

From: [Henry Euler](#)
To: [Heardnas](#)
Subject: Testimony for January 14, 2013 Districting Commission Hearing from Auburndale Improvement Association, Inc.
Date: Monday, January 14, 2013 12:23:37 PM

This testimony is for the January 14, 2013,
Queens Districting Commission hearing.

Auburndale Improvement Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 580331, Station A
Flushing, NY 11358
January 14, 2013

New York City Districting Commission
Attn: Jonathan Ettricks
253 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10007

To the New York City Districting Commission:

My name is Henry Euler and I am the First Vice President of the Auburndale Improvement Association, Inc. I am representing the president of my civic group, Terri Pouymari, as well as our Executive Board and our approximately six hundred members residing in the Auburndale, Flushing and Western Bayside communities in Queens County. Our group has been in existence for over one hundred years.

Our civic organization enthusiastically supports the district lines proposed by the Queens Civic Congress (QCC) done in conjunction with the civic organizations here in Northeast Queens. The Commission has received copies of those maps, together with a letter of support from Councilmen Halloran and Koo.

We had examined the Commission's "final" proposal for new district lines for the 19th, 20th and 23rd Council districts. Parts of our community are in each district. We were not pleased with many aspects of the Commission's "final" proposal.

The 20th district covers downtown Flushing and heavily populated areas that have very little in common with the greater Auburndale community, which is comprised of mostly one and two family homes. We had hoped to move as much of our area as possible into the 19th and 23rd districts, which is a much better fit than the 20th district. We also realize that because of the size of our community and the parameters that must be adhered to when drawing Council lines, it would be a most difficult task to fit all of Auburndale into the 19th and 23rd districts, given what adjacent communities are requesting. We want to be fair to all of our neighbors, so we are willing to compromise, however, we still have serious concerns about the "final" proposal drawn up by the Commission and are advocating instead for adoption of the Queens Civic Congress (QCC) model.

Here are some concerns and comments that we have with our own community's lines and those lines proposed for our neighbors.

1) One area of western Bayside, within our organization's boundary lines, has been moved from the 23rd district to the 20th district in the Commission's "final" proposal. This is a huge step backwards, in our opinion. We insist that that portion be moved back to the 23rd district. The boundaries are 48th Avenue on the north, the Clearview Expressway on the east, the Long Island Expressway on the south, and a

zig-zag boundary on the west near Francis Lewis Blvd. We can not understand why the Commission would extend the 20th district further east into Bayside, which is putting more one and two family homes into a district designed for high density areas.

2) We are also upset because one of the western vertical boundary lines between the 19th and 20th districts in the Commission's "final" proposal is 169th Street. That cuts right through the heart of the Station Road neighborhood of Auburndale. The proper placement of that boundary line would be at 166th Street, which was recommended by the Queens Civic Congress (QCC).

3) We were pleased that the Commission moved a portion of the 20th district into the 19th district in the vicinity north of 46th and 47th Avenues and Hollis Court Blvd., in the streets numbered in the 190s. That area is a very tight knit community and it is wonderful to see that part united into one district. Please do not undo that work!

4) My civic association wholeheartedly supports our western neighbors in the Broadway Flushing area who want the 33rd Avenue horizontal boundary line dropped down to Northern Blvd. What the Commission is doing by placing the line at 33rd Avenue is dividing that contextually consistent neighborhood into two parts. The southern part would go to the 20th district, which again is a totally inappropriate placement for this historical community of one family homes. Please undo this mistake by following the Queens Civic Congress (QCC) model.

5) We support the Queens Civic Congress (QCC) proposed lines to cover North Flushing. Those R2A neighborhoods should be in the 19th district and this is what the North Flushing Civic Association has been advocating for with support from that community.

6) We also support placing the Mitchell Linden complex entirely into the 20th district, which is what the residents living there want and is also the proper fit for this densely populated area.

Thank you for giving my organization the chance to express our position and viewpoint regarding the "final" proposed district Council lines. We hope that the lines will be amended to reflect our requests as well as the requests of the other various civic groups. The Queens Civic Congress (QCC) proposal is the best way of accomplishing most of our goals.

Henry Euler, First Vice President
Auburndale Improvement Association, Inc.

Cc: Councilman Daniel Halloran, 19th district
Councilman Peter Koo, 20th district
Councilman Mark Weprin, 23rd district

Queens Civic Congress

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James J. Gallagher Jr, President FMHCA

[REDACTED]

Fresh Meadows, NY 11365-2806

Jan. 14, 2013

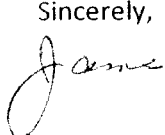
Dear Mr. Chairman,

I testified before the Redistricting Commission on Tues Aug. 21, 2012 at the Flushing Main Library. My request today is the SAME as it was back on that date. We are requesting that NYC Council District 23 extend it's Eastern Boundary to Utopia Parkway from the Horace Harding Expressway Service Road South to Union Turnpike. This way the entire Fresh Meadows Homeowners Civic Association, Inc. FMHCA (880 homeowners) would be covered by one NYC Council person and not two. Unfortunately this is the way it has been for the past 10 years. Councilman Mark Weprin, who grew up in Fresh Meadows, is in favor it as one 23rd Council District. The Utopia Estates Civic is in favor of it. Currently the Eastern line starts at 185th Str. & Horace Harding Expressway and then moves on block east at 67th Ave. to 69th Ave. on 184 St. Then it goes back to 185 St. Thereby dividing my civic area in half. Fresh Meadows should not be a council divided community. Fresh Meadows are the homeowners and the Queens Fresh Meadows Development LLC. (3,440 apartment units). We are all one zip code (11365) with the Fresh Meadows Post Office and Library in our name of Fresh Meadows. The entire area is known as Fresh Meadows.

In 2002 we had the area East of Utopia Parkway rezoned from R2 to R2A. This included the West Cunningham Park Civic Association, Utopia Estates Civic Association, and the Fresh Meadows Homeowners Civic Association (over 2,700 homeowners). The Queens Fresh Meadows Development is protected as part of the Special Preservation District since 1973. The area West of Utopia is zoned R-4 and R 3-2. The area west of Utopia that was zoned R2 decided not to rezone to R2A.

Looking once again we are looking to a favorable reply to our request.

Sincerely,

 [REDACTED]

James J. Gallagher Jr., President Fresh Meadows Homeowners Civic Association, Inc. (FMHCA)

Executive Board member of the Fresh Meadows Tenants Association

Formerly Past President of the Mid-Queens Community Council, (currently acting President)

Member of the Queens Civic Congress, Inc.

Member of Community Board #8 since 1994

Member of the NYHQ Community Advisory Council

Member of the St. John's University Queens Community Advisory Board.

Past President of the 107th Precinct Community Council