



November 1, 2012

Attention NYC Districting Commission:

I am writing to express concern over the proposed map NYC District 8 that historically includes East Harlem, Manhattan Valley and part of Mott Haven. The proposed district divides communities of interest in upper Manhattan and the south Bronx. We call on you to revise the final District 8 Map to include previous portions of East Harlem and Manhattan Valley, while creating a portion of the Bronx that includes one community and not several.

Hispanic Federation represents 100 Hispanic-serving not-for-profit organizations and works to address the needs of the broader Latino community including maximizing civic engagement and strengthening Latino leadership in the community, government and corporate arenas. As such, the Federation is a watchdog against the disenfranchisement of Latino New Yorkers and attempts to divide and reduce the representative power of our community.

There are several reasons why the proposed District 8 map is not best for the existing Latino and East Harlem/Manhattan community. First, the proposal splits up East Harlem, which is a community of interest, including the stripping of the influential La Marqueta – a well-known marketplace on Park Avenue between 111th-116th Streets that serves as a vital economic and social venue for El Barrio. Second, the community of Manhattan Valley, which is 38 percent Latino, has been historically represented by the East Harlem Council Member and shares much of the same needs and interests of El Barrio residents. Third, the proposed map cuts through and splits apart several Bronx communities of interest from Mott Haven through High Bridge.

We urge the final map of District 8 to restore previous district lines to include all of East Harlem including La Marqueta and surrounding streets, as well as previously included streets of Manhattan Valley. Similarly, any Bronx portion of the district should be confined to one complete neighborhood to preserve communities of interest.

Sincerely,

José Calderón
President

Cc:
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Speaker Christine Quinn