

Dear members of NYC Council Districting Commission!

My name is Gregory Davidzon and I am the owner of Davidzon radio (620 AM). It is a popular Russian language radio station that serves hundreds of thousands of Russian-Americans just in New York City. I am also a publisher of the free Russian language newspapers: the only one daily Russian newspaper in the US (Reporter), as well as two weekly newspapers covering Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. We provide important information and education to Russian-Americans in order to encourage their civic participation and responsibility and to make them an integral part of the American voting process.

The Russian-American Community flourished in our great city. Russian-speaking immigrants achieved tremendous success in business, culture, sports, arts, science, medicine and politics. There are about 400,000 Russian Americans in all five boroughs. Brooklyn is a home of the largest Russian-speaking population in the United States.

We went a long way for the last 10 years in New York electoral politics. Today we have NYS Senator David Storobin, Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny, Democratic District Leaders Mark Davidovich and Ari Kagan, Republican District Leader Boris Pincus. But until now there are no Russian-Americans in New York City Council and community is eager to change this situation.

One of the main goals of redistricting is to keep Communities together. When you look at the current district map, it became obvious two communities: Orthodox Jews and Russian speaking are satisfied with existing lines of 44 and 48 districts. Proposed map splits communities without any significant reason.

So, I am asking the Districting Commission to move back to the 44th District (currently well represented by Councilman David Greenfield) several blocks in Midwood (in areas of Avenues J, K, L,M) that were added to the current boundaries of 48th District.

I am also asking the Commission to include several buildings (with many Russian-speaking residents) located between Sea Breeze Avenue and West Brighton into 48th District, excluding them from the current lines of the 47th District.

By implementing these actions you will ensure that Orthodox and Russian-American communities will be satisfied for the next 10 years.

Thank you,

Gregory Davidzon