We received the map. Thank
3 you.

4 MR. NELSON: Good. Thank you very much.

5 MR. HACKWORTH: Our next speaker will be the
6 Honorable Council Member Letitia James, followed
7 by James Hong.

8 MS. JAMES: I would like to thank Chair
9 Romano and the members of the Commission,
10 Executive Director Carl Hum and his team for the
11 diligent work, and for providing this latest
12 opportunity for myself and the public, at large,
13 to comment on the proposed plans to ensure the
14 best representation for New York.

15 I think my district has dramatically changed
16 and, in fact, it's the most dramatic changes
17 throughout the City of New York. That
18 notwithstanding, as a result of my
19 representation, we have been able to transcend
20 all of those differences representing the
21 differences of individuals beyond politics, and I
22 would hope that the Commission would draw lines
23 based on demographic shifts, and based on the
24 best interest of the public.

25 With that in mind, I have concerns about the

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1 new councilmanic boundaries proposed by this
2 Commission. The proposed lines oddly move a
3 disparate portion of Bedford-Stuyvesant from the
4 35th District into the 33rd District. This area
5 was bordered by Nostrand Avenue, to the east,
6 DeKalb Avenue, to the south, Flushing Avenue, to
7 the north and Classon Avenue to the west.

8 These blocks were located in the 79th Police
9 Precinct and Community Board 3. No other
10 portions, of the proposed 33rd Council District,
11 overlap with any part of the 79th Precinct or
12 Community Board 3. A key objective, of the
13 redistricting process, should be, whenever
14 possible, to create legislative lines that are
15 coterminous with existing service areas that
16 reflect cohesive neighborhoods.

17 Furthermore, when a small portion of a
18 legislative district is located in alternative
19 districts or police precincts, it, typically,
20 receives less attention from legislators and
21 their staff. The residents, of this area, share
22 common civic association, community-based
23 organizations and public-educational institutions
24 within the 35th and 36th District. The latter
25 covering the rest of Bedford-Stuyvesant

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1 community.

2 And, again, my thoughts and prayers go out
3 to the young child and the father, who was shot
4 today, on the boundaries of this district. And
5 it's as a result of my representation that it is
6 really critically important that it remain in the
7 35th Councilmanic District, so I can resolve,
8 unfortunately, the gun violence that we are
9 seeing in Central Brooklyn, and I pray that this
10 child survives.

11 Pratt Area Community Council, Bed-Stuy
12 Campaign Against Hunger, Bed-Stuy Community Legal
13 Services -- (two-minute timer alarmed) -- and the
14 services at Bed-Stuy Restoration Plaza,
15 primarily, serve residents in Bed-Stuy and
16 Clinton Hill. The zoning, housing stock and
17 commercial corridors in this district are each
18 interconnected with the 35th and 36th Districts
19 and disconnected from the 33rd District.

20 Moreover, the surrounding communities in the
21 35th District share many of the challenges facing
22 this geographic section, a critical shortage of
23 affordable housing and green space. Let me also
24 add, as you know, I served as counsel to the
25 Council member who currently serves the 36th

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1 Councilmanic District, and I know both districts
2 well.

3 MR. HACKWORTH: If you can conclude your
4 comments?

5 MS. JAMES: Thank you, sir. The only
6 apparent link between this area and the 33rd is a
7 growing community of orthodox Jewish residents.
8 Establishing a separate council district that
9 would, primarily, Affect the orthodox community
10 actually divides this district from their
11 longstanding neighbors.

12 Many leaders, from the orthodox community,
13 have shared their concerns about this Bed-Stuy
14 area, rolled into a new councilmanic district, as
15 they seek to have multiple legislative advocates.
16 I have hosted numerous community meetings around
17 the development of green space and affordable
18 housing, and have brought together a diverse
19 group of community leaders from the orthodox
20 community, the Latino community, the
21 African-American community, and the majority
22 community, and longstanding residents of Bed-Stuy
23 and Clinton Hill.

24 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you.

25 MS. JAMES: I have been able to encourage

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1 neighbors in this area to find common space.
2 Again, I know your concern is about the effect
3 that this would have on a voting rights district,
4 but the reality is that there is a significant
5 number of African-Americans and Latinos in this
6 part of the district, and any change would
7 obviously affect the representation. I would
8 hope to continue to represent that part of the
9 district. Thank you for this opportunity.

10 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
11 is James Hong, to be followed by Jerry Vattamala.

12 MR. HONG: Good evening, members of the
13 staff of the Districting Commission,
14 Chairman Romano, citizens and residents of
15 Brooklyn. My name is James Hong. I am the civic
16 participation coordinator at the MinKwon Center
17 for Community Action, and, tonight, I am also
18 speaking for ACCORD, the Asian-American Community
19 Coalition On Redistricting and Democracy.

20 Our coalition's purpose is to advocate for
21 district maps that will keep together communities
22 of interest and prevent Asian-Americans, and
23 other racial minorities, from being
24 disenfranchised by district boundaries.

25 The Commission stated, on November 15th,

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1 that the unity map configuration, for southwest
2 Brooklyn, would be "too disruptive, would not
3 sufficiently protect incumbents at achieving a
4 concentration of 35 percent Asian population, was
5 not high enough to shape District 47 as done in
6 the Unity Map." We urge the Commission to,
7 again, consider community boundaries -- I'm
8 sorry. ACCORD cannot accept these reasons, given
9 by the Commission, for failing to reflect the
10 tremendous concentration and growth of
11 Asian-Americans in southwest Brooklyn.

12 We urge the Commission to, again, consider
13 the community boundaries of Bensonhurst, as
14 submitted by the AALDEF, roughly bounded by 54th
15 Street, to the north, 14th Avenue, on the west,
16 Belt Parkway, on the south, and McDonald Avenue,
17 to the east. Populationwise, this configuration
18 is greater than a City Council district. So
19 Bensonhurst can easily contain the entirety, if
20 not the great bulk, of a single district.

21 ACCORD fully supports the efforts of member
22 organization, OCA New York, in its proposal to
23 the Commission that will be presented later on
24 tonight. We defer to Dr. Wah Lee's testimony for
25 the specifics. We urge the Commission, finally,

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1 to have more transparency and to not repeat the
2 process taken on November 15th of last year, when
3 the Commission reviewed and then voted on a
4 district plan within minutes, all within the same
5 meeting. Literally -- (two-minute timer
6 alarmed) -- no one in the public, outside of the
7 individuals at the meeting of the Commissioners,
8 had a chance to see how New York City would be
9 divided for the next decade.

10 We do not believe this is a good process.
11 It's not good for the city. We hope that you
12 will allow for comment, even if it's at the last
13 meeting, and there is no further revisions that
14 are going to be made to that map. Thank you very
15 much.

16 MR. HACKWORTH: Our next speaker is Jerry
17 Vattamala, to be followed by William Stanford,
18 Jr.

19 MR. VATTAMALA: Good evening. My name is
20 Jerry Vattamala, from the Asian-American Defense
21 and Education Fund, AALDEF. I want to summarize
22 my written testimony. The New York City Charter
23 explicitly lists the criteria that is to be used
24 in redistricting. Chairman Romano went through
25 the list. It is prioritized. It is ranked.

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1 And I think it's important to note that,
2 right after the ten percent deviation, the second
3 priority requires this Commission to ensure the
4 fair and effective representation of language and
5 racial minorities protected under the Voting
6 Rights Act. Those groups are African-Americans,
7 Latinos and Asian-Americans.

8 After that is taken care of, fair and
9 effective representation for those groups, then
10 the Commission next looks at communities of
11 interest. And when you look at Bensonhurst,
12 Bensonhurst is divided into four City Council
13 districts. AALDEF submitted the neighborhood
14 boundary for Bensonhurst at the first hearing on
15 April 13th.

16 We urge this Commission to look back at that
17 neighborhood boundary. What we are asking for is
18 the largest possible area, of that neighborhood
19 boundary, be kept whole in one district. OCA New
20 York has submitted adjustments to the last draft,
21 from this Commission, for District 47. We ask
22 that this Commission seriously consider that
23 proposal, that adjustment.

24 And what they are trying to do, in that
25 adjustment, is keep more of the neighborhood of

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1 Bensonhurst whole in one district. And that's
2 what everyone here is asking for, their community
3 to be kept whole. That is what we are asking
4 for. And this Commission has a mandate, from the
5 New York City Charter, that groups protected
6 under the Federal Voting Rights Act, which are
7 African-Americans, Latinos and Asian-Americans,
8 first must have fair and effective representation
9 before this Commission considers communities of
10 interest.

11 I would also like -- (two-minute timer
12 alarmed) -- to thank this Commission on their job
13 in creating District 38. That's exactly what we
14 are asking, keeping Sunset Park whole. We thank
15 you for that.

16 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
17 will be William Stanford, Jr., to be followed by
18 Wah Lee.

19 MR. STANFORD: The name is Mr. X. There are
20 some things you shouldn't do.

21 Can someone pass this up?

22 You shouldn't say you are ending the public
23 hearings at nine o'clock and then end them as
24 early as eight o'clock, or better yet, whenever
25 the hell you feel like it. That's not very

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1 swift. PWYP. Practice what you preach. Don't
2 say you end the public hearings at nine o'clock
3 if you know, damn well, you are not staying there
4 till nine o'clock. It's that simple.

5 Okay?

6 Districts 33 and 34, D Rey, which is short
7 for Diana Reyna, also known as D Rey Posse.

8 Also District 35, what is with District 35
9 crossing into District 33?

10 It's like District 35 is invading
11 District 33's turf.

12 Who drew that?

13 Did you draw that?

14 What is that about?

15 And Districts 33 and 4, that is where you
16 can divide them, Marcy Avenue. That's one word,
17 Marcy Avenue.

18 You want to divide District 33 and 34?

19 Well, just use Marcy Avenue. And as far as
20 District 35 goes, you need to cut that small
21 piece out and put it back into District 33.

22 I don't know what that is about.

23 Did you speak to Letitia James about this?

24 Did you speak to Steven Levin about this?

25 Did you speak to Diana Reyna about this?

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1 What's that about?

2 Okay. So, yes, you know, you shouldn't do
3 that. That's a mistake.

4 You shouldn't say you end the public
5 hearings at nine o'clock if you know, damn well,
6 you are not. And more importantly, you should
7 think twice before you orchestrate nasty attacks
8 on me (two-minute timer alarmed).

9 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
10 is Dr. Wah Lee, to be followed by Rachael Fauss.

11 DR. LEE: Good evening. While the
12 December 4th, Districting Commission map is an
13 improvement from the previous one, by keeping
14 more the western/eastern portions of Bensonhurst
15 together, it still divides the Asian community of
16 common interest, in Bensonhurst, into four
17 districts. The Center for Urban Research found
18 Bensonhurst, east and west, each with a
19 substantial white population in 2000, had lost
20 close to 18,000 whites by 2010.

21 In that time, the Asian population increased
22 by a greater amount, 57 percent. The Asian
23 community of interest, in Bensonhurst,
24 predominantly, has an Asian-first language, shop
25 and eat at the same ethnic stores and

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1 restaurants, go to the same community centers,
2 and take the same public-transportation lines.
3 This Asian community of interest, in Bensonhurst,
4 should be kept intact in the same district,
5 especially when this community of interest,
6 historically, has not seen its fair share of
7 return in public funds relative to its tax
8 contributions.

9 We do not support the currently-proposed
10 City Council 47. We submitted a map, on
11 January 9th, that better preserves our
12 neighborhood. Our map, for District 47, better
13 resembles the Unity Map. A map that tries to
14 give a political voice to underrepresented groups
15 that share common interests. We have already
16 compromised by working off the Commission's last
17 map. In the spirit of compromise, we are not
18 asking for the Unity Map in its entirety.

19 However, the interests of the community must
20 take priority over the self-interests of certain
21 politicians. In our map, the northwestern
22 boundary, of Bensonhurst, is no longer Bay Ridge
23 Avenue, but 62nd Street. The eastern border is
24 no longer Coney Island Avenue, but McDonald
25 Avenue. The map only exchanges geography between

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1 two districts so a rip-off effect will not occur
2 to other districts.

3 Our map better preserves communities of
4 common interest in each of the two districts in
5 question and creates two geographically compact
6 districts. We are, indeed, a democracy, where
7 political actions are done by the people, for the
8 people. Our map should be approved (two-minute
9 timer alarmed). Our proposal is further
10 supported by ACCORD, Brooklyn-Asian Voice
11 Organization and the United Chinese Association
12 of Brooklyn. Thank you.

13 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
14 is Rachael Fauss, to be followed by Steve Chung.

15 MS. FAUSS: Good evening, members of the
16 Districting Commission. My name is Rachael
17 Fauss, and I am the policy manager of Citizens
18 Union, a nonpartisan, good-government group
19 dedicated to making democracy work for all New
20 Yorkers.

21 We applaud the Commission for rightly
22 removing Assembly Member Vito Lopez' residents
23 from the proposed District 34, and we would also
24 like to acknowledge the Commission's effort to
25 keep neighborhoods whole, including keeping the

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1 Russian community together in Manhattan Beach and
2 Sheepshead Bay and uniting Canarsie.

3 In spite of these changes, however, there
4 are a number of other changes we believe need to
5 be addressed. Chief among the remaining issues,
6 is the need for the Commission to reconsider its
7 insistence of using incumbency as a driving
8 criterion for drawing lines, particularly as it
9 relates to Bensonhurst.

10 The Asian-American community, in
11 Bensonhurst, is split into four districts. This
12 has been discussed this evening. And it has
13 grown by more than 50 percent in three of those
14 districts, Districts 38, 43 and 47, for a total
15 increase of nearly 50,000 residents across the
16 four districts.

17 We are particularly concerned that the
18 Commission said that incumbency is a
19 consideration in the decision to not create an
20 Asian-American influence district. Given the
21 large population growth, creation of an Asian
22 influence district may be more desirable to the
23 public, and we urge you to reconsider your
24 decision to leave the districts largely the same
25 and to fully explain your final decision.

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1 We believe it is possible to ensure
2 continuing representation of neighboring
3 protected groups, as has been demonstrated by the
4 Unity Map. Regarding proposed District 33, the
5 orthodox Jewish communities in Bed-Stuy and
6 Williamsburg would be joined. District 39 would
7 include all of Park Slope and District 35 would
8 remain as a majority African-American district.
9 We recognize the goals of preserving voting
10 rights and keeping neighborhoods and communities
11 of interest intact.

12 At the same time, concerns have been raised
13 about the potential competitiveness of
14 District 33, and about the removal of the
15 northern portion of Bed-Stuy, has split a
16 community into the 79th Police Precinct.

17 Additionally, some community members, from
18 this area, have voiced the desire to be in two
19 separate districts (two-minute timer alarmed).
20 While Citizens Union doesn't have a specific
21 recommendation, we recommend a full-written
22 rationale for this district, as well as all
23 districts, in advance of any vote. We think this
24 kind of transparency is essential for the public
25 to have better confidence in the end result.

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1 Thank you.

2 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
3 is Steve Chung, to be followed by Tim Law.

4 MR. CHUNG: Hi. Good evening. My name is
5 Steve Chung, president of United Chinese
6 Association of Brooklyn, also known as UCA. UCA
7 was founded in 2002 and its goal is to improve
8 the well-being of the Chinese immigrants and
9 families in Bensonhurst, and UCA is also a member
10 of ACCORD.

11 And, today, we would like to express our
12 opinion regarding the Brooklyn neighborhood
13 relating to the redistricting. Bensonhurst is an
14 Asian-American community of interest, that
15 consists of over 200,000 people, and it
16 constitutes one of the fastest-growing Asian
17 populations in the city. And as the local Asian
18 community leader in Brooklyn, our purpose, in the
19 redistricting process, is to propose to keep the
20 current district, which represents the Asian
21 community's interests and values, and adjust
22 those which are not.

23 We agree with the Commission's draft map of
24 District 38, which tie the Sunset Park Asian
25 population with Latino community, since both

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1 groups share many immigrant-community values. In
2 District 38, Council Woman Sarah Gonzalez is also
3 a strong advocate for the Asian community. And
4 finally, both groups are categorized as minority
5 protected by the Voting Rights Act.

6 Regarding District 44, which is another
7 representative Asian-American district, and which
8 is also represented by Councilman Greenfield, and
9 since he was elected in 2010, Councilman
10 Greenfield has continually provided major sources
11 of discretionary grants to support the
12 Bensonhurst Asian community youth and senior
13 program. In addition, he has also appointed two
14 Asians to Community Board 11, to have a fair
15 Asian representation (two-minute timer alarmed).

16 We sincerely ask the Commission to minimize
17 change in District 44. UCA also supports
18 ACCORD's and OCA New York's concept of keeping
19 the Bensonhurst neighborhood boundaries together
20 into one district.

21 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you very much.

22 MR. CHUNG: Thank you.

23 MR. HACKWORTH: Our next speaker will be --

24 MR. CHUNG: I'm sorry. My statement, also,
25 I ask our local community leaders, also the

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1 banking industry, restaurant owners to sign it.

2 Can I --

3 MR. HACKWORTH: You can bring it to me over
4 here. Our next speaker is Tim Law, to be
5 followed by Esmeralda Simmons.

6 DR. LAW: Good evening ladies and gentlemen.
7 My name is Dr. Law. I am living in Bensonhurst
8 for over 30 years. In my opinion, the New York
9 City Districting Commission's new council
10 district map, 43rd CD, regarding Bensonhurst,
11 offers little change compared to year 2000.

12 However, the new 43rd CD, has only
13 22.3 percent of Asian population, and the new
14 47th CD has only 22.1 percent of Asian
15 population. The Asian population, of these two
16 new CDs, are far below the Asian population in
17 Bensonhurst.

18 Therefore, I strongly suggest a new CD,
19 which includes the current 47th CD and the part
20 of the current 50th CD and 43rd CD, should be
21 established, because I strongly believe that the
22 primary purpose, to set up a new CD, is to serve
23 the general public. Most importantly, because of
24 the funding source, they should be elected
25 officials, fairly and equally, of the local

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1 residents in the local district.

2 And, also, because of a language and
3 cultural background, most Asians feel more
4 comfortable to talk to each other and share their
5 feelings, no matter where they go, work or
6 school, mostly they settle down along subway
7 lines, D or N lines, where they can travel from
8 Brooklyn to Manhattan and come back.

9 Since 1990, most Asians have chosen to live
10 in the Bensonhurst neighborhoods.

11 Why?

12 Because they can find their supermarkets
13 (two-minute timer alarmed). Because they can --

14 MR. HACKWORTH: You can finish your
15 sentence.

16 DR. LAW: Okay. Adding to the new map,
17 should be 86th, and between 18th Avenue and 19th
18 Avenue, from 50th and 43rd and added to 47th CD.
19 Thank you very much.

20 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
21 is Esmeralda Simmons, to be followed by Judy
22 Stanton.

23 MS. SIMMONS: Good evening members of the
24 Commission and Commission staff. My name is
25 Esmeralda Simmons. I am the executive director

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1 of the Center for Law and Social Justice. The
2 center is a 26-year-old civil rights and human
3 rights institution that is part of Medgar Evers
4 College. We have a very long history of voting
5 rights activism.

6 Today, in the testimony which I have already
7 distributed to you on Monday, I am going to
8 specifically be speaking about our issues
9 regarding the current proposed map regarding
10 Brooklyn. The New York City Districting
11 Commission states that Brooklyn District 46 was
12 drawn as an opportunity district. The Center for
13 Law and Social Justice asserts that District 46
14 could have been drawn as an electable district.

15 The so-called opportunity has been
16 short-changed, because, approximately, 15,000
17 more black votes have been unnecessarily placed
18 in the adjoining District 45. In addition, the
19 political strength of District 46 is further
20 diluted because its size, that is, the total
21 number of population for the district, is set at
22 the high end of the ten percent population
23 allowance range, the deviation.

24 The Center for Law and Social Justice
25 asserts that this is a form of subtraction by

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1 addition. You subtract the opportunity to elect
2 by unnecessarily adding unnecessary population.
3 Specifically, the Commission has drawn Districts
4 45 and 46 at the opposite ends of the population
5 range, negative four percent and positive four
6 percent, respectively.

7 Blacks constitute 65.9 percent of one
8 district and 51.8 percent of another district in
9 the voting-age population. In the Unity plan,
10 which the Center for Law and Social Justice was
11 proud to co-present with the AALDEF, Latino
12 Justice and NILP, the National Institution for
13 Latino Policy, we drew districts to those same
14 two districts -- (two-minute timer alarmed) -- at
15 59.5 percent and 56.7 percent.

16 We, therefore, urge the Commission to go
17 back in, and this time, draw these two districts
18 so that both districts have a safe range to make
19 them electable. Thank you.

20 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
21 is Judy Stanton, to be followed by Hyman Shamah.

22 MS. STAN: Good evening. My name is Judy
23 Stanton. I am the executive director of the
24 Brooklyn Heights Association, speaking on behalf
25 of the Association to express our strong

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1 opposition to the proposed new 33rd Council
2 District boundaries. We fail to see how the
3 proposed change of boundaries can be justified.

4 The 33rd District has, for many years now,
5 comprised Brooklyn Heights, DUMBO, Boerum Hill,
6 Vinegar Hill, parts of Park Slope and South
7 Williamsburg. These neighborhoods share very
8 similar land use, traffic, city service,
9 education and other concerns, and as a result of
10 these concerns, have been a necessary focus for
11 the 33rd District's representatives.

12 We believe our last three Council
13 representatives have been very effective,
14 representing the 33rd, because our communities
15 share these issues. Tangible evidence of the
16 benefits of this consistency of focus have been
17 seen in the growth of Downtown Brooklyn and all
18 of the vibrant, natural neighborhoods that
19 surround it.

20 In contrast to the current district, the
21 proposed new boundaries raise several significant
22 concerns for us. Most troubling is the fact that
23 the new 33rd District would be dominated by a
24 majority voting block in South Williamsburg, the
25 part of the current district with which we share

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1 the least number of concerns.

2 The South Williamsburg vote would comprise
3 two-thirds of the voters in the proposed
4 district, and as we all well know, functions as a
5 block controlled by neighborhood leadership. We
6 are reasonably very concerned, therefore, that
7 our voice would be greatly diminished and
8 community needs neglected within such a district.

9 We also believe the consequences of the
10 proposed new district boundaries go beyond
11 Brooklyn Heights. First to start, Brooklyn
12 Heights has played a citywide leadership role in
13 support of historic preservation and other
14 land-use issues. The new district will greatly
15 diminish our ability to play this crucial role.

16 Secondly, for a city that values diversity,
17 the proposed district would be unlikely to elect
18 a woman, person of color, gay or lesbian. The
19 residents of our neighborhood, and the
20 neighborhoods with which we share the
21 33rd District, value this tradition of diversity
22 (two-minute timer alarmed).

23 We, respectfully, appeal to the Commission
24 to reject the proposed boundaries, as drawn, and
25 maintain the 33rd Council District largely as it

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1 currently exists. Thank you.

2 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
3 is Hyman Shamah, to be followed by Avi Spitzer.

4 MR. SHAMAH: Good evening. I would like to
5 thank the Commission for giving me the
6 opportunity to address you again tonight. I will
7 keep my comments very brief. I am the president
8 of the organization known as Congregation Beth
9 Torah. We are located on Ocean Parkway, between
10 Avenue J and Avenue K. We serve several thousand
11 members and we have been located there for over
12 50 years. We are at the northeast edge of
13 District 44 and we are pretty happy where we are.

14 The majority of our congregants live between
15 Avenue I and Avenue P, between McDonald Avenue
16 and Ocean Avenue. The proposed redistricting
17 will divide us in three, contrary to the New York
18 City Charter. So I would like to request you to
19 retain us within the boundaries of 44,
20 represented by Councilman Greenfield, where we
21 can be united and comfortable where we are.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
24 will be Avi Spitzer, to be followed by Jeff Leb.

25 MR. SPITZER: Good evening. My name is Avi

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1 Spitzer. I serve as the executive director of
2 the Sephardic Community Federation, SCF. SCF is
3 the public-policy organization representing the
4 Sephardic Jewish community of greater New York.

5 The bulk of the Sephardic community's
6 population is located in Brooklyn. I am here,
7 today, to testify specifically about areas of
8 concern to the Brooklyn Sephardic community. I
9 would like to thank the Commission for listening
10 to the concerns of the community during the
11 previous hearing, and specifically for the lines
12 they submitted to the City Council for the 44th
13 Council District.

14 The Sephardic community, initially, was very
15 concerned, because it appeared their community
16 was to be divided up. Thankfully, the Sephardic
17 community is now united in the 44th Council
18 District and we are grateful for that. Please
19 try and ensure that the 44th District lines are
20 the same as the ones that were submitted, so that
21 Borough Park can have more members of the City
22 Council representing it, as opposed to just one.
23 Once again, I thank you for that.

24 Finally, we share concerns about the Jewish
25 population in the 45th, 46th and 48th Districts.

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1 The Jewish population has been disbursed in those
2 districts and we encourage the Commission to take
3 a second look. Thank you very much for your
4 consideration.

5 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
6 will be Jeff Leb, to be followed by Jacob Gold.

7 MR. LEB: Good evening, members of the
8 Commission. Thank you, so much, for giving us an
9 opportunity to share our voices. My name is Jeff
10 Leb. I sit on the board of the Jewish Community
11 Council of Boerum Park. I want to thank the
12 Commission for trying to echo the last two
13 speakers of the 44th Council District. I think
14 it's perfect. Nothing needs to be changed.
15 Great job there.

16 And the 47th District, as well, is a
17 fantastic district, drawn very well, in my point
18 of view. I want to echo the last two speakers.
19 The 48th Council District seems to have lost a
20 lot of Jewish population to the 45th Council
21 District.

22 So if there is any way to take a second look
23 at that and, maybe, reevaluate that, as well as
24 the 46th Council District splits up Marine Park
25 between the 45th and the 46th. It really only

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1 takes a couple of blocks off of it. If we can
2 push that back to Flatlands or Kings Highway,
3 that would be great. Thank you very much for
4 your time and your service is greatly
5 appreciated. Thank you.

6 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
7 is Jacob Gold, to be followed by Steven Weill.

8 MR. GOLD: Distinguished members of the
9 Committee, thank you for your time. My name is
10 Jacob Gold and I have represented the 44th
11 Assembly District since 1975. As the district
12 leader, state committee member, my district
13 encloses Park Slope, Kensington, Borough Park,
14 Ditmas Park and Flatbush.

15 During those 38 years, New York City, as
16 well as Kings County, has undergone great
17 demographic changes. The Commissioners, very
18 wisely, created consummate districts, which would
19 allow opportunities for the Russian-Americans to
20 elect one of their own. Today, we are asking the
21 opportunity to continue this practice by allowing
22 the creation of a Russian-American councilmanic
23 district.

24 New York City is the home to 350,000 Russian
25 immigrants. Over 100,000 live within what

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1 constitutes southern Brooklyn, and over 50,000
2 live within the boundaries of the proposed 48th
3 Councilmanic District. This new population is a
4 great asset to the cultural, spiritual and the
5 economic diversity of the city.

6 To date, we have created Caribbean
7 districts, Spanish-speaking-population districts,
8 and I would urge you to allow the creation of the
9 Russian-American councilmanic district. This
10 would maintain the district with the same
11 community of interest. It would be the right
12 thing to do, for the voting process, and a
13 wonderful thing for Brooklyn and New York City.
14 I thank you and I will give the balance of my
15 time to my next speaker. Thank you very much.

16 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. The next speaker
17 is Steven Weill, to be followed by Miriam
18 Schvimmer.

19 MR. WEILL: Dear members of the New York
20 City Districting Commission, my name is Steven
21 Weill. I am an active resident of the 48th
22 Council District and a member of the Flatbush
23 orthodox Jewish community. I am also the
24 coordinator for the Flatbush Shomrim Safety
25 Patrol, a patrol organized to improve the quality

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1 of life of individuals in the community.

2 I submit this testimony for the January 10th
3 Brooklyn Districting Commission hearings. I
4 strongly urge the Commission to accept the
5 preliminary draft, that was designed by the
6 Districting Commission, and which is fully
7 supported by Councilman Michael Nelson, who has
8 represented the 48th Council District since 1999.

9 For many years, the 48th District has
10 embodied New York City's diversity with countless
11 different ethnic and religious communities living
12 and doing business within our borders. These
13 groups include individuals of varying income
14 levels, native-born Americans, as well as members
15 of the first immigrant communities from the
16 former Soviet Union, China, Pakistan, Turkey,
17 Mexico and many other places around the world.

18 Furthermore, our district is home to the
19 largest concentration of senior citizens in the
20 city. In short, we are no strangers to new
21 cultures. Diversity is something members of the
22 48th District embrace, but it's also absolutely
23 necessary to ensure the fairness of our
24 government. The orthodox Jewish community, like
25 other ethnic groups in the current 48th District,

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1 represent a significant population, but not a
2 majority of the district.

3 My district serves as a model of the
4 American dream, which for the past ten years,
5 each of the voices of the diverse populations
6 living together in our district, have been heard
7 and responded to by government. The major
8 factor, in this remarkable success story, is that
9 no single community had the overwhelming
10 population advantage, so that local government
11 was truly of the people, by the people and for
12 the people.

13 The preliminary draft, if adopted, would
14 ensure that no group would be disenfranchised in
15 the years ahead. I fear that the newly-proposed
16 lines, which were drawn only to serve the
17 interest of the Russian-American community,
18 according to the expressed words of the
19 Districting Commission, true equality would
20 disappear and for no good reason. The orthodox
21 community, in Flatbush, has been carved up into
22 small, insignificant pieces, spread out over many
23 districts.

24 We must do -- (two-minute timer alarmed) --
25 whatever it takes to keep our district as diverse

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1 as possible, to ensure parity and fairness in our
2 elections. Therefore, I strongly urge this
3 Commission to accept the preliminary draft that
4 was submitted. Rather than to heed the advice of
5 a few that are trying to take the high road to
6 power. I hope this Commission sees the
7 importance of the diversity, not only in the
8 48th District, but also in the most diverse city
9 of the world, New York City. Thank you.

10 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you very much. Our
11 next speaker is Miriam Schwimmer, to be followed
12 by David Shlomovich.

13 MS. SCHVIMMER: My name is Miriam Schwimmer.
14 I would like to thank the Commission for giving
15 us the opportunity to speak on the proposed map.
16 I am a lifelong resident of Brooklyn, and a child
17 of Holocaust survivors, who immigrated to Ellis
18 Island, to this land of freedom. I built, from
19 scratch, something from nothing.

20 I, currently, live in the 35th Council
21 District, represented by Letitia James. With the
22 proposed district lines, I will become a resident
23 of the 33rd Council District. I am a proud
24 member of the South Brooklyn community, but I
25 also strive to build relationships with diverse

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1 neighborhoods in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area.

2 Over the past couple of years, I have worked
3 with a diverse coalition of African-American,
4 Latino, new white residents and Hassidic
5 individuals to get community control of an empty
6 City lot we have called Myrtle Village Green. We
7 have benefited, greatly, from the advocacy of
8 Councilwoman James. We were able to get her
9 attention and support, because all of us that are
10 active in the Myrtle Village Green, live in her
11 district.

12 If the newly-proposed lines are approved,
13 then half of us would be located in the
14 33rd District and the other half in the
15 35th District, which would divide our Myrtle
16 Village Green community and diminish our capacity
17 to advocate with a Council member. We are a
18 strong city and a strong community and we find
19 common ground with our neighbors. We work
20 together to achieve shared goals.

21 This Commission has proposed to divide the
22 community in Bedford-Stuyvesant, which will
23 decrease the likelihood that diverse coalitions,
24 like the one that has created Myrtle Village
25 Green, will happen again. I, humbly, request

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1 that you maintain the existing boundaries between
2 the 33rd and 35th Council Districts. Thank you,
3 so much, for the opportunity you have afforded
4 me.

5 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
6 will be David Shlomovich, to be followed by Anna
7 Cali.

8 MR. SHLOMOVICH: Good evening. Thank you,
9 to the Commission, to invest the time to listen
10 to our concerns. I am David Shlomovich. I lived
11 in the community for about 40 years. I served on
12 many civic organizations. I served on the
13 community board, as a board member, chair of the
14 transportation committee, and now I am chair of
15 the zoning committee.

16 I would like to thank the Commission for
17 listening to us, the last time, for our concerns,
18 and to draw the 44th District lines that way for
19 the good of the community. The last lines, to
20 make it to the Council for approval, our
21 community would have two members of the City
22 Council. The Midwood community will continue to
23 be represented by Councilman Greenfield is good.

24 I ask the Commission not to touch the
25 44th District and leave it as proposed. Thank

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1 you very, very much and have a good evening and
2 good night.

3 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
4 is Anna Cali, to be followed by Morton Avigdor.

5 MS. CALI: Good evening. My name is Anna
6 Cali and I live in the Bensonhurst part of
7 District 44. I am also a Community 12 board
8 member. I am an active member of the St.
9 Athanasius parish and I am here with other
10 parishioners and community residents.

11 We are here to inform you that our community
12 supports the current Council District 44 map and
13 we do not want any changes made to it. We want
14 to express, to you, our appreciation for our
15 Councilman, David Greenfield.

16 St. Athanasius is located on Bay Parkway and
17 61st Street, in Bensonhurst, and we have over
18 5,000 parishioners. The neighborhood consists of
19 Italian, Asian, Spanish, Jewish, Muslim and
20 Russian residents. St. Athanasius holds many
21 events, in our school hall, that include people
22 from all over the neighborhood.

23 Our sports programs are also available for
24 all children in our community, and our Golden Age
25 Group holds events, every week, that is open to

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1 everyone in the community as well. All of this
2 is due to the hard work of many residents in
3 conjunction with Councilman David Greenfield's
4 support. We are a very diverse neighborhood and
5 try hard to maintain harmony in our community.

6 Until David Greenfield became our
7 Councilman, the Bensonhurst part of the district
8 went unnoticed and unacknowledged. Our voices
9 were never heard. Our concerns and issues fell
10 on deaf ears. Issues like sanitation,
11 overbuilding, parking problems, cleaning our
12 streets and other issues were never identified or
13 resolved.

14 David came and introduced himself and
15 assured us that this would change. Now, because
16 of him, we have more representation and our
17 community is more recognized. He has become
18 well-known in the St. Athanasius community as
19 well as the overall community of Bensonhurst. He
20 has helped us develop, establish and maintain
21 great and long-lasting relationships within our
22 diverse community, where we have come together to
23 resolve concerns -- (two-minute timer
24 alarmed) -- and issues.

25 Residents have come to know David personally

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1 and have become his friend, and without
2 hesitation, would call on him if any concerns or
3 issues arises. As he helped all of us come
4 together, I am sure that he will help anybody
5 that moves into the neighborhood. We are
6 requesting that you leave District 44 the way it
7 is. Thank you.

8 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you very much. Our
9 next speaker is Morton Avigdor, to be followed by
10 Joseph Yurowitz.

11 MR. AVIGDOR: Districting Commission, my
12 name is Morton Avigdor. I am an attorney,
13 practicing in South Brooklyn, and the president
14 of Congregation Ahavas David. I reside at 957
15 East 10th Street.

16 Please keep the 48th Council District intact
17 as it was. The district has been a model
18 district, of the American dream, where voices, of
19 diverse populations living together, and being
20 heard and responded to by government. This plan,
21 the revised one, is the worst instance of reverse
22 discrimination and direct discrimination that our
23 community has seen, in many years, and acts to
24 dilute the political clout of our community.

25 Look what you have wrought. Like the spokes

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1 of a bicycle wheel, you have damaged our
2 community by splitting us up into the 39th, the
3 40th, the 44th, the 45th and the 48th. We urge
4 you to keep the community, the orthodox Jewish
5 community, of Midwood, culturally and ethnically
6 intact. Thank you.

7 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
8 is Joseph Yurowitz, to be followed by Vito
9 Mannelli.

10 MR. YUROWITZ: Dear members of the New York
11 City Districting Commission, my name is Joseph
12 Yurowitz. I am the director of Our Place, an
13 organization that works with thousands of kids
14 within the 48th and 46th Districts. I am a
15 resident of the neighborhood bordering the 48th,
16 actually in the 46th, directly adjacent to
17 Midwood.

18 I submit this testimony to strongly urge the
19 Commission to accept the preliminary draft map,
20 that was designed by the Districting Commission,
21 and which is fully supported by Councilman
22 Michael C. Nelson, who has represented the
23 48th Council District since 1999.

24 My only additional request, here, is that
25 the preliminary draft be modified, slightly, to

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1 include the areas directly adjacent to the
2 Midwood community, in the 48th Council District,
3 in order to prevent the disenfranchisement of the
4 residents of the area.

5 I and my neighbors in the area are, bounded
6 by Nostrand Avenue, on the west, Flatbush Avenue,
7 on the east, Avenue I, on the north, and Kings
8 Highway on the south, are submitting testimony
9 seeking the approval, of this Commission, of the
10 districting plan, which will help ensure that the
11 particular needs and concerns, of our community,
12 will be heard and responded to by our City
13 Council member.

14 We join the other groups, in the current
15 48th Council District, seeking to maintain
16 diversity in the district by ensuring diverse
17 groups retain a significant presence in the
18 district, and that no one group has a numeric
19 majority guaranteeing the election of a member of
20 that group, such that all other groups would be
21 effectively disenfranchised.

22 Our community is geographically contiguous
23 to the Midwood community, but the geography,
24 alone, does not call for our inclusion with
25 Midwood in the 48th District. Our community is,

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1 effectively, an extension of Midwood, in that we
2 are economically, culturally and religiously
3 compatible with Midwood.

4 The issues and concerns, that we face each
5 day, are those that residents of Midwood deal
6 with every day. A district line separating us
7 from Midwood is an artificial boundary having no
8 relevance to the facts on the ground. The
9 Council member, from Midwood, is best able to
10 represent us.

11 Together with Midwood, in the 48th
12 District -- (two-minute timer alarmed) -- we
13 would constitute an important presence in the
14 political process of a diverse, multicultural
15 district, in the 46th District, and will be,
16 effectively, disenfranchised, as an insignificant
17 minority easily to be ignored. Thank you very
18 much.

19 MR. HACKWORTH: Our next speaker is Vito
20 Mannelli, to be followed by Raphael Treitel.

21 MR. MANNELLI: Good evening. My name is
22 Vito Mannelli. I just ask that you leave
23 District 44 the way it is currently. The
24 deviation is minuscule. So it only will affect
25 those that are being carved out, and it serves no

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1 purpose other than to really change for change.
2 I really like the way it is now. It represents
3 the community well. Thank you.

4 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
5 is Raphael Treitel, to be followed by Joseph
6 Mehlman.

7 MS. TREITEL: Good evening. My name is
8 Raphael Treitel. I am a resident of the
9 neighborhood bordering the 48th Council District
10 directly adjacent to Midwood. I am submitting my
11 testimony to strongly urge this Commission to
12 accept the preliminary draft map, that was
13 designed by the Districting Commission, as
14 previously mentioned by Councilman Nelson, who
15 represents the 48th District.

16 My request, as previously mentioned by some
17 of the other testimony, is that our area, which
18 is adjacent to the Midwood community, be included
19 in the 48th Council District, in order to make
20 sure that the common needs and goals of the
21 people, of that district, are met.

22 I and my neighbors have very similar needs
23 to those of the residents of the Midwood
24 district, across all levels, community leaders
25 are involved in many organizations and servicing

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1 the many needs of the community. I am able to
2 testify to the truth of that statement, that we
3 are a very commonly-focused group of individuals,
4 needing effective representation.

5 And should our small part of the
6 neighborhood be separated from the large
7 majority, it would, effectively, leave us without
8 adequate and necessary representation. And so I
9 join the other groups, that are currently in the
10 48th Council District, seeking to maintain, both,
11 the diversity and the cooperation that exists in
12 that district among all the different ethnic
13 populations and groups that are so, effectively,
14 working together.

15 I would hope that you would see the need to
16 keep individuals, that have been having a working
17 relationship and really coexisting as a group
18 together, and not separate them through arbitrary
19 and capricious lines, that would leave them
20 without the ability to work together towards a
21 common good of all. Thank you very much.

22 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
23 is Josh Mehlman, to be followed by Alexander
24 Rapaport.

25 MR. MEHLMAN: Hi. Good evening. My name is

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1 Josh Mehlman. I am addressing you as a resident
2 and business owner in the 48th Council District,
3 as well as the leader of the South Brooklyn
4 Community Coalition. As a former executive board
5 member of Community Board 15, and involved with
6 city government for over 30 years, I harbor a
7 deep concern regarding the Commission's original
8 proposal.

9 We represent many thousands of concerned
10 residents, business leaders, community activists,
11 rabbis, synagogues, yeshivas and nonprofit
12 organizations, for both the Sephardic and
13 Ashkenazi Jewish communities in the Midwood and
14 Flatbush areas.

15 The new lines, as proposed, will
16 disenfranchise our wonderful community. They
17 will be extremely divisive and disrupt a strong,
18 politically-effective system that is working
19 currently, very well, for our institutions. We
20 are heavily invested in our homes, businesses and
21 community institutions, and many people will not
22 sit back and just allow it to be divided up.

23 If this goes forward unchanged, it will
24 certainly backfire and cause problems that may be
25 unforeseen. The orthodox community has grown

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1 exponentially and this attempt to divide us is
2 unconstitutional, in our opinion, and it will
3 serve to the detriment of our community.

4 Mixing our orthodox community with groups,
5 that do not share our interests, is wrong and
6 counterproductive. Please do not attempt to fix
7 other communities' concerns by harming ours.
8 This was not the intent at the formation of the
9 Commission, I am sure, and I am sure that is not
10 what anyone, on this board, intends to
11 happen (two-minute timer alarmed).

12 We implore you to do the right thing and do
13 not change the 48th Council District at all. We
14 do not want to be divided up. We ask you two
15 things. Respectfully, we implore you and plead
16 with you to leave us intact. Do not divide the
17 48th and try to fix what is not broken.

18 Number two, we request that you help our
19 community by adding the east 30s portion of the
20 45th Council District to 48th area, Council
21 District, which will help us in keeping the same
22 area and the same type of community stronger for
23 the future.

24 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you very much.

25 MR. MEHLMAN: Thank you for your compassion

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1 and your understanding.

2 MR. HACKWORTH: Our next speaker is
3 Alexander Rapaport, to be followed by Yeruchim
4 Silber.

5 MR. RAPAPORT: Hello. My name is Alexander
6 Rapaport. I run a network of soup kitchens. Two
7 of them are in Brooklyn. I am here for -- I'm
8 not sure how your terminology works, but the
9 latest submission is the one that I am here for.
10 And the reason I am here for, is my best maven,
11 in government, is Council Member David
12 Greenfield.

13 And he is telling us that that is the way he
14 would like it. That's what I believe in and
15 that's what I hope you guys will do, and that's
16 all I need, and I hope I make my point, and I
17 will give you the rest of the time.

18 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you for that very
19 honest testimony. Our next speaker is Yeruchim
20 Silber, to be followed by the Honorable Council
21 Member Stephen Levin.

22 MR. SILBER: Thank you. For all the members
23 of the Districting Commission, first let me thank
24 you on behalf of the citizens of New York for
25 your very important work in ensuring that all New

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1 Yorkers are properly and adequately represented
2 in the City Council.

3 My name is Yeruchim Silber. I serve as
4 executive director of the Borough Park Jewish
5 Community Council. Since 1997, the JCC has
6 served as a one-stop shop for all the
7 social-service needs of thousands of residents of
8 Borough Park and the surrounding areas of Sunset
9 Park, Dyker Heights and Kensington.

10 This past October, I had the honor of
11 testifying before the Commission during the first
12 round of hearings. At that time, I and many
13 others asked that the Borough Park community
14 continue to be represented by both, the 44th and
15 39th Council Districts, in keeping an historical
16 representation of two members, thus increasing
17 the advocacy of the City Council for the needs of
18 our community.

19 I was most heartened when the Commission
20 released its initial draft. Most concerns were
21 addressed satisfactorily. However, I was most
22 disheartened by the composition of the
23 neighboring 48th District, which has many of the
24 same needs of the 44th. The orthodox Jewish
25 community has grown exponentially over the past

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1 decades, now numbering in the approximate area of
2 500,000 persons. A good deal of that population
3 resides in the current lines of the
4 48th District.

5 However, the lines, as I previously
6 mentioned, the lines, as currently proposed,
7 remove large portions of that population and
8 place them in adjoining districts. This would
9 significantly reduce the interest of our
10 community as the population remains spread over
11 several districts.

12 I, respectfully, ask the Commission to
13 restore the portions of the orthodox Jewish
14 population by removing them from adjoining
15 districts, particularly the 45th, and allowing
16 the representative, of the 48th, to represent a
17 growing and thriving community. Thank you for
18 listening.

19 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
20 is the Honorable Council Member Stephen Levin, to
21 be followed by Joel Fuchs.

22 MR. LEVIN: Thank you very much, members of
23 the Commission, for the opportunity to testify
24 before you today. My name is Stephen Levin. I
25 am currently the Council member for the

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1 33rd District in Brooklyn, which includes the
2 neighborhoods of Greenpoint, Williamsburg, South
3 Williamsburg, the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Vinegar
4 Hill, DUMBO, Fulton Ferry Landing, Downtown
5 Brooklyn, Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill and Park
6 Slope, as you can see, a lot of neighborhoods.

7 The 33rd District is remarkably diverse,
8 both ethnically and geographically, and I
9 consider it an honor, every day, to represent all
10 of these wonderful neighborhoods in the New York
11 City Council.

12 First, I would like to thank the Commission
13 and the Commissioners for the diligence that you
14 have exhibited throughout this process. It is a
15 massive and extremely complex endeavor to balance
16 the various interests that exist, at times, at
17 odds with one another, within each of the 51
18 districts of the New York City Council, in each
19 of the five boroughs, and in the City as a whole.

20 With regard to the proposed lines of the
21 33rd District and its neighboring districts, I
22 believe that the lines, presented in early
23 December, reflect the population shifts that have
24 occurred in North Brooklyn over the past ten
25 years. The 33rd District, currently, has a

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1 population of roughly 171,000 people, which is
2 well over the target population of 160,000 for
3 the council district.

4 Therefore, a geographical decrease in the
5 district is inevitable. And the proposal to
6 reduce the district, at the southeastern edge, in
7 Park Slope makes sense. Under the previously
8 proposed line, Park Slope would be redrawn into
9 the 39th District, which would allow all of Park
10 Slope to be represented by a unified council
11 district.

12 This is a concern that I have heard from
13 constituents of mine, in Park Slope, throughout
14 my three-year tenure (two-minute timer alarmed).
15 In addition, the Commission has proposed
16 including several additional election districts,
17 in northern Bedford-Stuyvesant, in the
18 33rd District. Over the past ten years, this
19 area has gone from being mostly manufacturing and
20 industrial to, significantly, residential as the
21 orthodox population in Williamsburg, which is
22 currently almost entirely within the
23 33rd District, has moved south.

24 This expansion makes sense for two reasons.
25 First, this would allow the orthodox Jewish

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1 community, in the North Brooklyn, within a
2 unified council district.

3 Secondly, and perhaps more importantly --
4 perhaps most importantly, this shift would allow
5 for the 35th Council District, which has seen a
6 tremendous increase in the Caucasian population,
7 over the last ten years, to maintain its status
8 as a majority/minority district. Something, that
9 I believe, is important for the diversity of the
10 Brooklyn Council Delegation and the City Council
11 as a whole.

12 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you.

13 MR. LEVIN: I have written testimony with
14 regard two other areas as well.

15 MR. HACKWORTH: You can hand it up. Our
16 next speaker will be Joel Fuchs, to be followed
17 by Gary Schlesinger.

18 MR. FUCHS: My name is Joel Fuchs. I want
19 to thank you, thank the Commission for your good
20 work and your efforts on behalf of our community.
21 I would like to request that the district lines,
22 of 44th District, in our community, remain the
23 same and that we continue to be represented by
24 Council Member Greenfield. Thank you.

25 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker

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1 will be Gary Schlesinger, to be followed by
2 Bennett Baruch.

3 MR. SCHLESINGER: Hi. My name is Gary
4 Schlesinger. I am a representative of the
5 Williamsburg Jewish community. I am a father,
6 husband, committed activist for my community,
7 which is located in the 35th and the 33rd Council
8 District. I am very upset about the proposed
9 alteration of the 33rd Council District
10 represented by Councilman Stephen Levin, who just
11 testified, to include a portion of
12 Bedford-Stuyvesant.

13 This plan, which has been supported by the
14 Districting Commission, hurts my community, and I
15 hope, very much, you will reserve your proposal.
16 We do not benefit from a super-Jewish district.
17 Our community depends on having a diverse set of
18 elected officials, who understand our issues and
19 advocates on our behalf. This plan transforms
20 the 33rd Council District from a brownstone
21 district into a Jewish ghetto.

22 This is not an exaggeration. Now, more than
23 ever, with our growing community needing
24 assistance with affordable housing and expanded
25 programs for our youth, I ask you to reverse

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1 this. Keep the boundary within the 33rd and
2 35th District the same as they have been.

3 You are dramatically reducing the power of
4 our vote by limiting us to just one district. We
5 don't want just one single council member.
6 Council Member Letitia James, who testified here
7 before, said that she wants to stay with our
8 community and is a great advocate for our needs.

9 Councilman Levin, who just testified now,
10 has his hands full in the current 33rd District
11 and cannot and should not take home more, even a
12 sliver from the 35th District. Thank you very
13 much for listening.

14 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
15 is Bennett Baruch, to be followed by Jerome
16 Gross.

17 MR. BARUCH: Good evening Districting
18 Commission. My name is Bennett Baruch and I am a
19 resident of the 33 Council District. I have come
20 today to comment on the seemingly random
21 incorporation of a portion of Bedford-Stuyvesant
22 into the district I live, which includes the
23 neighborhoods of DUMBO, Brooklyn Heights,
24 Boerum Hill, Gowanus, Williamsburg and
25 Greenpoint. None of which are communities that

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1 have all of that in common with Bed-Stuyvesant.

2 In my perspective, the Commission has two
3 alternatives to remedy the situation. Firstly,
4 and preferably, would be to reverse this proposal
5 all together and not move any portions of the
6 Bedford-Stuyvesant into the 33rd Council
7 District.

8 The current incumbent, Council member
9 Letitia James, a distinguished lawyer in her own
10 right, has indicated that reversing this proposal
11 would not impact the Voting Rights Act, as a
12 large majority of more than 70 percent of
13 residents would be nonwhite, and a sizable
14 plurality of more than 48 percent of residents
15 would be African-American. The 33rd District
16 could take on additional voters from that
17 neighboring district that has population to
18 spare, such as the 39th District.

19 The second option would be to maintain the
20 southern portion of this area under
21 consideration, from Myrtle Avenue, to the north,
22 and DeKalb Avenue, to the south, and Classon
23 Avenue, to the west, and Nostrand Avenue, to the
24 east of the 35th District. These changes would
25 remove the Bed-Stuy addition south of Myrtle

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1 Avenue, rather than the current aggressive
2 extension that uses the southern boundary of
3 DeKalb Avenue.

4 This change would leave around 6,500
5 residents and keep all of the districts well
6 within the deviation allowed for each district's
7 total population. In addition, this change would
8 barely change the racial dynamics for
9 non-Hispanic blacks, and their protected status
10 within the 35th Council District, that forms a
11 majority to elect a candidate of choice.

12 The voting age population goes from
13 51.1 percent, in the Council proposal, to
14 50 percent with this change. Overall, the
15 non-Hispanic white population -- (two-minute
16 timer alarmed) -- white percentage changes by
17 only .7 percent.

18 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you very much. Our
19 next speaker is Jerome Gross, to be followed by
20 Marcelo Fischer.

21 MR. GROSS: Good evening, dear Districting
22 Commission, my name is Jerome Gross. I reside at
23 963 East 28th Street. Please keep the 48th
24 Council District intact and not allow the
25 division and isolation of our community. For the

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1 past ten years, the 48th Council District has
2 been a model district of the American dream,
3 where voices of diverse populations were living
4 together and has been heard and responded to by
5 government.

6 We urge you to keep the continuity of our
7 orthodox Jewish residents of Midwood and cultural
8 and ethnicity intact. Thank you and have a good
9 evening.

10 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
11 is Marcelo Fischer, to be followed by Deborah
12 Howard.

13 MR. FISCHER: Good evening. My name is
14 Marcelo Fischer. I am a resident at 3084 East
15 34th Street. Please keep the 48th Council
16 District intact and not allow the division and
17 isolation of our community. For the past ten
18 years, the 48th Council District has been a model
19 district of the American dream. We are voices of
20 a diverse population who are living together and
21 have been heard and responded to by government.

22 We urge you to keep the continuity of our
23 orthodox Jewish residents of Midwood and cultural
24 and ethnicity intact. Thank you.

25 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker

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1 is Deborah Howard, to be followed by Hindy
2 Bendel.

3 MS. HOWARD: Good evening. My name is Deb
4 Howard. I am the executive director of the Pratt
5 Area Community Council. I would like to thank
6 Chairman Romano, and the members of the
7 Commission, and your team for providing this
8 opportunity for the public to speak on the
9 proposed plans and to ensure the best
10 representation of New Yorkers.

11 The Pratt Area Community Council is a local,
12 nonprofit, community-development corporation
13 serving Community Districts 2, 3 and 8, including
14 the neighborhoods of Clinton Hill and
15 Bedford-Stuyvesant, which are affected by the
16 proposed redistricting of the boundaries of the
17 33rd and 35th Districts.

18 I am concerned most about the northwestern
19 portion of Bedford-Stuyvesant being moved from
20 the 35th District into the dissimilar
21 33rd District, comprised of neighborhoods like
22 Brooklyn Heights and Greenpoint.

23 Bedford-Stuyvesant is an historic, important
24 community that would have its voice diluted by
25 the currently-proposed map.

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1 The 33rd Council District proposed
2 redistricting also adds Community Board 3 to its
3 responsibilities of that council district, which
4 already encompasses Community Boards 1, 2 and 6.
5 It makes it very diluted. The community board is
6 just one of the many official city agency maps
7 that reflect the division of communities of
8 Williamsburg and Bedford-Stuyvesant, at the
9 Flushing Avenue border, which is a clear
10 demarcation and reflected in the existing council
11 map.

12 This Commission is also proposing to slice
13 off portions of the 79th and the 81st Police
14 Precincts, that have distinct and separate
15 concerns than the neighboring 90th Precinct, in
16 Williamsburg, to accommodate them into the 33rd
17 Council District. In partnership with community
18 residents, and under the auspices of the DEP, we
19 are responsible for managing a large, open space
20 in Community Board 3, at Myrtle and Franklin,
21 which is called the Myrtle Village Green.

22 In the redistricting, this site is set to be
23 moved from the 35th to the 33rd District. We
24 have already been working, with community input,
25 including members of CB 3 and are planning

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1 to -- (two-minute timer alarmed) -- further the
2 Village Green. Okay. My one last comment is
3 also that city contracts are also by community
4 district, which makes it very difficult if we
5 then have to have another Council person to
6 report to and reflect with on the particular
7 Community Board 3 contracts that we have. Thank
8 you.

9 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
10 is Hindy Bendel, to be followed by Moishe Indig.

11 MS. BENDEL: Hi. I will be short and brief.
12 Good evening. I want to thank you for the
13 opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Hindy
14 Bendel and I am a member of CB 14, an active
15 member of the community, and a homeowner in this
16 area.

17 We are very happy with the last lines that
18 were submitted to the City Council for the 44th
19 Council District. We are asking, this esteemed
20 Commission, to please resubmit the exact same
21 lines to the City Council because these lines
22 empower our community.

23 We thank the Commission for being attentive
24 to the community's concerns, and we know that you
25 will assist in our continued growth, and under

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1 esteemed City Council Member David Greenfield.

2 Thank you so much and have a wonderful evening.

3 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
4 is Moishe Indig, to be followed by Gavriel
5 Yarmish.

6 MR. INDIG: Hi. My name is Rabbi Moishe
7 Indig. I am representing the Williamsburg Jewish
8 orthodox community. I am the vice president of
9 JCC of Williamsburg. First, I want to thank you,
10 very much, for taking the time to listen to what
11 we have to say.

12 It's very important for you to know what
13 this is about. I think it's more than three
14 years already that our Honorable Councilman,
15 Steve Levin, is already here at the
16 33rd District. He just mentioned how big the
17 district is and how many he is representing.
18 What I want to tell you, as a community
19 representative, and I live in the 33rd District,
20 I live there in Williamsburg.

21 It's over three years already that we keep
22 on asking for an appointment, for our Council
23 member, to listen -- we have a lot of things that
24 we need to discuss. And so far, unfortunately,
25 he didn't have the time to give us as many times

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1 as it was ready, canceled at the last minute. So
2 I would like to ask you, please, if you want to
3 help the community, if you want to take a part of
4 the 33rd District, put it over to the 35th, you
5 will help the community.

6 If you want to help just somebody get
7 elected, for just his own political reasons, then
8 you can give him whatever he wants, 33, 34, 35.
9 I don't know. This is not for the community.
10 The community is already -- we have much more
11 than he can handle. So I will ask you, please,
12 don't do that. Don't take more than he can take.
13 Thank you very much.

14 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
15 is Gavriel Yarmish, to be followed by Mark Taub.

16 MS. YARMISH: Thank you very much. I am not
17 going to make this long. I will make this pretty
18 short. Thank you, very much, for hearing me. I
19 will say that my name is Gavriel Yarmish. I am a
20 resident of the 48th District and I support
21 keeping, as Councilman Nelson had suggested, and
22 making the district to keep us together.

23 Let me just make two quick points. One is
24 that our district has elected two
25 Russian-Americans and we are not -- there is no

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1 real concern of the Russian-American community
2 not being represented. I will just tell you the
3 two names of people we have elected. One is New
4 York State Senator David Storobin and Assemblyman
5 Alec Brook-Krasny represented in the
6 48th District community. So that's not a
7 concern.

8 What we are concerned is mainly,
9 specifically, from Avenues I to Avenue M, which
10 is really that is really our community. It's
11 part of the same community and it's cut off right
12 now, and those few blocks are cut off and put in
13 another district. We want to get them back
14 together. That's why we support what Councilman
15 Michael Nelson is suggesting. Thank you very
16 much.

17 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
18 is Mark Taub, to be followed by Chaim Deutsch.

19 MR. TAUB: Good evening. For the past
20 decade, the 40th District has been a neighborhood
21 where families settle down and live among their
22 peers in peace and harmony. We, respectfully,
23 implore you to keep the continuity of the
24 orthodox Jewish community intact. This is a
25 grave mistake for a community that, multicultural

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1 as it is, is so united and unique, unlike any
2 other in New York City.

3 Dear members of the Commission, please
4 listen to our voices and look into our eyes so
5 that your heart can feel our concerns. This is
6 not what America is about. We don't divide
7 groups and minorities. Ellis Island, which took
8 in millions of people, a landmark of New York
9 City representing tradition, freedom and
10 multicultural ethnicities.

11 Are we uprooting what our ancestors fought
12 so hard to obtain?

13 Please use the powers, that you assure to
14 uphold with honor, and respect, and keep a
15 flourishing community, that has already
16 contributed so much in this city, intact for
17 decades to come. Thank you, very much, and God
18 bless you all. Thank you.

19 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
20 is Chaim Deutsch, to be followed by Elimelech
21 Plotsker.

22 MR. DEUTSCH: The honorable members of the
23 New York City Districting Commission, my name is
24 Chaim Deutsch, like you just mentioned. I moved
25 to Midwood in 1998 where I reside with my wife,

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1 five children, father and mother-in-law, daughter
2 and son-in-law, and beautiful grandson. Not in
3 the same house, but in the same neighborhood.

4 In the early 1990s, when crime reached
5 unseen new heights, I founded the Flatbush Armed
6 Safety Patrol to improve the quality of life of
7 all the residents of Midwood. Midwood is where I
8 plan on spending the rest of my life. I enjoy
9 its diversity and the fact that multicultural
10 families are living together in harmony. This is
11 what the American dream is all about.

12 Most recently, I have helped form a patrol
13 in the African-American community, and now I am
14 in the process of forming another patrol in the
15 Pakistani-American community. I have always
16 admired and respected people from all races and
17 religions, and find it most gratifying when
18 diverse groups are able to work together for
19 common good. After all, this is New York.

20 It is imperative that any redistricting plan
21 preserve Midwood as a unified, multicultural
22 community. This is the American dream, the way
23 of New York and the way of Brooklyn. The police
24 department and other City agencies have long
25 recognized the strong bond in my community.

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1 I urge the Commission to unite, not to
2 divide, to strengthen, not to weaken, to build,
3 not to destroy an already strong, cohesive and
4 vibrant community. Please adopt the previous
5 district map proposed by this Commission and
6 approved by Councilman Nelson.

7 In this action, I am asking the Commission
8 to add in from Nostrand Avenue to Flatbush Avenue
9 and from Avenue I to Kings Highway, the Fraser
10 community, and to include that into the 48th
11 Council District to keep the orthodox community
12 in a diverse population.

13 I strongly urge you the Commission to keep
14 the 48th Council District -- (two-minute timer
15 alarmed) -- as a model district it has been for
16 the last ten years. Thank you.

17 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
18 is Elimelech Plotsker, to be followed by Tzvi
19 Plotsker.

20 MR. PLOTSKER: Elimelech Plotsker. I am
21 Elimelech Plotsker. I have lived, all my life,
22 in excess of 70 years, in Brooklyn, and more than
23 half of that time, in the 48th District. I would
24 appreciate it if you would continue to not
25 destroy, or move, or cut up a pie of the

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1 48th District, and move them into two or three
2 other districts so that their voices become null
3 and void. They have no say in anything.

4 Right now, if it works, why mess with it?

5 It's a good working district. It has been
6 so for many years and there is no reason to move
7 it. I, therefore, ask that you maintain, with
8 your power, the power given to you to maintain
9 the 48th District, which is, I believe, from
10 Coney Island Avenue to Nostrand, and now it
11 should be to Flatbush as well, because that
12 district has also gotten many more orthodox
13 Jewish residents in there.

14 People are buying homes, spending fortunes
15 of money and then all of a sudden, people
16 migrate, whether it's the African-American
17 community, whether it's the Jewish-American
18 community, whether it's the -- any community. I
19 apologize, the Asian community. My geography is
20 not that great. Everyone migrates to his own
21 kind because they are comfortable there.

22 Why mess with it?

23 Please keep, we beg you, please keep the
24 48th Council District as it has been in the past
25 and don't change it. Certainly, don't cut it up

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1 like it's some sort of a pie. Thank you, very
2 much, for listening. I look forward to your not
3 only listening, but accomplishing what we all ask
4 for.

5 I have listened to the speeches here
6 tonight -- I listened to the speeches here
7 tonight, and so far, a substantial percentage of
8 the people, that have spoken here, speak about
9 keeping it the way it was.

10 Why mess with it?

11 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Your time is up.
12 Thank you. Our next speaker is Tzvi Plotsker, to
13 be followed by Sam Tsang.

14 MR. PLOTSKER: Dear members of the
15 Commission of the New York Districting
16 Commission, my name is Tzvi Plotsker. I live and
17 am an active resident in the 48th Council
18 District for over 30 years. I am involved in
19 helping the sick and infirm, spending, also, much
20 time as a community board member of my community.

21 I strongly urge that this Commission accept
22 the preliminary draft map, that was designed by
23 the Districting Commission, and which is fully
24 supported by Councilman Mike Nelson, who
25 represented us since 1999.

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1 For many years, the 48th Council District
2 has embodied New York City's diversity with
3 countless different ethnic and religious
4 communities living and doing business within our
5 borders. These groups include varying income
6 levels, native-born Americans, as well as members
7 of diverse immigrant communities from the former
8 Soviet Union, China, Pakistan, Turkey, Mexico and
9 many other places around the world. This is what
10 I would call, truly, the definition of a
11 multicultural community.

12 The preliminary draft, if adopted, would
13 ensure that no group would be disenfranchised in
14 the years ahead. Any shifts favoring a
15 comparatively large Russian-American community is
16 a shift away from everyone else in this highly
17 diverse, multicultural district. On a national
18 level, gerrymandering occurs when districts are
19 drawn to minimize opposition to a political
20 party's voice.

21 On the local level, this is what it appears
22 to be at this time. Finally, these changes
23 should be voted by the people, for the people, so
24 that it can be an actual
25 representation (two-minute timer alarmed).

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1 I do just want to bring two points, that you
2 mentioned in the beginning, opening arguments,
3 and I will conclude. And that is, leaving the
4 established community intact is what was part of
5 what the job is here, and, also, you mentioned
6 about not diminishing its political influence.
7 Thank you very much.

8 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
9 is Sam Tsang, to be followed by Bing Xu.

10 MR. TSANG: Good evening. Ladies and
11 gentlemen, my name is Sam Tsang. I am a resident
12 of the 48th Council District and active member of
13 the Avenue U Asian-American Merchants Group, the
14 61st Precinct Community Council and a member of
15 Community Board 15. I have served as a liaison
16 between my community and elected officials for
17 over ten years. The 48th Council District is
18 home to many Asian-Americans and I am a proud to
19 say that Asian-Americans comprise more than
20 80 percent of the population in Sheepshead Bay
21 alone.

22 Tonight, I come to you as a concerned member
23 of this Asian community in Brooklyn. We strongly
24 urge that the Commission accept the proposed
25 draft map that is supported by Councilman Nelson,

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1 Michael Nelson. For many years now, under the
2 stewardship of Councilman Nelson, district lines
3 have been fair and harmonious, extend assistance
4 amongst District 48's diverse peoples, and so we
5 trust Councilman Nelson's judgment.

6 We don't want to see anyone overpower any of
7 the others. We don't want to see a shifting of
8 total control of resources over to any one group.
9 We want to see that the distributions of power
10 remain in balance.

11 So -- (two-minute timer alarmed) -- in
12 conclusion, we are -- I emphasize, we stand
13 behind Councilman Nelson's support of the
14 proposed draft map of the 48th District, the
15 borders.

16 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you very much. Our
17 next speaker will be Bing Xu, to be followed by
18 Abraham Brown.

19 MR. XU: Good evening everybody. My name is
20 Bing Xu. I am a resident of the 48th District, a
21 proud member of the Asian-American community.
22 Tonight, I come here because I would like to wish
23 and to ask everybody not to change our
24 48th District. Because out of 11, the
25 Russian-American representative made argument

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1 that preliminary map, for the 48th District,
2 which would move Manhattan Beach from a part
3 where diverse, and give it opportunity for them
4 to win election in our district.

5 And after they give you the solution, like
6 to the 48th District, and want to completely
7 trust multicultural of the 48th District, which
8 creating a super-Russian district, and I have a
9 real problem if everyone were to -- sorry.

10 If Russian-American would elect to City
11 Council by officials, should be elect based on
12 not just because was guaranteed by some super
13 majority of a group. And here, I wish that
14 Commissioners see the importance of the culture
15 of that was our district.

16 And so, tonight, here, I would strongly urge
17 that Commission to accept the preliminary draft
18 map, that was designed by the Districting
19 Commission, and which is fully supported by the
20 Councilman, Michael Nelson, who has represented
21 48th Council District since 1999. Thank you.

22 MR. HACKWORTH: Our next speaker will be
23 Abraham Brown, to be followed by Harry
24 Klaristenfeld.

25 Do we have Abraham Brown?

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1 Harry Klaristenfeld?

2 MR. KLARISTENFELD: Thank you and good
3 evening. My name is Harry Klaristenfeld. I am
4 an active resident of the 48th Council District
5 and a member of the orthodox Jewish community. I
6 would like to add my voice to those who urge this
7 Commission to accept the preliminary draft map,
8 that was designed by the Districting Commission,
9 which is supported by Councilman Nelson.

10 As you have heard, and as you know, this is
11 a coherent group orthodox Jews within the
12 48th District. They are not a large component.
13 They are fairly small. If we break them down
14 into a lot of pieces, then we are going to,
15 effectively, nullify their voice. That cannot be
16 the objective.

17 Now, what we have heard, publically stated,
18 is that the reason this needs to be done is
19 because we want to have a super-majority Russian
20 district. This is not the way we are supposed to
21 do things. I want to make clear what my
22 background is here. During the 1960s and 1970s,
23 I regularly demonstrated in front of the Russian
24 embassy. I got clobbered with the billy clubs
25 and I think that people were trying to leave the

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1 Soviet Union to come to this great country.

2 Nobody, in this room, wants the
3 Russian-American group to be successful more than
4 I do. I am thrilled whenever they accomplish
5 that, but that is not the reason that we are
6 supposed to change everything else. We cannot do
7 that. Voting is a separate issue. It's supposed
8 to be based on the merits.

9 I think that what was put forth originally
10 is a workable plan, as many people said. I won't
11 repeat all the same words. We will put in our
12 things, our written comments. Let's not
13 completely disenfranchise the orthodox Jews by
14 splitting them into many pieces. I thank you
15 very much.

16 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
17 is Victor Shine, to be followed by Avraham Kahn.

18 MR. SHINE: Chairman Romano and members of
19 the re-Districting Commission committee, good
20 evening and thank you for your vital work. My
21 name is Victor Shine and I represent Congregation
22 Shaarei Zeiler in Flatbush, one of the oldest
23 institutions in the neighborhood.

24 How many of you folks know what a "chellent"
25 is?

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1 Anybody?

2 Well, it's a Jewish stew, that we cook on
3 Friday, and it cooks on Friday nights so we can
4 eat it on Saturdays. It's got beans. It's got
5 meat. It's got barley and potatoes and all sorts
6 of good things. And the thing that makes it
7 taste so good is the diversity of the
8 ingredients. Now, if the ingredients dissolve,
9 what you have on your hands is mush. You want
10 the meat to be meat. You want the potatoes to
11 stay potatoes. So it's important that each of
12 the individual parts remain a whole.

13 Among the diverse community, Brooklyn enjoys
14 one of the largest orthodox Jewish communities on
15 the planet. We have unique sensitivities and
16 needs, which should continue to be represented as
17 they have been in the past. It almost seems to
18 me like a dart was thrown into the heart of my
19 community and then dividing lines drawn from
20 there.

21 That divides a strong and vibrant community
22 and the unique voice that helps us make such a
23 viable contribution to the local canvas. I urge
24 you to keep the 48th Council District fully
25 intact and join the East 30s areas of Midwood

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1 into our district. Thank you, very much, for
2 your time.

3 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
4 is Avraham Kahn, to be followed by Lincoln
5 Restler.

6 MR. KAHN: Thank you, the Commission, for
7 being here. I want to thank you for the Borough
8 Park seats, but the neighborhood, where I am
9 living, is the 48th District, and I am involved.
10 I work as the director of development for COJO of
11 Flatbush. One of the greatest things that I
12 experienced in my district, of the 48th District,
13 is that I could have friends, of all communities,
14 come together and feel a part of the voting
15 process.

16 And right now, what we are doing is, we are
17 taking the voting process and throwing it away.
18 We are making the 48th District into a one-market
19 system. We got to make this change to have it
20 equally separated just like it was before. We
21 are in a great community. We are in a great
22 district. Let's leave it the way it is.

23 Let's keep it the way it is and we will have
24 great success in building our community to be the
25 greatest community in the entire Brooklyn.

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1 District 48 has to stay the same, I beg you.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
4 will be Lincoln Restler, to be followed by
5 Michael Sharf.

6 MS. RESTLER: Thank you very much. Good
7 evening members of the Commission. Thank you for
8 giving us the opportunity to testify, yet again,
9 and for your patience in being here this evening,
10 and taking on this truly impossible task. I
11 would also like to recognize and thank Carl Hum,
12 who has been an exemplary public servant and
13 civic leader, for many years, across the city.

14 I, formerly, served as the district leader
15 in the 50th Assembly District, among many other
16 affiliations. I would like to also just comment,
17 briefly, on the Commission, generally, and make a
18 couple of specific comments about the Brooklyn
19 districts.

20 Firstly, I would like to thank you and
21 congratulate you for making the changes, as it
22 relates to Vito Lopez, and moving him out of the
23 34th Assembly District. That was a very
24 necessary and important change.

25 I also would like to raise a couple of

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1 concerns, firstly, that the fact that incumbent
2 protection has been a stated objective of this
3 Commission. I cannot understand and think it is
4 unacceptable. It is not yet too late for you to
5 reverse that decision in taking incumbent
6 protection into account.

7 Secondly, I am concerned about lack of
8 transparency in this process. While we have had
9 a number of public hearings, we, as the public,
10 deserve to know who has met with the Commission
11 and Commission staff, what phone conversations,
12 what meetings have taken place. I don't believe
13 that serving the interests, of incumbent elected
14 officials, should stand above the interests of
15 the public.

16 As it relates to Brooklyn districts,
17 briefly, the 33rd Council District grew in
18 population more than any other district in
19 Brooklyn, and yet, in these new lines, you are
20 taking an additional portion of
21 Bedford-Stuyvesant and moving it from the 35th
22 into the 33rd. This makes no sense. You are
23 dividing Bedford-Stuyvesant into four different
24 councilmanic districts.

25 You can maintain the boundaries, that exist

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1 today, without upsetting the Voting Rights Act.
2 That should be done. Please reverse the
3 modification that you have proposed. What you
4 can do in addition to that is, I think that it is
5 laudable that you have created -- (two-minute
6 timer alarmed) -- one Park Slope district.

7 I would recommend making the dividing line,
8 between 33rd and 39th Districts, 5th Avenue
9 rather than 4th, which will still maintain the
10 unity of Park Slope, but allow for a clearer
11 division between the communities.

12 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you very much.

13 MR. RESTLER: I just would also like to say
14 that today there was a great article, in The New
15 Yorker, about Steven Cole -- by Steven Cole,
16 about the problems of gerrymandering really
17 hurting our Congress and bringing Washington to a
18 halt.

19 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you very much.

20 MR. RESTLER: In the 33rd District, by
21 creating a super-Jewish district, we have a
22 similar risk at play.

23 MR. HACKWORTH: Our next speaker will be
24 Michael Sharf, to be followed by Aaron Rosenfeld.

25 MR. SHARF: I will try to keep my time down

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1 to average, so you don't have to wait too long.
2 My name is Michael Sharf. I live in the
3 neighborhood that is very close to the
4 48th District, that is just up on the picture
5 there (indicating), in the blue box.

6 Our neighborhood, where I live, is between
7 the east side of Nostrand Avenue, between
8 Nostrand and Flatbush, between Avenue I and Kings
9 Highway. We feel the last few years -- I have
10 been here for about ten years now, my wife, and
11 I, and six children. My in-laws live ten blocks
12 away from us.

13 We are very close in, almost every day, to
14 the Midwood neighborhood that is going to be in
15 the 48th District right now, what is on the
16 draft. And pulling us out and putting us into a
17 district, that we have literal no connection to,
18 it's just, everyone has kind of taken the
19 attitude we are kind of going to be lost again.

20 We have certain issues in our neighborhood.
21 Things like sanitation issues. We had issues
22 with Con Ed during the recent storms. When we
23 talk as a voice, as a block, with the other
24 communities, that we are connected to, we feel we
25 will be heard better.

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1 For that reason, we really hope that you
2 reconsider the way that was set up, and our small
3 enclave finds its way back together to the 48th
4 District. Thank you.

5 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
6 will be Aaron Rosenfeld, to be followed by Moshe
7 Nussbaum.

8 MR. BENNETT: Aaron Rosenfeld left. My name
9 is Chashal Bennett. I am on the list. I have to
10 go.

11 Is it okay if I take his spot?

12 He left.

13 MR. HACKWORTH: Yeah. That's fine.

14 MR. BENNETT: Members of the Districting
15 Commission, my name is Chashal Bennett. I serve
16 on Community Board 18. I serve on several
17 community organizations, that help New Yorkers
18 every day, organizations that are well-known.
19 Many of them are not, some like the Good of
20 Israel America (phonetic), COJO of Flatbush, Our
21 Place, just to name a few.

22 We represent a broad spectrum of a diverse
23 communities. I live in the 46th District. Our
24 district really has not been made public to your
25 hearings except for tonight. And the reason it

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1 has not been is because the 46th District -- I
2 live in the East 30s. The East 30s, you've heard
3 various speakers, here, tell you, please, bring
4 in the East 30s into 48th.

5 The problem has been the 46th District, who
6 I am very dear friends with the councilman,
7 Mr. Lew Fidler, is the furthest tip of the 46th
8 District. So the East 30s has a small piece in
9 the 46th, and a small piece in the 45th, and the
10 vast, large community of the 48th
11 District's representation hasn't touched our
12 community.

13 By reaching out to our Council members, we
14 sort of have gotten their attention in the last
15 year or two. That was after blizzards, where
16 Sanitation didn't make it to our community. That
17 was after Sanitation problems, where we were
18 ticketed on Friday afternoons, because we are a
19 religious community putting out garbage too
20 early. When we had a blackout, we had overhead
21 power lines, and couldn't get the attention of
22 Con Edison, Hundreds and hundreds of families,
23 growing families in our community.

24 The problem is as follows: If the 48th
25 Council District is split up -- and I am going

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1 off my paperwork to tell you -- if the 48th
2 Council is split up, you are not only splitting
3 up a diverse community, but you are splitting up
4 the orthodox Jewish community. As it stands
5 right now, the East 30s and the 48th Council
6 District needs to be together (two-minute timer
7 alarmed).

8 Our needs are the same. Our cultural
9 sensitivities are the same. We beg the
10 Commission, we beg you to listen to the people.
11 I was in Congress last week -- and I will just
12 finish with this statement: I walked the halls
13 of Congress and I saw in Congress this
14 Congressman from this state and that state.

15 And then one office caught my attention.
16 The office that caught my attention was "This
17 office belongs to the People of the 12th District
18 of Florida, Congressional District."

19 And I looked at it and I said, Wow, that's a
20 novel thing. Everybody else, my office, my
21 office, my office. And here, this Congress
22 office said it belongs to the people. These
23 lines belong to the people. We need our
24 representatives.

25 MR. HACKWORTH: We need to give everybody

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1 the time, but tell me what your name was again.

2 MR. BENNETT: Chashal Bennett.

3 MR. HACKWORTH: The next speaker will be
4 Moshe Nussbaum, to be followed by Zevy Weintraub.

5 MR. NUSSBAUM: Hi. My name is Moshe
6 Nussbaum. Thank you for taking my testimony
7 tonight. I am an active member in the community.
8 I am not going to give a longwinded speech, but I
9 would like to throw my support behind Michael
10 Nelson, who supported the 48th Council District
11 since 1999, and let's keep the boundaries the
12 same as they were. Thank you very much.

13 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
14 is Zevy Weintraub, to be followed by Vince
15 Fiordimondo.

16 MR. WEINTRAUB: Thank you, Commission, for
17 taking the testimony.

18 MR. HACKWORTH: Speak into the mic, please.

19 MR. WEINTRAUB: I would like to request,
20 from the Commission, that the district lines, of
21 the 44th District, remain the same, and that our
22 community continues to be represented by two
23 councilmen, Councilman Greenfield and Councilman
24 Brad Lander.

25 I didn't introduce myself. My name is Zevy

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1 Weintraub. I am on the board of an organization
2 which is called Yad Ephraim. We, basically, help
3 people who are dealing with sick patients, in the
4 hospital, by feeding them, by helping them get
5 medical supplies. We are very strongly
6 affiliated with Maimonides Hospital. Thank you
7 for your time.

8 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
9 is Vince Fiordimondo, to be followed by Mikhail
10 Shats.

11 MR. FIORDIMONDO: Thank you. Good evening
12 Commissioners and all in attendance. Thank you
13 for the opportunity to address the district board
14 this evening. My name is Vince Fiordimondo. I
15 am an active parishioner at St. Athanasius'
16 Church, located at 61st Street and Bay Parkway,
17 in Bensonhurst. I am also a Community Board 12
18 member.

19 I have been asked, by numerous families in
20 our community, to attend this meeting, and convey
21 to this board, that they strongly support the
22 current district map and the efforts of our
23 Councilman, Mr. Greenfield. Our community wishes
24 to remain in the 44th District. The St.
25 Athanasius community, and the surrounding

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1 neighborhoods, have developed a strong,
2 productive and trusting relationship with
3 Councilman Greenfield.

4 We have worked very hard together to make a
5 difference and come together to make our
6 neighborhood and community a harmonious place.
7 We urge you not to make any changes to the
8 district lines and thank you for your
9 consideration.

10 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
11 will be Mikhail Shats. And just to note, we have
12 now completed all of the preregistered speakers,
13 and are moving on to the speakers who have
14 registered today. So if you preregistered, but
15 have not been called, please go to the
16 registration desk and let them know.

17 The next speaker is Mikhail Shats, to be
18 followed by Linda Orlando.

19 MR. SHATS: Good evening to everybody. My
20 name is Mikhail Shats. I am a representative
21 from the Russian-American Community Coalition. I
22 am a board member and I live in Sheepshead Bay
23 area for ten years. So I want to remind you we
24 have around 350,000 Russian-speaking people in
25 our city, and the biggest population is living in

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1 Brooklyn area, as you know.

2 So only one thing we don't have yet, we
3 don't have Russian-American representative in New
4 York City Council, and we feel it's the right
5 time to get it now. The best way to ensure
6 Russian-Americans are represented in New York
7 City Council, is a fair and just way to keep,
8 currently, the proposed lines, of the
9 48th District, intact, by putting Brighton Beach,
10 Manhattan Beach, most of Sheepshead Bay and Luna
11 Park, Sea Breeze Avenue in one district.

12 Your Commission did the right thing and
13 created a very good district for our community.
14 Please do not change the proposed lines of the
15 48th District. It's very important for future of
16 our community. By implementing these actions,
17 you will ensure that Russian-Americans' community
18 will have a fair chance to elect the first
19 Russian-American in New York City Council.

20 It will be a tremendous achievement for our
21 community and for the whole New York City.
22 Thanks for your time and have a good day.

23 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
24 is Linda Orlando, to be followed by Richard Kuo.

25 MS. ORLANDO: Thank you, Commissioners. I

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1 live on 65th Street, between 2nd and 3rd Avenue,
2 and I live in the 38th Council District. The
3 Towers of Bay Ridge are a State of New York,
4 Mitchell-Llama housing, co-op complex, with 811
5 apartments on 65th Street, between 2nd and 3rd
6 Avenue, and between 3rd and 4th Avenue of
7 Brooklyn. They were built in 1972. At that
8 time, they were in the 43rd Council District.

9 In 1981, they were redistricted into the
10 38th Council District. Now we are right on the
11 black line between the 43rd and the 38th. We are
12 in the 38th District, but we would like to be in
13 the 43rd. I would like to ask the Commissioners
14 to move the boundary line one block from Wakeman
15 Place to 65th Street. Return the Towers back to
16 the 43rd District.

17 During the last 40 years, the Towers of Bay
18 Ridge have patronized -- the members, the
19 shareholders and residents of the Towers have
20 patronized every business in Bay Ridge. They
21 visit all the doctors. Their children attended
22 Bay Ridge schools. Their seniors are members of
23 the senior center and veterans' chapters. They
24 have accounts in all the banks. They are members
25 of all the Bay Ridge community organizations.

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1 They worship in the churches.

2 The shareholders frequent all the stores on
3 86th Street and 3rd Avenue. They are a community
4 of interest in Bay Ridge. They should be in the
5 same council district and they should be
6 represented by the same council member that
7 represents all the businesses which are located
8 in the Bay Ridge shopping areas.

9 The Towers have always been an integral part
10 of Bay Ridge and should be included in the 43rd
11 Council District. We are asking the Council to
12 move the boundary line from one block behind of
13 the Towers to one block in front of the Towers.

14 We are just asking for these two buildings
15 to be in the 43rd Council District. There is
16 nothing around us. We are just asking for these
17 two buildings to be in the 43rd District and just
18 move the lines one block to include the Towers in
19 the 43rd District. Thank you very, very much.

20 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
21 is Richard Kuo, to be followed by Joanne Wander.

22 MR. KUO: Hi. Good evening. My name is
23 Richard Kuo. I am on the board of directors of
24 Homecrest Community Services and I am its
25 founding executive director. Homecrest was

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1 founded 16 years ago in response to the need for
2 additional services for the Chinese-American
3 community, immigrants and other disadvantaged
4 people in Sheepshead Bay.

5 An analysis of the Census Bureau's 2005/2009
6 community survey showed that the Asian
7 population, in Brooklyn CD 15, which is a major
8 part of the 48th District, totaled about 23,000
9 Asian people, or 15 percent of CD 15's total
10 150,000 population.

11 Further analysis showed there was an
12 18 percent growth in the Asian population, most
13 of whom were Chinese, in CD 15, between 2000 in
14 2010. This growth is representative of the
15 growth of Asians throughout the city. There is
16 now over one million Asian people in New York
17 City. One out of eight people are Asians, and as
18 you know, are significantly underrepresented.

19 I am concerned about the latest revision to
20 the 48th Council District map, which would
21 increase the percentage of Russian-Americans,
22 from the current 35 percent to an estimated
23 50 percent of the population in CD 48.

24 Asian-Americans are, approximately, 15 to
25 20 percent of the current total population now,

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1 but if the district is expanded to increase the
2 Russian-American population, the percentage of
3 Asian-Americans will be reduced and significantly
4 watered down.

5 In spite of the extraordinary growth of the
6 Asian population in Brooklyn, there is not one
7 elected official. But we hope that District 48
8 will provide a level playing field for all
9 people, regardless of color, ethnicity or
10 national origin. Councilman Nelson has been more
11 than fair with the Asian community as he has been
12 -- (two-minute timer alarmed) -- with all other
13 constituents. I recommend you approve the
14 preliminary draft map, of Council District 48,
15 which is fully supported by Councilman Michael
16 Nelson. Thank you.

17 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
18 is Joanna Wander, to be followed by Maria
19 Garrett.

20 MS. WANDER: Yes. Good evening, everyone
21 here. Thank you for the privilege of coming
22 before you. Thank you for the privilege of
23 listening to all the people, who come to express
24 their desires, and their wishes, and their hopes
25 to change the way things have been gerrymandered

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1 this time.

2 I have lived in Bay Ridge. My name is
3 Joanne Wander. I lived in Bay Ridge since 1984.
4 And at that time, the Towers were a part of my
5 neighborhood, and I have always felt it was part
6 of the neighborhood. Now that it has been
7 changed. I am not happy about that at all and I
8 would like to see it returned to the 43rd Council
9 District. That's really all I have to say and I
10 thank you for your time.

11 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
12 is Maria Garrett, to be followed by Zinaida
13 Konovalova.

14 MS. GARRETT: Good evening, Council. Thank
15 you for having me here tonight to speak. I am
16 here on behalf of the 46th District. I would
17 like to thank you for including all of Canarsie.
18 You united Canarsie together in one district. I
19 would like to keep it as it is, because the
20 people of Canarsie are happy that we are now
21 united. Thank you.

22 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
23 is Zinaida Konovalova. I'm sorry.

24 MS. KONOVALOVA: Zinaida Konovalova.

25 MR. HACKWORTH: Konovalova, to be followed

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1 by Ed Jaworski.

2 MS. KONOVALOVA: Okay. Good evening. My
3 name is Zinaida Konovalova. I am a chairwoman of
4 Russian-American Community Coalition, RACC. RACC
5 is a not-for-profit organization, with more than
6 1,000 Russian-speaking members, who are
7 registered voters. Brooklyn is home of the
8 largest Russian-speaking community, in
9 particular, the 48th District, in the United
10 States.

11 But we still don't have a single
12 Russian-American in the New York City Council,
13 and we think it's time to change this situation.
14 The best way to ensure that Russian-Americans are
15 represented in the New York City Council, in a
16 fair and just way, is to keep the current
17 proposed lines, from the 48th Council District,
18 intact, by including Brighton Beach, Manhattan
19 Beach, most of Sheepshead Bay, Luna Park, Sea
20 Breeze Avenue and Trump Village in one district.

21 And your Commission did the right thing,
22 that write the very good district for our
23 community. Please do not change the proposed
24 lines of 48th District. They are very important
25 for the future of our community. Thank you very

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1 much.

2 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
3 is Ed Jaworski, to be followed by Kevin Peter
4 Carroll.

5 MR. JAWORSKI: Good evening. Ed Jaworski,
6 president, Madison-Marine Homecrest Civic
7 Association. I would like to welcome you here,
8 since I am former president of the alumni
9 association of St. Francis, also, and I can, at
10 least, go to a basketball game when this is over.

11 I don't envy what you have been doing here
12 this evening. As I took a sociology course,
13 right here in this building, we heard about the
14 melting-pot theory. People should get along no
15 matter what their race, creed, ethnicity, and
16 they should get along with each other, live and
17 work together.

18 A lot of that has shifted. One of our
19 speakers, earlier, talked about a stew that would
20 brew. We heard about that shift from the
21 melting-pot theory to the stew or salad theory.
22 But still, people should work together and live
23 together. We hear that we don't want a district
24 based on race, color or ethnicity, but on the
25 other hand, we do want a district based on race,

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1 color or ethnicity.

2 So how do you juggle all this?

3 I don't know, but let me throw another thing
4 into this whole stew pot, Hurricane Sandy.

5 Do we need some sort of a district, now,
6 that is going to figure out what to do with the
7 waterfront?

8 Councilman Nelson chaired, I think it was
9 the Council committee on waterfront issues.

10 Now, of course, the waterfront don't shift
11 up to the northern end of 48, but, maybe, some
12 sort of shift has to be done, so that 46 and 47
13 may be laid on top of each other, and you
14 understand what is going on with the waterfront
15 district if you have a councilman, who is focused
16 on that and shift, as a lot of people seem to
17 think, 48, maybe, should shift up a little bit
18 north.

19 Anyway, this is something I want to throw
20 another parameter into the mix of a waterfront
21 issue based on the impact of what is going on.
22 Thank you very much.

23 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
24 is Kevin Peter Carroll, to be followed by Reno
25 Dakota.

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1 MR. CARROLL: Good evening, Commissioners,
2 and thank you for listening to the public about
3 the important topic of redistricting. My name is
4 Peter Carroll. I am the democratic district
5 leader, the State committeeman for the 64th
6 Assembly District, which I represent the Bay
7 Ridge portions.

8 I am here, with many of my neighbors, and a
9 lot of people from the Bay Ridge Towers are here,
10 to talk about our community's council lines. At
11 the last round of redistricting hearings, I spoke
12 about my desire to place my community, Bay Ridge,
13 in a single, unified, contiguous and impact
14 Council District. Specifically, I spoke about,
15 and continue to speak about, the Towers of Bay
16 Ridge, located at 260 and 350 65th Street.

17 The Towers should be moved from the
18 38th District, currently in the majority Sunset
19 Park District, into the 43rd District, which
20 contains the rest of Bay Ridge. The entire
21 43rd District, as well as the Towers of Bay
22 Ridge, must constitute a community of interest,
23 as people have testified to before. They shop at
24 the same sort of shops, on 86th Street, and
25 frequent the same businesses.

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1 Many of the residents, including some that
2 are here tonight, are active in the same civic,
3 religious, nonprofit and political organizations
4 that all of the rest of us, Bay Ridge residents,
5 are involved in. In addition, we are served by
6 the same community board district, Community
7 Board 10, and we are served by the same police
8 precinct district, the 68th Precinct.

9 However, the Towers are not included in the
10 old council lines and the Commission has not
11 included them in the revised plan. I don't want
12 to take up too much of the Commission's time
13 repeating my testimony from last year, so I will
14 end with this: Commissioners, do the right thing
15 and place the Towers of Bay Ridge into the Bay
16 Ridge council district and right a wrong that was
17 done to the Towers 20 years ago. Thank you very
18 much.

19 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
20 is Reno Dakota, to be followed by Andrew Sloat.

21 MR. DAKOTA: Hello. I am Reno Dakota. I am
22 here on behalf of the Stuyvesant East
23 Preservation Action League in eastern Bed-Stuy.
24 I am presenting an argument for moving the
25 36th District boundary east to Saratoga Avenue.

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1 As a resident of eastern Bedford-Stuyvesant,
2 I would like to support a move that would place
3 the City Council district boundary between 36th
4 and 41st at Saratoga Avenue. It is, currently,
5 at Malcolm X, a parallel avenue for four blocks
6 to the west.

7 I am the facilitator for the historic
8 districting efforts and a historic
9 preservationist. I am accustomed to reading
10 neighborhoods for clues to their past evolution.
11 The housing development, once known as
12 Stuyvesant Heights, makes a visible, tangible
13 transition into Ocean Hill, at Saratoga Avenue,
14 not only topographically there, where the hill
15 actually begins, but it's very evident that the
16 eastward sweep of the late 19th-century
17 development also made a stylistic pivot at about
18 that point.

19 In Bed-Stuy, which lies to the west of
20 Saratoga, the housing stock is predominantly
21 masonry row houses originally built as
22 single-family homes. Eastward from Saratoga, a
23 new century dawned in 1900, and multiple
24 buildings came to land, often in the form of
25 wood-frame construction housing. It is clear, to

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1 anyone wandering in the area, that things changed
2 here.

3 Furthermore, Saratoga Avenue is the official
4 eastern boundary of CB 3. In terms of getting
5 things done, and the great bureaucracy, and
6 getting things to happen for the Bed-Stuy
7 community, it would be very beneficial to bring
8 the boundary, of the 36th, over to this avenue as
9 well. This would help eliminate many of the
10 occasional political tug-of-wars that tend to
11 happen needlessly in the areas.

12 Our local efforts, at obtaining historic
13 district designations in the east, have only just
14 begun, and we would like to receive the same
15 government support -- (two-minute timer
16 alarmed) -- as has benefitted the proposed
17 districts in Bed-Stuy, all of which, currently,
18 lie across a seemingly arbitrary district.

19 MR. HACKWORTH: I have to keep you to the
20 time so the others can go. Thank you.

21 MR. DAKOTA: Thank you very much.

22 MR. HACKWORTH: Our next speaker is Andrew
23 Sloat, to be followed by Abraham Perlstein. All
24 right. If there is no Andrew Sloat, then Abraham
25 Perlstein, to be followed by Leon Goldenberg.

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1 MR. PERLSTEIN: Good evening. First of all,
2 I would like to thank you, the Commissioners, for
3 giving us the opportunity, all of the
4 constituents, to hear their voices here. I
5 happen to be a member of Community Board Number
6 1. I am serving my committee, which includes the
7 housing action, safety committee.

8 I have, so many times, listened to what the
9 public has to request in reference to variances,
10 many times trying to figure out the roots and the
11 grounds of the needs of each ethnic concern and
12 requests that they need. In our situation, I
13 really thank the Commission for your work on the
14 borderlines, which includes Council District
15 Number 23, annexing it with the south side of
16 Flushing, which is a part of the entire
17 community.

18 I have seen, many times, in our borough, we
19 need to turn to our elected officials to
20 understand our needs, and it's very important for
21 us to have the same council member, which is
22 Council 11, understanding our needs, not to
23 repeat it all over again, to show again, explain,
24 the roots where we are coming from.

25 Therefore, since it's being the same

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1 community, which is a part of South Flushing,
2 which, currently, many of our community resides
3 there, I would say we are very grateful for what
4 the Commission has done to have annexed into one
5 community. I hope that should not be changed.

6 In addition, many facilities, which is the
7 south part of Flushing, serve the constituents of
8 the 23rd District and vice versa. Again, it's
9 the same that we feel, that the same council
10 members, which is already aware of our needs, for
11 them to enable them to represent us. We should
12 have the common one body together. It's not like
13 having a body amputated, one part of another.

14 So, again, I appreciate for what you have
15 done -- (two-minute timer alarmed) -- and I hope
16 you stick with it and thank you.

17 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. I just want to
18 remind everyone, if you ran out of time while
19 giving testimony, and you have a written copy of
20 your testimony, you can drop it at the
21 registration desk, so the Commissioners can
22 review it later. Our next speaker is Leon
23 Goldenberg, to be followed by Gregory Davidson.

24 MR. GOLDENBERG: My name is Leon Goldenberg.
25 By way of introduction, I sit on the board of

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1 several community-based organizations. I have
2 been a resident of the community for the past 23
3 years. What brings me here, I am, currently, a
4 resident of the 48th Council District.

5 During the course of the redistricting
6 process, I was moved to the 45th Council
7 District. I would like to share, with you, my
8 feelings, both, as a community activist, and more
9 specifically, as a citizen who has been directly
10 affected by the district lines that were proposed
11 poached.

12 I feel, and many here in the room, in the
13 community, feel that we have been totally
14 marginalized with the redistricting. We have
15 been carved up into a small number of
16 insignificant pieces, spread out over a number of
17 districts. We had expected, due to the
18 tremendous growth of our community over the past
19 decade, we would be able to increase our strength
20 in several council districts.

21 Instead, we will now be small pieces of five
22 different districts, ranging from as little as
23 ten percent, in one district, to as much as
24 25 percent of a different district. When we are
25 carved up like that, our needs, several of which

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1 are unique to our religious community, can all,
2 too easily, be ignored. There are several issues
3 involved here, including continuity of
4 representation.

5 While until now, we had one address to
6 address our needs, this shall no longer be the
7 case. As a community, we have different needs
8 than almost all of the other communities surround
9 us. We have different social needs, different
10 housing needs and education needs. We, by and
11 large, send our children to parochial schools.
12 Not as a matter of choice. We have no option of
13 sending them to public schools.

14 We are a group with our own community
15 organizations. These organizations are able to
16 service us in a culturally-sensitive manner.
17 With these new districts, we have been isolated.
18 In the new 45th District, 21 percent would be
19 white. With those numbers, my community,
20 comprised of the largest concentration of
21 orthodox Jews outside of Israel, would no longer
22 have more than 15 percent of the district.

23 I say, unequivocally, the Council member, of
24 the 45th District, is a culturally-sensitive
25 person and will do nothing against our interest.

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1 But when 80 percent of his community makes
2 demands for services, that will leave mere crumbs
3 for the rest of us (two-minute timer alarmed).

4 We deserve a representative who understands
5 our needs, on the City Council, to get an equal
6 share for my community. Our neighborhood
7 consists of one- and two-family homes, with
8 different needs than the rest of the district,
9 which consists of apartment complexes. Their
10 needs cannot --

11 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you.

12 MR. GOLDENBERG: -- it's the basis of
13 80 percent of our district.

14 MR. HACKWORTH: I am going to have to cut
15 you off there. You can drop your written
16 testimony here or at the registration desk. Our
17 next speaker will be Gregory Davidson, to be
18 followed by Ari Kagan.

19 MR. DAVIDSON: Good evening. I am sorry for
20 my voice, but it is important for me to be here
21 and I tried to testify today. First of all, my
22 name is Gregory Davidson. I am one president of
23 the Russians' national newspaper.

24 I would like to thank this Commission,
25 because my previous testimony, I believe it was

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1 on October 11th, and I ask you to include certain
2 neighborhoods into the 48th District, and my
3 proposal is taken into consideration. Thanks for
4 this.

5 But I urge you to keep District 48 lines as
6 for many reasons. First of all, I am shocked,
7 because, you know, almost everybody, who spoke
8 today, asked to keep communities together,
9 African-American, orthodox Jew, Chinese people,
10 and everybody ask to be together. You create
11 this district and put all Russian together.

12 What's wrong with this?

13 People ask now to destroy?

14 If you carefully pay attention to what
15 people said, it's just growing to be together.
16 And the interesting thing, to change the recent
17 lines, don't kill anybody, any community, just
18 destroy ours. If orthodox Jewish people want to
19 be together, no problem, in the 44th District.
20 It has the majority of orthodox.

21 Why somebody would like to destroy and give
22 us a chance to have the Russian councilman in
23 American history?

24 The Commission, to make decision for us, and
25 for the parts to be together, that's right or

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1 wrong. If right, please keep 48th District the
2 same. Thank you.

3 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
4 will be Ari Kagan, to be followed by Gary
5 Zimmerman.

6 MR. KAGAN: Good evening. I know it's a
7 long night. I will not keep you long. I will
8 try to make my comments very short.

9 Dear members of the New York City
10 Districting Commission, my name is Ari Kagan, and
11 I am democratic district leader in the 45th
12 Assembly District in Brooklyn. I don't say
13 anybody here can accuse me of representing only
14 one community. I was elected by every single
15 community, in the 45th Assembly District, and got
16 overwhelming support in the orthodox Jewish
17 community, in Chinese community, in the
18 African-American community and in the
19 Russian-speaking community.

20 But by the same token, I am one of the
21 leaders of the Russian-speaking community, and a
22 resident of Brighton Beach. Today, nobody has
23 mentioned Brighton Beach, and I am living at
24 Brighton Beach. We did suffer after
25 Hurricane Sandy and we have a lot of similar

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1 problems with every single community.

2 I love my neighbors. Make no mistake about
3 it. But I am here to thank all of you for
4 creating a district where the Russian-American
5 community has a strongest voice. I am talking
6 about the 48th Councilmanic District, that many
7 people, today, mentioned. 48th Councilmanic
8 District, your Commission, includes
9 Brighton Beach, Manhattan Beach, most of
10 Sheepshead Bay, Luna Park, Sea Breeze Avenue as
11 well as parts of Midwood and Homecrest into one
12 district.

13 I strongly support these lines. I strongly
14 support these lines, because they are
15 strengthening our community power, and give a
16 fair chance to elect the first Russian-speaking
17 council member in New York City. These
18 neighborhoods have a lot in common and I am glad
19 we would be united in the same district for the
20 next ten years.

21 In October 2012, I testified, in front of
22 you, and urged you to do exactly that. There
23 were more than 350,000 Russian-Americans in New
24 York City, yet we still don't have a single
25 Russian-American in New York City Council. Your

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1 Commission did the right thing.

2 The proposed lines, of the 48th Councilmanic
3 District, are fair, just and legible. Thank you
4 so much. I really appreciate your commitment to
5 our community and, please, do not change the
6 currently-proposed -- (two-minute timer
7 alarmed) -- lines of the 48th District.

8 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
9 is Gary Zimmerman, to be followed by Rabbi David
10 Niederman.

11 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Hi. I am Gary Zimmerman. I
12 lived in the neighborhood about 30 years. And in
13 those 30 years, I have seen an increase in
14 commerce, an increase in the value of homes,
15 better schooling and major stores opening up.
16 Basically, there's an expression. If it ain't
17 broke, don't fix it.

18 Why, in the world, would you change
19 something that's worked?

20 I ask you to keep the lines the same and,
21 hopefully, we will continue the proper way.

22 MS. BRAGG: Which district?

23 MR. ZIMMERMAN: 48th. I'm sorry. Thank you
24 very much.

25 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker

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1 is Rabbi David Niederman, to be followed by
2 Shimshon Heskell.

3 MR. NIEDERMAN: Good evening, distinguished
4 members of the Commission. I appreciate the
5 opportunity you are giving us, again, to come
6 here and say thank you. You have got it right.
7 You got it right ten years ago. You got it right
8 now. You included the Broadway Triangle as part
9 of the 33rd Councilmanic District, as well as the
10 south of Flushing, the tip of Bed-Stuy.

11 And there is a reason why you have these
12 redistricting commissions, because we are not
13 talking about lines in the sand. We are talking
14 about a shift of population and it's up to you to
15 look to ensure when there's a population shift,
16 over period of ten years, to see where it goes.
17 You make sure that the communities of interest
18 stay together.

19 I have been involved 40 years in the
20 community, for the past 22 years as the head of
21 the United Jewish Organization of Williamsburg,
22 and we understand what it means when we have to
23 go to government in order to ensure that the
24 needs of a community are met, and you have to
25 ensure that the voice is heard.

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1 So by dividing a community of interest, you
2 dilute the representation, and, therefore, I
3 commend you. I thank you for doing the right
4 thing for the people, for the process, which is
5 uniting the community of interest, strengthening
6 it and not dividing it. Thank you very much.

7 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
8 is Shimshon Heskkel, to be followed by Joel
9 Rosenfeld.

10 MR. HESKEL: Hi. Good evening. I would
11 like to take this opportunity and thank you on
12 behalf of hundreds of Brooklyn cancer patients,
13 who I represent in our organization Mekimi, which
14 is based in the 44th District. Our organization
15 largely depends on the discretionary funding from
16 New York City. And the way you drew the lines
17 for the district, helped us to be spread over a
18 couple of districts, so we can get more
19 discretional funding from more Council members,
20 including Council Member David Greenfield and
21 Council Member Brad Lander.

22 So I really want to thank you on behalf of
23 all the patients we represent. We can give them
24 more services, thanks to your credit, of leaving
25 the districts lines the way you made it. Thank

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1 you very much.

2 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
3 is Joel Rosenfeld, to be followed by Joel Levy.

4 MR. ROSENFELD: Good evening, distinguished
5 members of the committee. First, I would like to
6 thank you for giving me, a simple citizen, the
7 opportunity, again, to express my thoughts. My
8 name is Joel Rosenfeld. My wife and my family,
9 we live in Borough Park. I am a member of one of
10 the largest Hassidic communities in New York.

11 Last time, when I came before the board, I
12 asked that you should leave Borough Park the way
13 it was, and to leave the 44th and
14 39th Districts intact. Tell to you the truth,
15 while I was there, and I saw one person get up
16 and voice their opinion, I thought this can't be
17 serious. I am sure all public hearings --

18 MR. HACKWORTH: Hold on a second.

19 Did we lose a mic?

20 Can you just walk over and use the other mic
21 there?

22 MR. ROSENFELD: Sure. The last time, when I
23 came before this committee, and I asked you to
24 leave the Borough Park lines the way it was, the
25 44th and the 39th Districts, to tell you the

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1 truth, while I was here and I saw one person
2 after another get up and voice their opinion, I
3 thought this can't be serious.

4 I am sure the whole public-hearing thing is
5 just a formality and nothing will come out of it.
6 I was pleasantly surprised when the lines came
7 out and the Board actually listened to our
8 recommendations. That's good government. So
9 that's why I am here again.

10 Borough Park is an unique district with
11 unique needs. That's why we, respectfully, ask
12 this Board to keep the Borough Park district, the
13 44th District, represented by David Greenfield,
14 and the 39th District, represented by Councilman
15 Brad Lander, in its current form. Thank you,
16 very much, and good night.

17 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
18 is Joel Levy, to be followed by Margarita Kagan.

19 Do we have Joel Levy?

20 MR. LEVY: Hello. My name is Joseph Levy
21 and I am part of Community Board 12. I am an
22 active member of the Sephardic Jewish community,
23 in the Midwood area, represented by the 44th
24 District, by David Greenfield.

25 I did testify at the last meeting, and I do

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1 want to come here and thank the Board for
2 thinking of all of the recommendations that were
3 made, and redrawing the district lines that would
4 make our community be able to have a voice within
5 the New York City government.

6 And I do appreciate, I appreciate very much,
7 the redistricting lines that were drawn, and I
8 would like to recommend that they be kept as they
9 have been redrawn for this meeting. I just want
10 to give, on behalf of my community, I want to
11 give my heartfelt thanks to all the work that the
12 Board does. Thanks.

13 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
14 is Margarita Kagan, to be followed by Gloria
15 Braun.

16 MS. KAGAN: Good evening, dear committee
17 members. My name is Margarita Kagan. I am the
18 president of the New American Association for
19 Culture and Education and I live in Manhattan
20 Beach. I live in District 48. I want to tell
21 you, all these years, when I lived in Manhattan
22 Beach, I worked very closely with Michael Nelson,
23 and I believe in the melting pot. I believe that
24 we all have to work together and live together.

25 But I think that as the times change, we

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1 have to go ahead and we have to have a
2 Russian-speaking district.

3 Why is that so important?

4 Because we need to teach our children how to
5 be politically active, because they don't believe
6 that our voice will be heard. We need to have
7 our representative, who grew up here, who grew up
8 in America, and who can raise his or her voice
9 for our community.

10 It's important, and you know this joke, the
11 Soviet Union, we all were Jews. Now in America,
12 we all became Russians. I always was ashamed
13 about it, because I am a Jewish woman, I have an
14 American husband and my native language is
15 Russian.

16 But now, I believe that if we talk to our
17 members, who live around us, other relatives,
18 other friends, other people of the delegation
19 that came here today, we talk to them in their
20 native language, we can understand them better,
21 and we can teach them better, and educate them
22 better, about the voting process and how to
23 integrate into American life better.

24 So this is our main idea, to have one
25 district, in which we can work together and be

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1 active. It's very important. So I want to thank
2 you for your new proposed boundaries of this
3 district. This is really, really important.
4 Thanks a lot. We appreciate it.

5 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Just note that
6 both microphones are now working, so you can use
7 either one of them. Our next speaker is Gloria
8 Braun, to be followed by Jacob Gold.

9 MS. BRAUN: Good evening, dear members of
10 the New York City Districting Council, it's an
11 honor for me to be here and to speak as a
12 representative of the Russian-speaking community.
13 My name is Gloria Braun. I am the first
14 Russian-speaking coordinator of the biggest
15 polling site in New York City. For many years, I
16 have worked very hard in order to encourage the
17 civic participation of Russian-speaking Americans
18 and to make them an indispensable part of the
19 American electoral process.

20 The Russian-speaking community is an
21 integral part of New York City. Our community
22 flourished in our great city. Russian-speaking
23 immigrants achieved tremendous success in
24 business, culture, sports, arts, science,
25 medicine. There are more than 350,000

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1 Russian-speaking Americans in all five boroughs.
2 Brooklyn is home of the largest Russian-speaking
3 community in the whole United States.

4 That's why it is strange, that until now, we
5 don't have a Russian-speaking American on the New
6 York City Council. I want to take this
7 opportunity to express my gratitude, to your
8 Commission, for creating a district where
9 Russian-speaking Americans will have a real
10 influence and a good chance to elect the first
11 Russian-speaking American to the New York City
12 Council.

13 I am talking about the 48th District. By
14 including neighborhoods like Brighton Beach,
15 Manhattan Beach, Sheepshead Bay, Luna Park, Sea
16 Breeze Avenue, part of Trump Village and others,
17 your Commission did a right and just thing.
18 Thank you, so much, for this (two-minute timer
19 alarmed).

20 Basically, thank you, for reuniting similar
21 neighborhoods and communities in our council
22 district. Please keep the currently-proposed
23 lines of the 48th District. Again, thank you, so
24 much, for your attention. God bless you. God
25 bless all of us. God bless our great country,

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1 America.

2 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Jacob Gold has
3 already testified, so our next speaker will be
4 Valeriy Savinkin, to be followed by Annette
5 Roque.

6 MR. SAVINKIN: My name is Valeriy Savinkin.
7 I represent two community organizations, Odessa
8 Community of New York and 9/11 Family Group. In
9 my previous comments, made in public hearings on
10 October 11th, last year, I pointed to three major
11 reasons why the 48th District should be enlarged
12 on its south part and shortened on the top north
13 portion. Here, I am just going to mention two of
14 those reasons.

15 Historically, immigrants, from the former
16 Soviet Union, settled along the ocean shore,
17 Manhattan Beach, Brighton Beach and the east part
18 of Coney Island. It is no wonder this area is
19 called Little Odessa. Obviously, we are one
20 ethnic community, one common language, one
21 historical background and cultural interest.

22 Chapter 2(a), Section 52, of the City of New
23 York Charter, explicitly prohibits any district
24 to be more than twice as long as it is wide.
25 Unfortunately, this is the proportion, I better

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1 say disproportion, of the 48th District, as we
2 had it for the last ten years. This
3 disproportion doesn't correspond with the New
4 York City Charter and could be the reason for a
5 lawsuit.

6 I happened to learn, recently, that all my
7 reasons were taken into consideration, of the
8 Redistricting Commission, and the boundaries of
9 the 48th District were moved to the west and
10 southwest part of the district, and down to
11 Avenue M on its north part.

12 As a result, the 48th District will become
13 more compact and keep intact our community with
14 established ties of common historical, ethnic
15 religious and cultural interests. Please do not
16 change the last proposed lines of the 48th
17 District. Thank you.

18 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
19 is Annette Roque, to be followed by Simon Weiser.

20 MS. ROQUE: Good evening. My name is
21 Annette Roque. I am a proud native of
22 Williamsburg and have run successful
23 social-service programs there for the last 21
24 years. While I pride myself as a community
25 leader and social-services provider, of assisting

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1 my community in every way possible, my main
2 focus, over the 21 years, has been to service
3 people who are substance abusers and unfortunate
4 victims of HIV and AIDS.

5 With regard to the former, I worked, for
6 many years, for a residential, drug-treatment
7 program called El Regreso, and was instrumental
8 in its first residential women's facility. In my
9 current role as the director of La Nueva
10 Esperanza, which means "New Hope," I service
11 people who are the unfortunate victims of HIV and
12 AIDS.

13 In all our service activities, our main goal
14 is prevention. It may surprise many of you to
15 know that the majority of the people we service,
16 in our HIV and AIDS program, are persons over the
17 age of 60. I would estimate that about
18 90 percent of our service recipients are senior
19 citizens. Furthermore, almost half of our
20 clients reside in public housing, in the
21 communities of Williamsburg and Bushwick, where
22 we perform the majority of our services as well
23 as outreach.

24 I am here to advocate for the district lines
25 for the 34th Councilmanic District in

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1 Williamsburg/Bushwick. There is a common
2 expression, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Our
3 district is a tight-knit community, primarily of
4 people of color. We network with a multitude of
5 service providers, throughout Bushwick and
6 Williamsburg, to provide a wide range of services
7 to the most vulnerable population.

8 As stated earlier, much of these services,
9 that we provided, our agency provided to
10 residents of public housing. I, therefore,
11 question -- (two-minute timer alarmed) -- why one
12 of our highly-serviced, public-housing
13 developments, Hope Gardens in Bushwick, which
14 contains a 14-story, 130-unit building for the
15 elderly, is being disenfranchised by being
16 removed from the 34th Council District, where it
17 has been appropriately included in the
18 district for decades.

19 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you very much. You
20 can drop the remainder of your testimony here, if
21 you'd like.

22 MS. ROQUE: Thank you.

23 MR. HACKWORTH: Our next speaker is Simon
24 Weiser, to be followed by Maurice Hedaya.

25 MR. WEISER: My name is Simon Weiser. I am

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1 a member of the Brooklyn Community Board
2 Number 1. I am, also, a member of the NAB,
3 Neighborhood Advisory Board, here in Brooklyn. I
4 am also a board people of the Beth Tikvah
5 Institution. I am here to talk on behalf of the
6 support of the 33rd District, the current lines,
7 which include the Broadway Triangle and parts
8 south of Flushing Avenue.

9 I would like, first, to thank the Commission
10 on drawing the current lines for thousands of
11 residents who live in South Williamsburg,
12 schools, institutions and other needs south of
13 Flushing Avenue, for it to make sense, the whole
14 area be covered by the same Councilman, our
15 Honorable Stephen Levin. Every community has its
16 own special needs, housing, child care, parks and
17 transportation. Therefore, I support the current
18 lines. Thank you.

19 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
20 is Maurice Hedaya, to be followed by Gavriel
21 Sauer.

22 MR. HEDAYA: Good evening and welcome to
23 Brooklyn. Thank you for examining, at firsthand,
24 the problems and the complexities. As an
25 engineer, I'll make a suggestion that good design

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1 means keeping it simple. Please keep the 48th
2 Council District intact. Do not allow the
3 division and isolation of our community. Keep it
4 the way it is because it's good. Thank you very
5 much.

6 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
7 is Gavriel Sauer, to be followed by Douglas
8 Damoth.

9 MR. SAUER: I would like to yield my time to
10 Adam Dweck, if that's okay?

11 MR. HACKWORTH: That is fine. Okay. Sure.

12 MR. SAUER: I want to be quick. Voting, in
13 general, should always be about, you know, people
14 who have the proper merits and --

15 MR. HACKWORTH: Are you using your time?

16 MR. SAUER: Yes. I am.

17 Is that okay?

18 MR. HACKWORTH: So are you going to testify
19 or is he (indicating)?

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I thought you were going
21 to give the mic to someone else?

22 MR. DWECK: Sorry about the confusion. My
23 name is Adam Dweck. I am a resident of the 48th
24 Council District and I have been for my entire
25 life. At the October 11th Commission hearing,

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1 the Russian-American representatives attempted to
2 make the argument that the preliminary lines, for
3 the 48th District, which removed Manhattan Beach
4 and added parts of Midwood, diluted their voice
5 and gave no real opportunities for the
6 Russian-Americans to win an election in their
7 district.

8 This is a great overstatement, as, both,
9 Manhattan Beach and Midwood, are home to equally
10 modest Russian-American communities. They also
11 make this claim of dilution despite the fact that
12 New York State Senator David Storobin and
13 Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny, and democratic
14 district leaders Ari Kagan and Mark Davidovich
15 are all Russian-Americans, with electoral success
16 stories and are in the existing 48th Council
17 District.

18 Their solution was not simply to reclaim
19 Manhattan Beach for the 48th Council District,
20 but to completely transfer the multicultural
21 flavor, of the 48th District, by creating a
22 super-Russian district. This was achieved,
23 first, by petitioning, then granting their
24 request to add predominantly-Russian buildings
25 along Sea Breeze Avenue and the west side of

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1 Ocean Parkway.

2 While the Russian-Americans continue to
3 argue that adding buildings along Sea Breeze
4 Avenue and the west side of Ocean Parkway is fair
5 and just for their community, they completely
6 ignore what is fair and just for everyone else.
7 At 25 percent, a number used by Ari Kagan, who
8 spoke earlier, that is probably much higher.

9 Russian-Americans already make up a large
10 plurality of any one group in the 48th District,
11 and are sufficiently represented, and also have
12 the greatest opportunity, of any ethnic base, to
13 elect one of their own. Any shifts favoring the
14 comparatively large Russian-American community is
15 a shift away from everyone else in the district.

16 Let me be clear. I would have no problem,
17 whatsoever, if a Russian-American were elected to
18 City Council. Still, any and all elected
19 officials should be elected based on merit, and
20 not just because the election was guaranteed by
21 the numerical superiority of a particular group.
22 And while I understand how eager their community
23 is to elect the first Russian-American council
24 member, they should not be given this
25 unreasonable and unjust special treatment at the

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1 expense of everyone else (two-minute timer
2 alarmed). Thank you.

3 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
4 is Douglas Damoth, to be followed by Esther
5 Yeger.

6 Douglas Damoth?

7 Do we have Esther Yeger?

8 All right.

9 Jay Frechter?

10 Oh, Esther is coming. Esther Yeger, to be
11 followed by Jay Frechter.

12 MS. YEGER: Hi. I am Esther Yeger. Dear
13 members of the New York City Council Districting
14 Commission, for many years, the 48th District has
15 embodied New York City's diversity with countless
16 different ethnic and religious communities living
17 and doing business within our borders.

18 The major factor, in this remarkable success
19 story, is that no single community has had an
20 overwhelming population advantage, so that our
21 government was truly of the people, by the people
22 and for the people. Any and all elected
23 officials should be elected based on merit and
24 not just because of a guaranteed numerical
25 superiority of a particular group. We must do

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1 whatever it takes to keep our districts as
2 diverse as possible, to ensure parity and
3 fairness in our elections.

4 As previous speakers stated, if it ain't
5 broke, don't fix it. So, please, I strongly urge
6 the Commission to accept the preliminary draft
7 map, that was designed by the Districting
8 Commission, and which is fully supported by
9 Councilman Michael C. Nelson, who has represented
10 the 48th Council so ably since 1999. Thank you
11 for listening and have a good evening.

12 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
13 is Jay Frechter, to be followed by Olanike Alabi.

14 Jay Frechter?

15 Olanike Alabi?

16 MS. ALABI: Good evening. It's good to see
17 all of you. I am, certainly, happy to be here.
18 I really just came to thank the Commissioners,
19 all of you, because I testified, at Medgar Evers
20 College, not too long ago, about the 35th
21 Councilmanic District map.

22 And it was great then, and guess what?

23 It's great now.

24 And I just want to say that I especially
25 appreciate the fact that you took into account

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1 neighborhood continuity by sending (sic) the
2 southernmost boundary of Montgomery and Empire
3 Boulevard. It is one uniform boundary and I
4 think that is a good thing. It's good to see
5 Executive Director Hum. He knows that area very
6 well.

7 And, of course, on the eastern side of the
8 district, I think it's great you included
9 Lafayette Gardens. You took into consideration
10 the fact that diversity is important in that
11 district. That is a public-housing development,
12 that has benefited, largely, from the services in
13 the 35th Council District, particularly from the
14 work of Council Member James. So I want to
15 commend you on that. It's a wonderful map.

16 I know there's a lot of strong feelings in
17 here tonight, but it's a map that is
18 representative, not only of neighborhood
19 continuity, but also the diversity of that
20 district. So I commend you once, I commend you
21 twice, and I say to you what everyone else has
22 said: This map ain't broke, so don't fix it.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
25 is Ed Klein, to be followed by Nathan Rosenberg.

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1 Ed Klein?

2 MR. KLEIN: Good evening, honorable members
3 of the New York City Districting Commission. I
4 hope I have this right.

5 Can you hear me?

6 Thank you for being here. Thank you for
7 allowing me to speak. I appreciate the
8 opportunity. It is an honor.

9 My name is Edward Klein. I am a resident,
10 for 30 years standing, of the 48th Council
11 District. I am a active member of the community.
12 I think I employed 30 people in various parts of
13 the City, but, mainly, from this neighborhood,
14 both, in Manhattan and in Brooklyn. I am also
15 the founding board member of Kehilas Moreshes
16 Yaakov, a group of 250-member families and
17 individuals from the Russian community. Yes.
18 That's Russian community.

19 I first want to thank you for the civic
20 lesson that I have gotten here. As a lawyer in
21 good-standing for the last 30 years, it has been
22 many years since I heard such a diverse array of
23 views. But I want to burst the balloon, for the
24 fact there is Russian hedge money, that there is
25 this big Russian group out there.

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1 There are Russian orthodox Catholics. There
2 are Russian Muslims. There are Russian Jews and
3 there are even Russian atheists. A few of them
4 still survive, the end of time, as we know it.
5 But they don't all speak for each other and all
6 of them are very different people.

7 I speak for 500 Russians, because I have
8 been involved in fundraising for them, for the
9 last two decades, and having all types of
10 meetings with them. They agree, that the 48th
11 Council District, should remain as designed by
12 the Districting Commission. The preliminary
13 draft map, that was designed by the Districting
14 Commission, and which is fully supported by
15 Councilman Michael Nelson, who has represented
16 the 48th Council District since 1999, for 13
17 years so ably.

18 I just want to end by saying, in addition to
19 the untruth that the Russians are hedge money,
20 one group, which you really should discount,
21 because it's not true, please take the other
22 side, the other side being that our community,
23 the Jewish community, does require
24 representation.

25 We have had it until now. Please let us

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1 have it for the future. Our children need it, we
2 need it and the entire city needs it. So without
3 further adieu -- (two-minute timer alarmed) --
4 please continue with the old, with the district
5 map, that was supported by Council Member Michael
6 Nelson. Thank you and have a good evening.

7 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
8 is Nathan Rosenberg, to be followed by Abraham
9 Brown.

10 MR. ROSENBERG: Hi. Good evening. My name
11 is Nathan Rosenberg. Members of the Commission,
12 appointed by the City Council, democratic members
13 appointed by the minority and members appointed
14 by the Mayor's office, I did not come with a
15 prepared speech tonight. As you can see, I
16 scribbled some notes while some people were
17 speaking. Some things came to mind.

18 Like you, I am here today. So are we. Many
19 people came up here from the African-American
20 community, Jewish community, Asian community and
21 Russian community. Most of the diverse
22 communities -- most of the speeches were to keep
23 the old map. The other speeches were mostly
24 given by one community, not a diverse community.

25 Like what everybody else said, if it's not

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1 broken, don't fix it. I have heard some of the
2 speakers say, advocating for the new map, saying
3 they don't have representation. They need a new
4 leader. But as a community activist, for 12
5 years, when Hurricane Sandy hit, as leader of a
6 group, a rescue group, Mike Nelson called us up
7 and for two weeks straight, myself and 30 or 40
8 other members did not go to work, did not go
9 home.

10 Guess whom we served?

11 Manhattan Beach and Brighton Beach. We have
12 hundreds of witnesses to attest to that and are
13 witness to that and many people know that. So
14 the fact what they claim, that they don't have
15 representation is simply false. They have. They
16 had it. The values have gone up from homes, even
17 in those areas. Manhattan Beach, is one of the
18 most-valuable areas.

19 Why change it around if such a great job was
20 done until now?

21 It just doesn't make sense. I am here,
22 today, to ask you -- (two-minute timer
23 alarmed) -- to keep the old district.

24 And just one more thing: I know my time is
25 up, keep in mind who is behind this, a disgraced

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1 person, Vito Lopez, trying to ensure himself a
2 seat as we all know it. It's unspoken. We all
3 know who is behind it. He is out of the assembly
4 and he is trying to get himself a seat on the
5 City Council.

6 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Our next speaker
7 is Abraham Brown, to be followed by Adam Dweck.

8 MR. BROWN: My name is Abraham Brown. I am
9 a lifelong resident of Brooklyn, married, with
10 four children. I am proud to be an active
11 resident of the 48th Council District and a
12 member of the local orthodox Jewish community.

13 I am giving this testimony to strongly urge
14 this Commission to accept the preliminary draft
15 map, that was designed by the Districting
16 Commission, and which is fully supported by
17 Councilman Michael C. Nelson, who has represented
18 the 48th Council District since 1999 and has done
19 a great job.

20 For quite some time, the 48th District
21 personified New York City's diversity with
22 countless different ethnic and religious
23 communities living and doing business, side by
24 side, in harmony. These groups represent the
25 entire spectrum of the demographic and

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1 socioeconomic groups.

2 Most of all, the district exemplifies the
3 greatness of this country, and specifically, this
4 city, with its broad range of groups of different
5 national origins. Including residents who were
6 born in the U.S.A., and members of many different
7 and diverse immigrant communities from the former
8 Soviet Union, China, Pakistan, Turkey, Mexico and
9 other places around the world.

10 Furthermore, our district is home to one of
11 the largest concentrations of senior citizens in
12 the city. In summary, our district is quite
13 familiar with the new, diverse cultures.
14 Diversity is not only something that the 48th
15 District embraces, it is absolutely necessary to
16 ensure the fairness of our government.

17 The orthodox Jewish community, like other
18 ethnic groups in the current 48th District,
19 represent a significant population, but not a
20 majority of the district. Our district serves as
21 a model of the American way of coexisting and
22 harmony. For the past ten years, each of our
23 voices, of our residents in the district, have
24 been heard and responded to by government.

25 The major factor, in this remarkable success

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1 story, is that no single community has had an
2 overwhelming population advantage causing
3 disproportionate representation. Everyone felt
4 the specific community needs were being equally
5 represented. If adopted, the preliminary draft
6 map would ensure that no group would be
7 disenfranchised in future years.

8 I, sincerely, am concerned with the
9 newly-proposed district lines, which were drawn,
10 according to the express words of the Districting
11 Commission, to serve the interest of the
12 Russian-American community. If implemented,
13 true equality -- (two-minute timer
14 alarmed) -- would disappear. Just another
15 minute.

16 At the October 11th Commission hearing, the
17 Russian-American representatives attempted to
18 make the argument that the preliminary lines, for
19 the 48th District, which removed Manhattan Beach
20 and added part of Midwood, diluted their voice
21 and gave no real opportunities for
22 Russian-Americans to win elections of some
23 members of their community in the district. This
24 claim is a great overstatement as, both,
25 Manhattan Beach and Midwood, are home to equal

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1 Russian-American communities.

2 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you very much. Our
3 next speaker is Adam Dweck, to be followed by Sam
4 Kubin.

5 MR. DWECK: Hi. I wasn't sure if I was
6 going to be able to speak tonight, and Gavriel
7 Sauer was gracious enough to yield his time to
8 me, so I would like to do the same. Thank you.

9 MR. SAUER: I am back again, just
10 reiterating what everyone has been saying. The
11 48th District, which I am a new resident of, is
12 very diverse. I work in that area. Everyone, in
13 my office, is from many, many cultures, from
14 different countries. We work together. We are
15 very close.

16 Voting is all about picking the right person
17 who is going to help everyone. It's about the
18 entire district. It's not about one community.
19 And as you've heard, multiple communities coming
20 up, they would like it to go back to how it was
21 previously, because it's been working for them.

22 I understand other communities want to grow
23 and that's okay, but they should get it off
24 merit, if they have a candidate, when they are,
25 you know, voting, that is qualified, and everyone

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1 feels like he is an appropriate person to be
2 chosen. That's great.

3 But by increasing the boundaries so that
4 there's more Russian-Americans in that area, you
5 are pretty much -- I don't want to use the word
6 rigging the voting, but that's really, that's
7 what it is. It's not listening to all the
8 voices, from all the communities, to meet all
9 their needs.

10 That's why I ask you, you have heard it
11 many, many times tonight, if you could, please,
12 we plead with you to put it back to how it was
13 before. Thank you very much.

14 MR. HACKWORTH: All right. Our last
15 registered speaker is Sam Kubin.

16 No, not here?

17 Here or not here?

18 Sam Kubin?

19 MR. KUBIN: Chairman Romano, Executive
20 Director Hum, members of the New York City
21 Districting Commission, thank you for affording
22 me this opportunity to speak of the proposed plan
23 to ensure the best representation for New
24 Yorkers. My name is Sam Kubin and I am a
25 representative of the Williamsburg Jewish

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1 community.

2 I am a father, a husband and a committed
3 activist for my community. I am very upset about
4 the proposed alteration of the 33rd Council
5 District, represented by Stephen Levin, to
6 include a portion of Bedford-Stuyvesant. This
7 plan, that has been supported by the Districting
8 Commission, hurts my community, and I hope, very
9 much, that you will reverse your proposal.

10 We do not benefit from a super-Jewish
11 district. Our community depends on having a
12 diverse set of elected officials that understands
13 our issues and advocates on our behalf. This
14 plan deforms the 33rd Council District from a
15 brownstone district into a Jewish ghetto. This
16 is not an exaggeration.

17 The plan, proposed by the Commission, will
18 ensure that a large majority of voters, in the
19 33rd District, come from the orthodox community
20 in Williamsburg. Now, more than ever, our
21 growing community needs assistance, affordable
22 housing and expanded social programs for our
23 youth.

24 I ask you to reverse this plan. Keep the
25 boundaries, between 33rd and 35th Districts, the

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1 same as they have been. You are dramatically
2 reducing the power of our vote by limiting us to
3 just one district. We do not want just one,
4 single Council member. Please recognize our
5 concerns and act accordingly. Thank you, very
6 much, for listening.

7 MR. HACKWORTH: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,
8 there are no additional registered speakers.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: We have no more speakers
10 for the evening. We stand adjourned until Monday
11 evening, at LaGuardia College, in Queens, at
12 6 p.m. Thank you.

13 (Whereupon, at 8:54 p.m., the above matter
14 was concluded.)

15
16
17 I, JOSHUA B. EDWARDS, a Notary Public for
18 and within the State of New York, do hereby
19 certify that the above is a correct transcription
20 of my stenographic notes.

21

22

23

24

25



JOSHUA B. EDWARDS, RPR

<p style="text-align: center;">1</p>	<p>100:13 2002 [1] - 29:7 2005/2009 [1] - 100:5 2010 [3] - 24:20, 30:9, 100:14 2012 [3] - 3:25, 5:14, 117:21 2012-2013 [1] - 1:2 2013 [2] - 1:6, 6:4 21 [3] - 113:18, 128:23, 129:2 22 [1] - 119:20 22.1 [1] - 31:14 22.3 [1] - 31:13 23 [3] - 6:4, 110:15, 112:2 23,000 [1] - 100:8 230 [1] - 3:24 23rd [1] - 111:8 25 [2] - 112:24, 134:7 250-member [1] - 138:16 26-year-old [1] - 33:2 260 [1] - 106:16 28th [1] - 66:23 2nd [2] - 98:1, 98:5</p>	<p>16:18, 16:21, 44:20, 45:15, 46:2, 62:5, 63:7, 64:2, 64:12, 65:24, 66:10, 68:17, 68:20, 69:23, 72:4, 88:21, 136:20, 137:13, 147:25 36th [6] - 15:24, 16:18, 16:25, 107:25, 108:3, 109:8 38 [5] - 22:13, 27:14, 29:24, 30:2, 40:15 38th [5] - 98:2, 98:10, 98:11, 98:12, 106:18 39 [1] - 28:6 39th [8] - 50:2, 58:15, 61:9, 65:18, 89:8, 121:14, 121:25, 122:14 3rd [4] - 98:1, 98:5, 98:6, 99:3</p>	<p>48th [112] - 11:13, 11:18, 12:6, 12:25, 38:25, 39:19, 41:2, 41:21, 42:8, 42:9, 42:22, 42:25, 44:8, 49:16, 50:3, 50:14, 50:15, 50:23, 51:2, 51:15, 51:25, 52:11, 53:9, 53:15, 53:19, 54:10, 55:2, 56:13, 56:17, 56:20, 58:23, 59:4, 59:16, 66:23, 67:1, 67:15, 67:18, 72:20, 73:6, 76:10, 76:14, 76:23, 77:1, 77:9, 77:24, 78:17, 79:1, 80:12, 80:17, 81:14, 81:20, 81:24, 82:1, 82:6, 82:7, 82:21, 83:4, 83:12, 85:24, 86:9, 86:12, 86:18, 90:4, 90:15, 91:3, 92:4, 92:10, 92:24, 93:1, 93:5, 94:10, 97:9, 97:15, 100:8, 100:20, 103:9, 103:17, 103:24, 112:4, 115:2, 116:1, 117:6, 117:7, 118:2, 118:7, 118:23, 126:13, 126:23, 127:11, 128:1, 128:9, 128:12, 128:16, 132:1, 132:23, 133:3, 133:16, 133:19, 133:21, 134:10, 135:14, 136:10, 138:10, 139:10, 139:16, 142:11, 142:18, 142:20, 143:14, 143:18, 144:19, 145:11 4th [3] - 24:12, 89:9, 98:6</p>
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