Hearings

From: Deborah Pollack [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 4:50 PM
To: Hearings
Attachments: DOC003.PDF

Deborah Pollock
Director of Social Services
West Harlem Group Assistance,Inc
1652 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10031
212-862.1399 ext. 25-office
212-862.3281- Fax
[redacted]

Name: Jewel Pollack

October 4, 2012 Districting Commission Meeting

Testifying in support of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Districting Plan (UMED Plan)

I support the UMED plan and believe the district boundaries should be as follows:

1. The district boundaries of the 9th Councilmanic district should be Amsterdam and Morningside Avenues to the west, 110th Street to the south, 155th Street and the Polo Grounds and Rangel Houses to the north, and Lexington and Madison Avenues to the east.

2. The district boundaries of the 7th Councilmanic District should have a contiguous border along the Hudson River to the west, rest at 97th Street to the south, Morningside and Amsterdam Avenues to the west, and follow Fort Washington Avenue to Interstate 95 (I-95)/the George Washington Bridge entrance. I-95 is a common sense boundary and the district lines should not go further north than I-95. Also to follow historic district lines and maintain the connections of communities of interest the district should also include the Jumel Mansion neighborhood.

3. The district boundaries for the 10th Councilmanic should include the total area north of I-95 including the wholly contained neighborhoods of Cabrini Heights and Inwood. For population purposes the district has to extend south of the common sense I-95 boundary. That extension should not crack in half the heart of Washington Heights' Dominican community at the I-95 boundary as the commission's plan suggests. Instead the area east of Fort Washington Avenue and west of Amsterdam Avenue down to 155th Street should be included in the 10th Councilmanic district.

I believe the districts should follow these boundaries because:

1. THE UMED PLAN IS **SIMPLE**

   - This plan avoids gerrymandering by using the community districts as its base. These lines were established in 1975 and are universally recognized as community boundaries. Deviations from those boundaries were to adjust for population and were simple changes.

   - The deviations either followed existing district lines as in the case of the Jumel Mansion Neighborhood or the Fort Washington Avenue extension or used very simple, long avenue boundaries. Examples would be the lengthy Madison and Lexington Avenues at to the east of the 9th and Amsterdam Avenue and Morningside Aves. between the 7th and 9th.

   - Amsterdam Avenue is a simple, but important boundary between the 7th and 9th districts. Several transportation routes run along Amsterdam and it is the western demarcation of several neighborhoods like Hamilton Heights and Sugar Hill.

   - Residents of the Upper West side between 96th and 110th Streets which had previously been split between three councilmanic districts would now be in one district, a significant concern raised in previous hearings.

2. THE UMED PLAN IS **FAIR**

- The plan doesn't just adhere to the provisions of the Voting Rights Act, but goes further to protect the ethnicities and nationalities that constitute the Upper Manhattan political mosaic.

- This plan recognizes the important nationality characteristic of Washington Heights. Looking beyond the Hispanic/Latino designation, its Dominican community was "cracked" in half by the Commission's first redistricting proposal. This plan summarily rejects that approach and reunites the Dominican community to the north and south of I-95 as it currently exists in Council District 10. This protects the voting strength of the Dominican Community in Council District 10 instead of diluting it.

- The plan recognizes the historic African American Community in Central Harlem and the Dominican Community in Washington Heights. Districts 9 and 10 reflect those historic communities, but the plan also recognizes the demographic changes of the community and its proposed district 7 evenly balances traditional ethnic communities with new resident ethnic communities for a district that is more evenly split than the Commission's plan which appeared to favor one ethnic minority over others.

3. THE UMED PLAN IS **BALANCED**

- Many significant institutions remain wholly contained in single districts in this plan.

- The City College of New York maintains the Amsterdam Avenue boundary and is to its east. It would lie totally within the 9th Councilmanic District.

- One of the Upper Manhattan's largest institutions, Columbia University, with the exception of its athletic facilities, are wholly contained within one district. The current district has the university split across three districts.

- La Marqueta which would be split in the Commission's first proposal would now rest solely in the 8th Councilmanic district.

October 4, 2012

Ref: Upper Manhattan Empowerment District Plan Testimony

I Donald C. Notice, Executive Director of West Harlem Group Assistance, Inc. (WHGA), a community based development corporation, was established in 1971 to revitalize the under- invested West and Central Harlem communities riddled with dilapidated and abandoned buildings. Over the years, WHGA has expanded its supportive and social service programs to residents facing displacement as a result of demographic and economic changes in Harlem. To date, WHGA has developed over $110 million in low to moderate income housing totalling 1,640 units.

West Harlem Group Assistance provides services throughout western Harlem.

Our engagements with the various community in which we operate give us specific insight into the natural boundaries that differentiate communities from one another.

It is evident to us that:

1. Amsterdam Avenue represents an important dividing line along which neighborhoods like Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville and Sugar Hill run.
2. The Amsterdam Avenue dividing line is crucial for determining differentiated communities.

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Hearings

From: jamaal nelson [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 9:36 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Harlem Democratic District Leader Would Like To Speak At Tonight's Hearing

Hello,
My name is Jamaal Nelson one of Harlem's Democratic District Leaders. I would like to speak at tonight's hearing. Below please find my testimony.

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Name: Joel Mentor Joel Mentor

October 4, 2012 Districting Commission Meeting

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UPPER MANHATTAN EMPOWERMENT DISTRICT PLAN

Name: Joyce Adewumi

October 4, 2012 Districting Commission Meeting

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MARITTA DUNN (212) [redacted]
[redacted] New York, New York [redacted] Fax: (212) [redacted]

Testimony
NYC Districting Commission Meeting
October 4th, 2012

Changes to a councilmanic district should never restrict or compromise the interest and concerns of the majority of people residing there.

Changes to a councilmanic district should never pit one group of citizens against another or result in creating a divide based on color,heritage or nationalities.

The ***Upper Manhattan Empowerment District Plan (UMED)*** insures that this is not done.

The ***UMED***

- Avoids gerrymanding
- Protects important community boundaries
- Unifies a district that is currently split into three
- Insures that historic institutions are contained in a single district

As a voting resident in upper Manhattan for over fifty (50) years I have had the privilege of living through and being involved in many of its changes and accomplishments. It is with this experience that I fully support the ***Upper Manhattan Empowerment District Plan (UMED).***

Thank you.

Name: Rev. G. Morgan-Thomas Chair CB9
201 Edgecombe Ave
NYNY 10030

October 4, 2012 Districting Commission Meeting

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District Testimony

Upper
Manhattan
Empowerment District

Plan

♀
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10th Council District
7th Council District

9th Council District
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District Population Deviation
%
Deviation White % White Black
%
Black Hispanic
%
Hispanic
7 161,746 1,036 0.60% 50,418 31.20% 28,400 17.60% 67,084 41.50%
9 166,848 5,342 3.30% 15,639 9.40% 98,826 59.50% 42,754 25.70%
10 166,279 5,569 3.50% 29,202 17.60% 9,514 5.70% 121,562 73.10%

♀

Hearings

From: Angela Phillips [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:55 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Testimony

Name: Mrs. Angela Phillips

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Mrs. Angela D. Phillips, Deputy Director
CONVENT AVENUE FAMILY LIVING CENTER
34 Convent Avenue
Manhattan, New York 10027
(212) 866 -7816 (Phone)
(212) 865- 8471 (Fax)
[redacted]

Hearings

From: Stacey Cohen [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:40 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: District Testimony
Attachments: District Testimony.pdf

Good Morning,

See Attachment.

Thank You,

S. Cohen-Meekins
Director, Social Services
(CAFLC)

UPPER MANHATTAN EMPOWERMENT DISTRICT PLAN

Name: Stacey Cohen-Meeks

October 4, 2012 Districting Commission Meeting

Testifying in support of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Districting Plan (UMED Plan)

I support the UMED plan and believe the district boundaries should be as follows:

1. The district boundaries of the 9th Councilmanic district should be Amsterdam and Morningside Avenues to the west, 110th Street to the south, 155th Street and the Polo Grounds and Rangel Houses to the north, and Lexington and Madison Avenues to the east.

2. The district boundaries of the 7th Councilmanic District should have a contiguous border along the Hudson River to the west, rest at 97th Street to the south, Morningside and Amsterdam Avenues to the west, and follow Fort Washington Avenue to Interstate 95 (I-95)/the George Washington Bridge entrance. I-95 is a common sense boundary and the district lines should not go further north than I-95. Also to follow historic district lines and maintain the connections of communities of interest the district should also include the Jumel Mansion neighborhood.

3. The district boundaries for the 10th Councilmanic should include the total area north of I-95 including the wholly contained neighborhoods of Cabrini Heights and Inwood. For population purposes the district has to extend south of the common sense I-95 boundary. That extension should not crack in half the heart of Washington Heights' Dominican community at the I-95 boundary as the commission's plan suggests. Instead the area east of Fort Washington Avenue and west of Amsterdam Avenue down to 155th Street should be included in the 10th Councilmanic district.

I believe the districts should follow these boundaries because:

1. THE UMED PLAN IS **SIMPLE**

    - This plan avoids gerrymandering by using the community districts as its base. These lines were established in 1975 and are universally recognized as community boundaries. Deviations from those boundaries were to adjust for population and were simple changes.

    - The deviations either followed existing district lines as in the case of the Jumel Mansion Neighborhood or the Fort Washington Avenue extension or used very simple, long avenue boundaries. Examples would be the lengthy Madison and Lexington Avenues at to the east of the 9th and Amsterdam Avenue and Morningside Aves. between the 7th and 9th.

    - Amsterdam Avenue is a simple, but important boundary between the 7th and 9th districts. Several transportation routes run along Amsterdam and it is the western demarcation of several neighborhoods like Hamilton Heights and Sugar Hill.

    - Residents of the Upper West side between 96th and 110th Streets which had previously been split between three councilmanic districts would now be in one district, a significant concern raised in previous hearings.

2. THE UMED PLAN IS **FAIR**

- The plan doesn't just adhere to the provisions of the Voting Rights Act, but goes further to protect the ethnicities and nationalities that constitute the Upper Manhattan political mosaic.

- This plan recognizes the important nationality characteristic of Washington Heights. Looking beyond the Hispanic/Latino designation, its Dominican community was "cracked" in half by the Commission's first redistricting proposal. This plan summarily rejects that approach and reunites the Dominican community to the north and south of I-95 as it currently exists in Council District 10. This protects the voting strength of the Dominican Community in Council District 10 instead of diluting it.

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3. THE UMED PLAN IS **BALANCED**

- Many significant institutions remain wholly contained in single districts in this plan.

- The City College of New York maintains the Amsterdam Avenue boundary and is to its east. It would lie totally within the 9th Councilmanic District.

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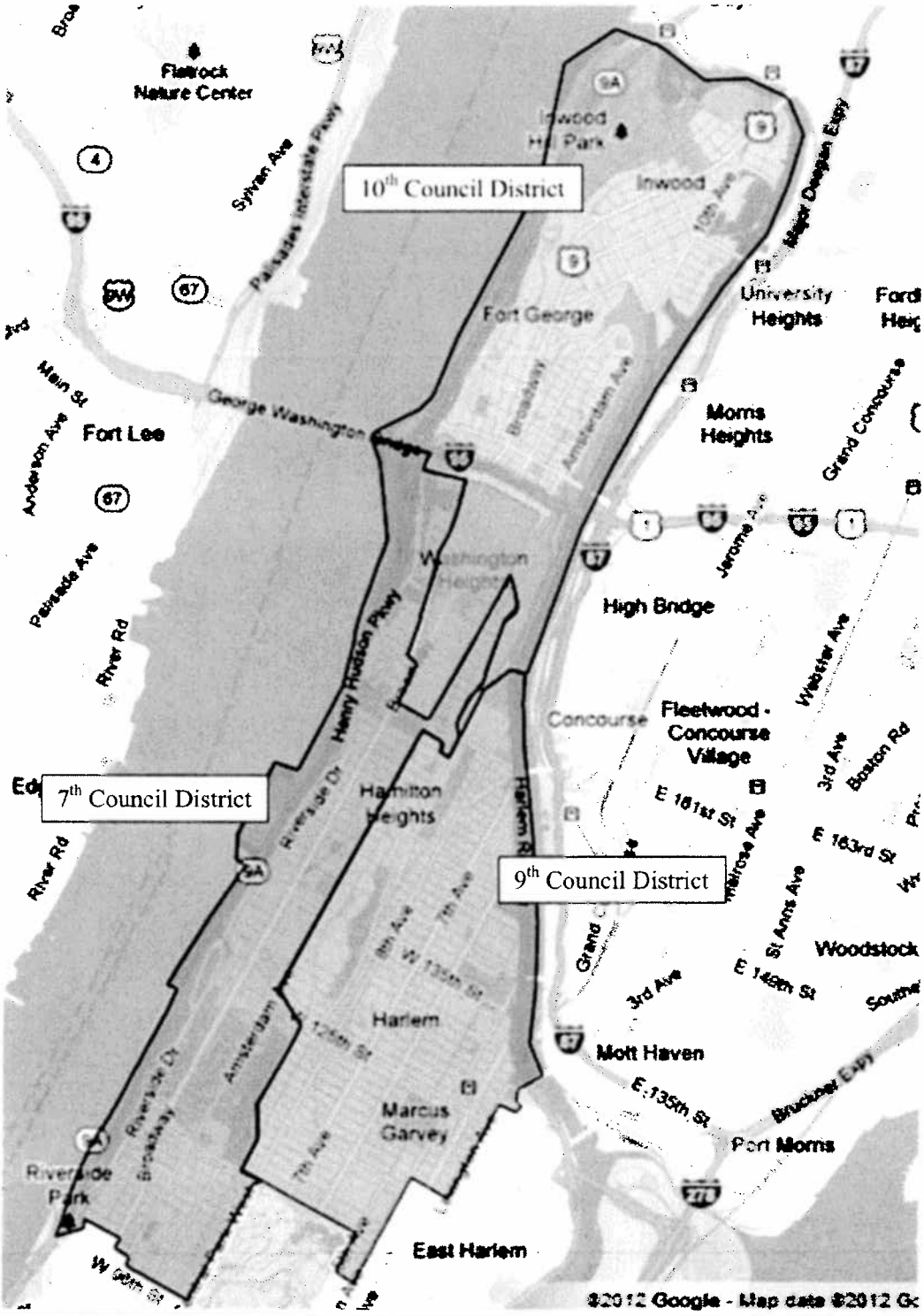

District	Population	Deviation	% Deviation	White	% White	Black	% Black	Hispanic	% Hispanic
7	161,746	1,036	0.60%	50,418	31.20%	28,400	17.60%	67,084	41.50%
9	166,848	5,342	3.30%	15,639	9.40%	98,826	59.50%	42,754	25.70%
10	166,279	5,569	3.50%	29,202	17.60%	9,514	5.70%	121,562	73.10%

Hearings

From: Nadene Gordon <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 10:15 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Testimony
Attachments: District Testimony.doc

Upper Manha
Empowerment District Plan

Name: Nadene Gordon

October 4, 2012 Districting Commission Meeting

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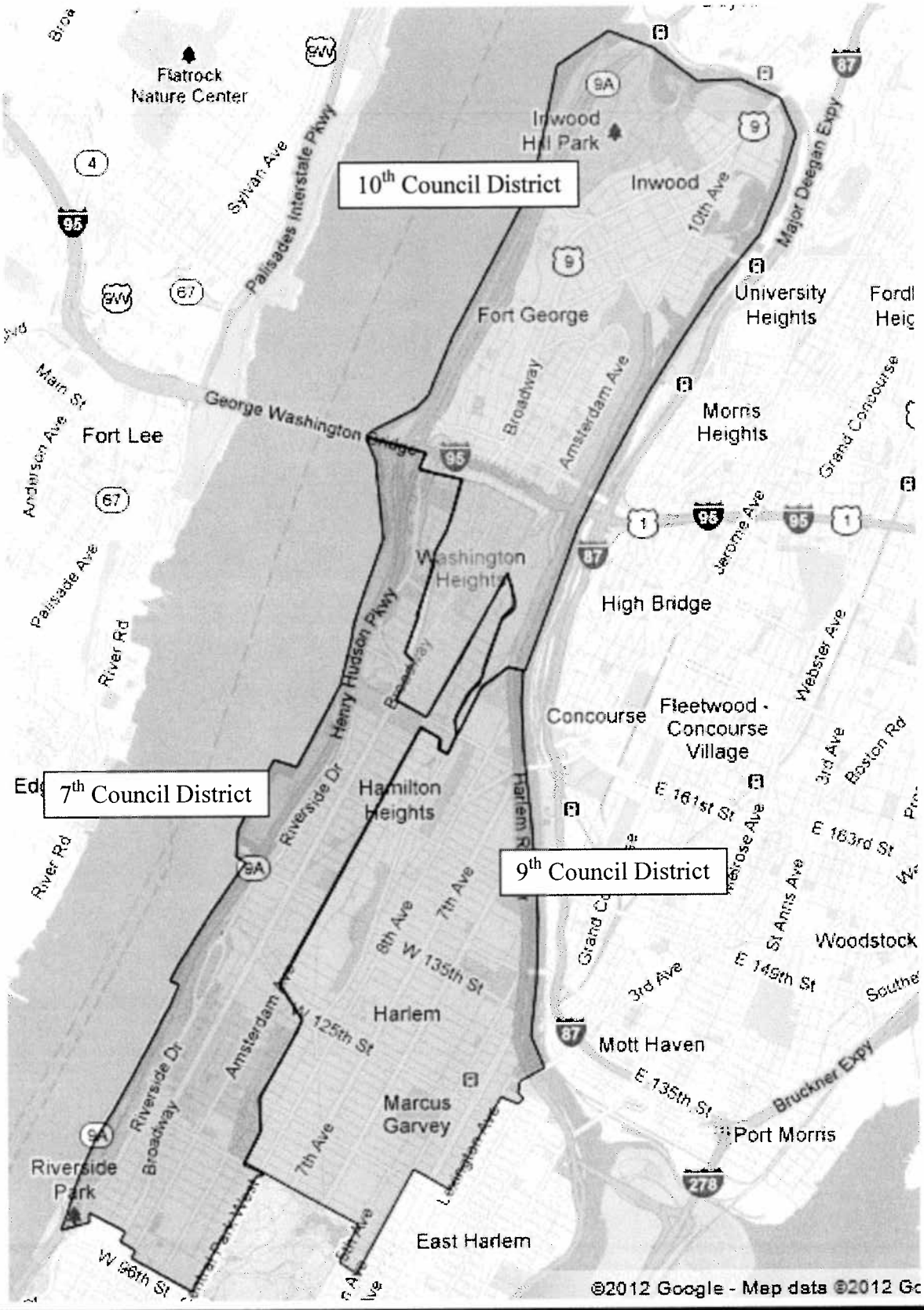

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Hearings

From: Dorisabel Cruz [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 9:56 AM
To: Hearings
Cc: 'Dorisabel Cruz'
Subject: Upper Manhattan Districting Commision
Attachments: UMED Plan-D. Cruz.pdf

Thanking you in advance.

Ms. Dorisabel Cruz, Director
Oberia D. Dempsey Multi-Service Center
127 West 127th Street, Room 101
New York, NY 10027
212-749-0353

Name: Doriselect Cruz

October 4, 2012 Districting Commission Meeting

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Hearings

From: June Andrews [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 6:27 PM
To: Hearings
Subject: District Commission-Testifying in Support of the UMED Plan
Attachments: Support UMED PLan-June P. Andrews-Henderson.PDF

Good Afternoon,

Please see attached my testimony in support of the UMED Plan.

Thanks

June P. Andrews
Deputy Director
West Harlem Group Assistance, Inc.
1652 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, New York 10031
(212) 862-1399

Name: June P. Andrews-Henderson

October 4, 2012 Districting Commission Meeting

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