

Li, Jane (Puichun)

From: Christina Wilkinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 2:00 AM
To: Li, Jane (Puichun)
Subject: Maspeth and Woodhaven

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ms. Li,

I previously wrote to the Redistricting Commission with regard to Maspeth's desire to be left intact and in the 30th Council District. Since that time, it has come to my attention that the neighborhood of Woodhaven would also like to be kept intact. When I asked the President of the Woodhaven Residents Block Association for clarification, he said that they did not care whether they were placed in the 30th or 32nd Council District, as long as the neighborhood was kept whole.

I would like to point out that if Woodhaven is placed in the 32nd Council District, then all of Maspeth can be kept in the 30th.

Thank you.

Christina Wilkinson

██████████, Maspeth, NY 11378
(718) ██████████

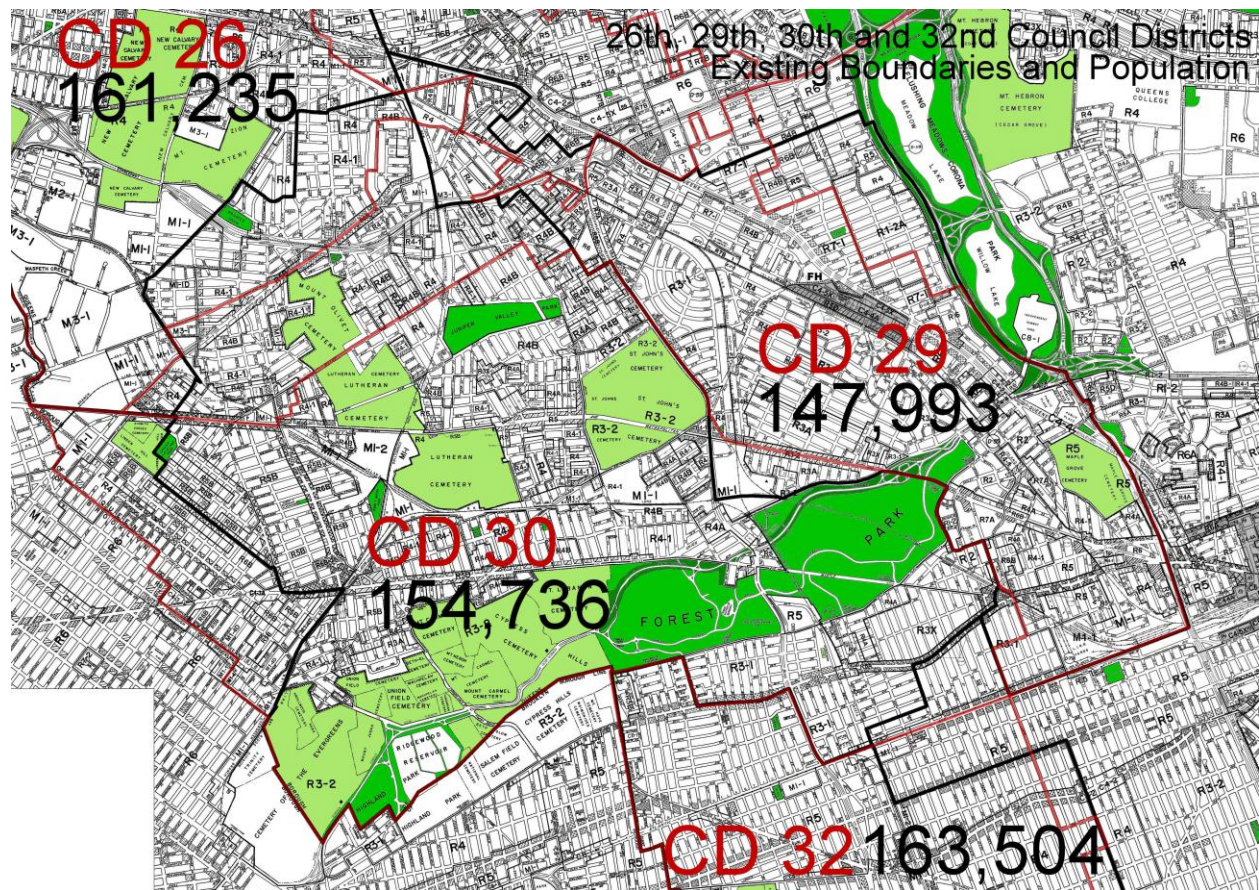
October 10, 2012

NYC Districting Commission
Attn: Jonathan Ettricks
253 Broadway, 7th Fl.
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Ettricks,

My name is Christina Wilkinson and I am a community activist affiliated with several organizations in the Maspeth area. I am here today to protest the Redistricting Commission's proposed boundaries for Council Districts 26 and 30.

Prior to 2003, the town of Maspeth was divided between the 26th and 29th districts. The 26th district took in the northern half of Maspeth, and most, if not all, of the communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside and Woodside. The southern half of Maspeth was attached to the 29th district, which was made up predominantly of Rego Park and Forest Hills.

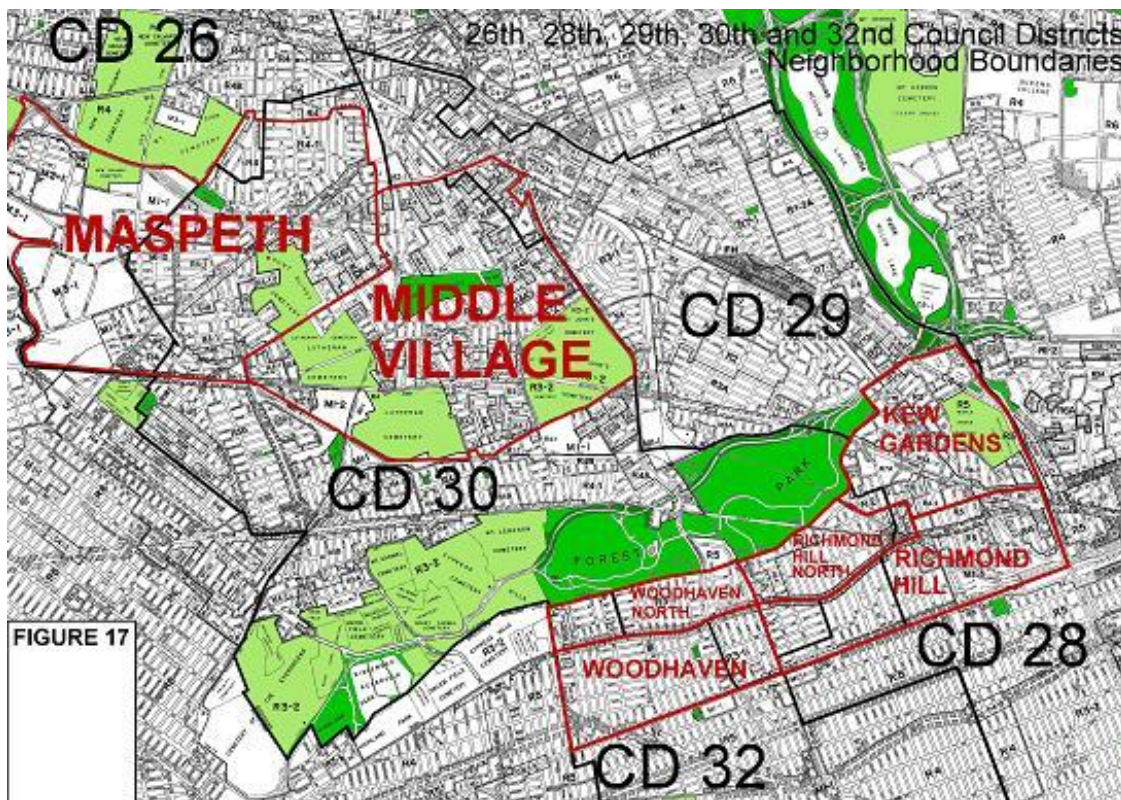


1 - Pre-2003 council district lines (red)

Long Island City, Woodside, Sunnyside, Rego Park and Forest Hills have high population densities, with housing stock that is predominantly multi-family, including many tall apartment buildings. Meanwhile, Maspeth is a low-rise community made up mostly of 1 and 2-family homes.

Thanks to Robert Moses, the Long Island Expressway slices through the heart of Maspeth, bisecting the community at its core. However, the residents of Maspeth living on both the north and south sides of the L.I.E. have common community interests, which are shared with the neighboring communities of Middle Village and Ridgewood.

The Redistricting Commission recognized this in 2002, and stitched Maspeth back together by placing it in the 30th Council District along with Middle Village, Glendale and Ridgewood. These 4 communities are all represented by Community Board 5 and served by the 104th Police Precinct. Therefore, the decision to redistrict the area in this manner seemed like a natural one.



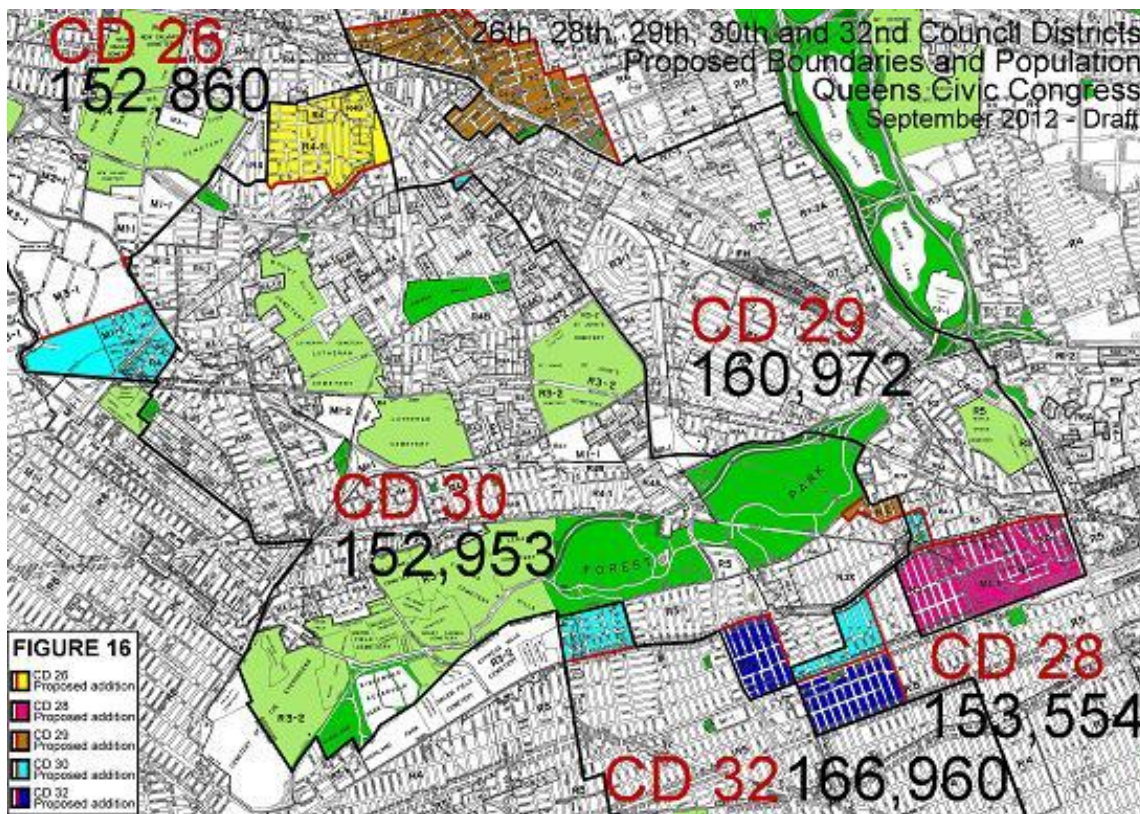
2- Current district lines with neighborhood boundaries

However, community leaders were horrified upon learning that for the upcoming redistricting, the Commission has proposed a plan resembling the previous lines. In the current proposal, Maspeth is once again divided along the Long Island Expressway. This time, the northern half was put back in the 26th district and the southern half remains within the 30th district. There seems to be no purpose for this other than to weaken the political power of the Maspeth community.

The 26th district will be losing a few blocks of Astoria in order to take on about 40% of Maspeth. This makes absolutely no sense. Astoria and Long Island City have similar community interests and characteristics. Long Island City and Maspeth do not.

Dividing Maspeth will complicate the ability of the community to get fair representation, as significant coordination will have to occur between elected officials, civic organizations and business groups in order to have any action taken on a particular issue.

I support the redistricting proposal submitted by the Queens Civic Congress. This proposal draws more of Maspeth into the 30th district, where it belongs, while maintaining adequate population in both the 26th and 30th districts.



3 - Queens Civic Congress proposed district lines

These comments are being submitted for the October 10, 2012 Queens redistricting hearing at LaGuardia Community College.

Yours truly,

Christina Wilkinson