

*NYC Redistricting Commission Public Meeting October 9,  
2012*

Good evening everyone and thank you for the opportunity to speak on this very important topic concerning New York City Council Redistricting. This is my 2<sup>nd</sup> appearance before this Commission.

My name is Joe Granello and I am a home and business owner in the Sunnyside section of Staten Island. Sunnyside is a part of the Clove Lakes Civic Association and the Roman Catholic Parish of St. Teresa of which I'm a member of both.

First, I'll be speaking tonight about the NYC Council Districts Preliminary Draft Plan for 2012 with a focus on Districts 49 and 50. The proposed Plan states that there is a population total of 468,576 in the 3 Council Districts 49, 50 and 51. While the 3 SI Community Boards show a total population of 467,968 or 608 less. Which number is correct? While it is a small difference, it might save the identity of some neighborhoods being torn apart by the proposed Preliminary Draft Plan.

The Plan is tearing our Civic Association and Parish apart into 2 separate Council Districts. Under the City of New York Charter Districting Commission Section 52c it states and I quote:

"District lines shall keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other."

It is not just about the numbers as the Charter and Mr. Thaddeus Hackworth, Senior Counsel, New York City Law Department stated. It is also about and I quote Mr. Hackworth "...staying "away from **odd-looking districts**"..."**You don't want to draw districts based on favorite animals or anything like that. The districts, to the extent possible, should be standard district shapes**". (End quote) Look at districts 49 and 50 in the Castleton and Meiers Corners communities. It sure does look like someone's favorite animal.

I strongly believe that this Commission can surely do a better job! Dr. Joseph Salvo, from the NYC Planning Dept. called Community District 1 an "amazingly diverse place". To the extent possible, let's keep it that way.

Thank you for you time and attention.

Respectively submitted,

Joseph L. Granello

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