DISTRICTING COMMISSION ADOPTS REVISED CITYWIDE DISTRICTING PLAN

Plan will be sent to the City Council for Review

New York, NY -The New York City Districting Commission last night voted 14-1 to adopt a newly revised district <u>plan</u>, for the fifty-one City Council districts, during its public meeting at New York Law School. The revised district plan and a staff memorandum detailing each district were released earlier this week in response to the public's request to review them prior to the Commission's meeting. The staff <u>memorandum</u>, was <u>praised</u> by Citizens Union, and is the first of its kind in the City's districting process. The staff memorandum and early release of the revised district plan fostered greater transparency, a goal the Commission has been committed to providing since its formation in July 2012.

The approved revised plan will now be submitted to the New York City Council. The Council will have three weeks from the date of submission to adopt, reject or take no action on the plan which will be deemed adopted. If the Council rejects the plan, a new round of hearings will be scheduled.

"The Commission is proud to have created a district plan that fairly reflects the demographic changes and population growth that our great City experienced over the past decade," **said Chairman Benito Romano.** "The Commission's work is done for now, and we eagerly await the Council's action."

"Thanks to the public testimony and maps submitted by various groups, we were able to create a district plan that truly incorporates the thoughts and comments of many diverse constituencies," said **Executive Director Carl Hum**. "It is a district plan that will serve New Yorkers well for the next ten years."

The most recently revised <u>plan</u> creates 35 minority districts in which protected racial and language minority groups represent an overall majority of the total population in the district. By comparison, the 2003 districting plan had a total of 30 such districts.

STATISTICS

Since the beginning this districting process, over 1,791 people attended the public hearings and nearly 500 people testified. The Commission also received comment from nearly 1,500 individuals who submitted statements via e-mail or hard copy and over 20 alternative maps that were

submitted on-line and/or created in the Commission's Resource Room with the assistance of Commission staff. The Commission's Community Outreach team also spoke at over 50 community and advocacy groups throughout the five boroughs educating the public about the districting process.

The Commission's <u>website</u>, has been constantly updated to add testimony, proposed plan submissions and video links to the public meetings and hearings. Since August 1st, the Commission's website has received nearly 55,000 hits - averaging about 360 hits per day.

For more information about the Commission and to view the revised plan along with staff comments and recommendations, please visit www.nyc.gov/districting or contact 212-442-6940.

Contact: Shirley Limongi (212) 442-6940