

**Testimony to the New York City Districting Commission**  
**September 23, 2012**

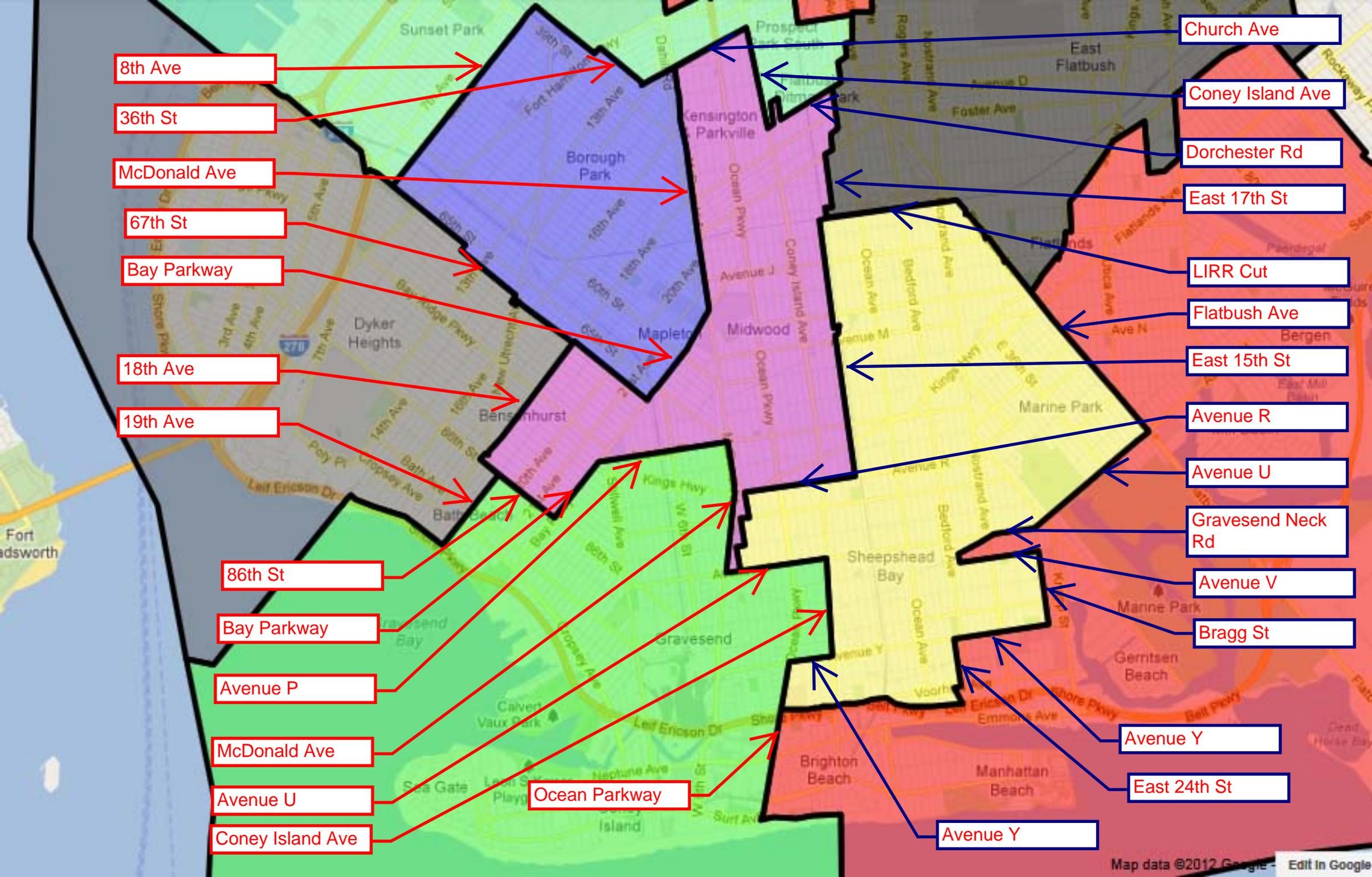
The proposed New York City Council lines that the New York City Districting Commission issued last week, divides the Jewish community of Southern Brooklyn into nine parts. In eight of the nine parts, our community is a small minority. Only in one council district (Council District 44) is our community a solid majority. While we recognize that the New York City Districting Commission basically did follow the previous existing council lines, we appeal to the New York City Districting Commission that there were significant population changes in the last ten years and the previous lines are no longer valid. In addition, the proposed lines that the New York City Districting Commission issued, further divide certain communities (such as Kensington, Marine Park and Bensonhurst) from the rest of the Jewish community.

Therefore, we are proposing changes in the New York City Council lines and we are requesting that the community be divided into three council districts as per the attached map. We are grateful to the New York City Districting Commission for assisting us in drawing these maps and providing us with the technical assistance. This indicates to us that the NYC Districting Commission is truly an independent body and is seeking to group like minded communities together.

Attached is the map that we are requesting. We look forward to working together to reduce the nine districts into three.

Thank you very much.

Rabbi Shmuel Lefkowitz  
Vice President for Community Services  
Agudath Israel of America  
Phone-718-382-7500  
Fax-718-382-7502



8th Ave

36th St

McDonald Ave

67th St

Bay Parkway

18th Ave

19th Ave

86th St

Bay Parkway

Avenue P

McDonald Ave

Avenue U

Coney Island Ave

Ocean Parkway

Church Ave

Coney Island Ave

Dorchester Rd

East 17th St

LIRR Cut

Flatbush Ave

East 15th St

Avenue R

Avenue U

Gravesend Neck Rd

Avenue V

Bragg St

Avenue Y

East 24th St

Avenue Y

## Hearings

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**From:** David P. Rose [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2012 10:11 AM  
**To:** Hearings  
**Subject:** Supporting City Council redistricting plan

To the NYC Districting Commission:

As a citizen, voter, homeowner and stakeholder in the political process, I am writing to support the City Council Redistricting proposal put forward by Agudath Israel of America. I have examined the map which details their proposal to reduce the existing nine districts to a new set of three, in response to changed demographic patterns uncovered by the 2010 Census.

I would be overjoyed to see the exiting hodgepodge, patchwork quilt of districts consolidated into a rational and cogent layout of realistic districts which accurately reflect the ethnic and sociocultural makeup not only of own neighborhood of Borough Park, but also that of the broader Jewish community of south and central Brooklyn. A boundary adjustment to achieve that aim is long overdue, and in my opinion, the Agudath Israel proposal fills the bill perfectly. The street boundaries it employs (Macdonald Avenue, Ocean Parkway etc.) are valid and natural ones recognized by everyone in the community.

I urge the Commission to endorse the proposal for new Council districts that is now in front of it. Having the new scheme in place would be a victory for representative democracy in our domain.

Very truly yours,

David P. Rose  
[REDACTED]

## Hearings

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 2:58 PM  
**To:** Hearings  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTING

GENTLEMEN:IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION THAT MY FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES WILL NO LONGER BE UNITED IN REACHING OUT FOR THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION FOR OUR COMMUNITY. ORTHODOX JEWS HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS THAT ARE NOT NECESSARILY UNDERSTOOD BY OTHER FINE,UPSTANDING CITIZENS. AGUDATH ISRAEL IS A TRUSTED ORGANIZATION WHOSE DIRECTION I FOLLOW. PLEASE GIVE THEIR PLAN A CHANCE. YOURS TRULY, HARRIS MERMELSTEIN 1 [REDACTED] NY 11219 . OFFICER BASIC LTD 3 [REDACTED] NY 11218

## Hearings

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**From:** Meir Wikler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 14, 2012 12:00 PM  
**To:** Hearings  
**Subject:** redistricting for the City Council

Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my support for the redistricting map proposed by the Agudath Israel of America. The initial map, as proposed by the City, had our community chopped up among no less than 9 districts which would have unfairly disenfranchised our community. The Agudah proposal retains our community homogeneity and will enable us to elect Council members of either political party who understand and support our needs and interests.

I live at [REDACTED] in Boro Park and have been living there for over 40 years. I am a homeowner and want only the best for my city and community.

Thank you for allowing me to participate in the this democratic process via the convenience of email.

Sincerely,

Meir Wikler, D.S.W.

## Hearings

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 7:51 PM  
**To:** Hearings  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Redistricting Proposal

I would like to express my concern regarding the proposed redistricting for my district. My voice and the voice of my fellow district dwellers would be severely diluted if my district were to be subdivided into nine districts. This is a concern shared by many in my district. A fairer redistricting would be the one proposed by Agudath Israel which would divide the district into three districts.

Thank you

Morris Becker  
[REDACTED]

Brooklyn, N.Y. 11204