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Stated Commission Meeting
August 24, 2012, 1 PM

Commissioners

Benito Romano, *Chair*

I Welcome and Introductions

Jamila Ponton Bragg

Scott Cerullo

Kamillah M. Hanks

Robert W. Hart

Linda Lin

Oscar Odom III

Thomas Ognibene

Frank Padavan

Roxanne J. Persaud

Madeline Provenzano

John Robert

Gloria Carvajal Wolfe

Marc Wurzel

Justin Yu

II Policy Setting and Procedural Matters

A. Adopt Meeting Minutes from July 17 Meeting (ACTION ITEM)

B. Adopt Press Policy (ACTION ITEM)

C. Conflict of Interest Training

III Executive Director's Report

A. Introduction of Staff

B. Mapping Software Update

C. Use of Prison Population Data

D. Report of External Meetings

E. Report of First Round of Public Hearings

Staff

Carl Hum

Executive Director

IV General Discussion

Office

V Adjournment

253 Broadway, 7th Fl
New York, NY 10007
212-442-6940
info@districting.nyc.gov



THE CITY OF NEW YORK 2012-2013 DISTRICTING COMMISSION

**253 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10007**

PUBLIC MEETING

**Tuesday, July 17, 2012
6:46 p.m. to 7:48 p.m.**

**City Hall, Council Chambers
New York, New York**

Attendees:

Districting Commission Members:

Jamila Ponton Bragg
Scott Cerullo
Robert W. Hart
Linda Lin
Oscar Odom, III

Thomas V. Ognibene
Frank Padavan
Roxanne J. Persaud
Madeline Provenzano
John Robert

Benito Romano
Gloria Carvajal Wolfe
Justin Yu

Guests:

James Caras
Deputy General Counsel, The Council of the City of New York

Carl Hum

Joseph Salvo
Population Director, New York City Department of City Planning

Thaddeus Hackworth
Senior Counsel, New York City Law Department

Minutes by:

Jonathan C. Ettricks

James Caras began the meeting by thanking the Commissioners for their service to New York City, and made some introductory remarks. Mr. Caras noted that, for the first time in the Council's history, Black, Latino and Asian members made up a majority of the City Council following the elections in 2009. Mr. Caras then introduced two speakers, Joseph Salvo and Thaddeus Hackworth, who would provide information about New York City demographics and the legal requirements related to redrawing the 51 Councilmanic Districts.

The first order of business was to elect the Districting Commission's chair. Commissioner Linda Lin made a motion to elect Commissioner Benito Romano to be the Districting Commission's chair. Commissioner Thomas V. Ognibene seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The next order of business was to consider for adoption the bylaws of the Districting Commission. Commissioner Jamila Ponton Bragg made a motion to adopt the Commission's bylaws. Commissioner Thomas V. Ognibene seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Commissioner Romano then designated Commissioner Jamila Ponton Bragg to serve as chair in his absence.

The next order of business was the selection and appointment of the Districting Commission's Executive Director. The Chair introduced Carl Hum and moved for Mr. Hum's appointment as Executive Director. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Mr. Hum then addressed the Commissioners and named Dr. Alan Gartner as Deputy Executive Director and Thaddeus Hackworth as General Counsel for the Districting Commission.

The next order of business was a briefing by Joseph Salvo. Mr. Salvo, of the New York City Department of City Planning's Population Division, gave a presentation on the change in the demographic composition of New York City's five boroughs between the years 2000 and 2010. Mr. Salvo specifically focused on changes in the City's total population and how it has been affected by the demographic changes occurring over the last decade, which included demographic shifts in race and ethnicity.

The next order of business was a briefing by Thaddeus Hackworth. Mr. Hackworth, Senior Counsel of the New York City Law Department and newly appointed General Counsel of the Districting Commission, presented an overview of the legal underpinnings governing the Commission's work. Mr. Hackworth discussed in detail the relevant provisions of the Equal Protection Clause of the United States Constitution, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the New York City Charter.

The next order of business was the scheduling of five Public Hearings for the Districting Commission to hear testimony from the public concerning the initial phases of its work in drafting a new districting plan for the New York City Council. The Chair scheduled the Public Hearings to take place between August 13, 2012 and August 23, 2012 at five different locations throughout New York City, with one in each borough. The Chair made a motion to hold the first Public Hearing in Brooklyn on August 13, 2012, one in Manhattan on August 16, 2012, a Hearing in Staten Island on August 20, 2012, one in Queens on August 21, 2012 and one in the Bronx on August 23, 2012. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

With all business concluded, the Chair called for an adjournment of the meeting. The motion was seconded, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned.



CITY OF NEW YORK 2012-2013 DISTRICTING COMMISSION

MEDIA RELATIONS PROTOCOL

Purpose

Consistent with its mission, the City of New York 2012-2013 Districting Commission should encourage a culture of openness with the media and public that values the free exchange of ideas, data, and information. To promote this goal, the Commission should respond to news media questions and inquiries effectively, accurately, and on a timely basis to help promote public understanding of the districting process and the Commission's role under the Charter. In order to ensure that the information provided to the public is accurate, consistent, and fairly distributed, the provision of such information should be centrally coordinated, and Commission members should be mindful of their duty under the Commission's Bylaws to attempt, to the extent possible, to avoid communicating or providing opinions regarding Commission business outside of public meetings.

Statements on Behalf of the Districting Commission

The New York City Districting Commission's Media Contact, Shirley Limongi, should be the Commission's principal avenue of communication with the media and the public. Commission members or other staff receiving an inquiry from the media should refer the inquiry to the Media Contact.

Commission Member Statements in their Personal Capacities

A Commission member who is invited to or intends to make a statement to a governmental agency, private organization or the media in his or her personal capacity regarding Commission policies or operations should communicate to his or her audience that the statement is not being made in the Commission member's official capacity and that such statement represents solely the member's opinions and does not necessarily represent the position of the Commission. A Commission member who is invited to or intends to speak to a governmental agency, private organization or the media in his or her personal capacity is encouraged to contact the Media Contract for advice or to request background or other information on the subject matter at issue.

Media Contact Shirley Limongi Contact Info:

Tel: 1.212.788.2176

Email: SLimongi@districting.nyc.gov

CITY OF NEW YORK 2012-2013 DISTRICTING COMMISSION CALENDAR

General Meetings

- Friday, August 24, 2012, 1PM: City Hall, Council Chambers
- Tuesday, September 4, 2012, 1PM: City Hall, Council Chambers (*quorum required*)

Public Hearings (2nd Round) – Venues to be announced

- Tuesday, October 2, 2012, 5-9PM: Location tbd
- Wednesday, October 3, 2012, 5-9PM: Location tbd
- Thursday, October 4, 2012, 5-9PM: Location tbd
- Wednesday, October 10, 2012, 5-9PM: Location tbd
- Thursday, October 11, 2012, 5-9PM: Location tbd

General Meeting

- Thursday, October 18, 2012, Time tbd: Manhattan

General Meeting

- Tuesday, October 30, 2012, Time tbd: Manhattan (*quorum required*)

General Meeting

- Tuesday, December 11, 2012, Time tbd: Manhattan

General Meeting

- Thursday, January 3, 2013, Time tbd: Manhattan (*quorum required*)

Public Hearings (3rd Round) – Venues to be announced

- Monday, January 28, 2013, 5-9PM: Location tbd
- Wednesday, January 30, 2013, 5-9PM: Location tbd
- Thursday, January 31, 2013, 5-9PM: Location tbd
- Tuesday, February 5, 2013, 5-9PM: Location tbd
- Thursday, February 8, 2013, 5-9PM: Location tbd

General Meeting

- Thursday, February 14, 2013, Time tbd: Manhattan

General Meeting

- Tuesday, February 26, 2013, Time tbd: Manhattan (*quorum required*)

Training Series for Districting Commission Commissioners

Training: **Voting Rights Act**

Date: September 20, 2012

Time: tbd

Presenter: Gerry Herbert

Gerry Hebert, now in private practice, served in the US Department of Justice Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division for greater than twenty years. Twenty years ago, he handled the Department's preclearance of the city's districting plan and now serves as a consultant to the Districting Commission. He has served as counsel in greater than a hundred voting rights cases, including current cases in Texas. Among his publications, he was the lead author of the American Bar Association's The Realist's Guide to Redistricting: Avoiding the Legal Pitfalls.

Training: **Districting**

Date: tbd

Time: tbd

Presenter: Thaddeus Hackworth, General Counsel, NYC Districting Commission

Training: **Communities of Interest**

Date: tbd

Time: tbd

Presenter: John Mollenkopf

John Mollenkopf is a tenured professor of political science at the CUNY Graduate Center, where he also is Director of the Center for Urban Research. He has published widely on issues of immigrant populations, especially regarding changes over the generations. His presentation on communities of interest will build on work the Center did for the previous districting commission, which work he will continue for the current Commission. Of particular focus will be addressing the application of spatial dimensions to social, political and economic changes.



**CITY OF NEW YORK
2012-2013
DISTRICTING COMMISSION**

MEMORANDUM

TO: NYC DISTRICTING COMMISSION MEMBERS
CARL HUM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FROM: THADDEUS HACKWORTH

DATE: AUGUST 13, 2012

SUBJECT: PRISONER-CORRECTED DATA
("LATFOR DATA")

The purpose of this memorandum is to apprise the NYC Districting Commission as to the legal propriety of the use of Census data that has been adjusted to account for the reapportionment of New York State's prisoner population. This data set is commonly referred to as "LATFOR data."

For the most recent redistricting process in New York State, the Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment ("LATFOR") was charged with the responsibility of preparing a reapportionment plan for the senate and assembly districts (and congressional districts) in the state. See LEGISLATIVE LAW § 83-m(3). LATFOR's primary function had been to collect and analyze data for this purpose, and to make recommendations to the state legislature regarding reapportionment. *Id.* § 83-m(5).

On August 4, 2010 (effective August 11, 2010), Chapter 57 of the 2010 Laws of New York was promulgated by the New York legislature and signed into law. Section 2 of Part XX of that law changed how LATFOR was to count, for apportionment purposes, persons incarcerated by the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision ("DOCCS") by amending Legislative Law § 83-m.¹ Under the amended law, LATFOR was to determine the Census block corresponding to each such incarcerated person's residential address prior to his or her incarceration (if any could be found) and allocate the incarcerated person to that prior Census

¹ Chapter 57, Part XX was pre-cleared by the U.S. Department of Justice on May 9, 2011. The law also was upheld following a challenge under the New York State Constitution in *Little v. LATFOR*, Index No. 2310-2011 (Sup. Ct. Albany Co. Dec. 1, 2011). After the New York Court of Appeals declined to hear the direct appeal and transferred the action to the Appellate Division, Third Department, the appeal was discontinued by the plaintiffs-appellants.

block for apportionment purposes. *See* LEGISLATIVE LAW § 83-m(13)(b).² The amended law directed that the assembly and senate districts be drawn using this amended population data set. *Id.* It further directed that the amended data set be “[made] available to local governments.” *Id.*

Section 3 of Part XX also amended certain provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law.³ The amendment set forth in Part XX required that, when municipalities consider their own population for their own legislative reapportionment, “no person shall be deemed to have gained or lost a residence or to have become a resident of a local government . . . by reason of being subject to the jurisdiction of [DOCCS] and present in a state correctional facility pursuant to such jurisdiction.” MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW § 10(1)(ii)(a)(13)(c.). In other words, when drawing the new district lines, the NYC Districting Commission must include in the population of a particular Census block those incarcerated persons that LATFOR has determined previously resided in such block prior to their incarceration. Likewise, the NYC Districting Commission must exclude from the population of a particular Census block those incarcerated persons who were counted in the block solely because they were being held in a DOCCS facility present in that block.

In sum, the Districting Commission is legally required to use the data as adjusted by LATFOR, pursuant to the Legislative Law, to account for incarcerated individuals when apportioning the Council districts.

² For those incarcerated persons present in a federal correctional facility on Census day, or for whom the incarcerated person’s prior residential address either was outside the state or could not be identified, the task force was charged to consider such person’s address to be unknown and exclude them from the data set.

³ The Municipal Home Rule Law grants powers to local governments such as the City of New York to adopt its own laws regarding certain issues, including apportionment for local legislative bodies (in this case, the City Council). *See* MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW § 10(1)(ii)(a)(13).



| Redistricting

Redistricting the NYC Council: A Battle We Must Fight

El Diario La Prensa, Editorial, Posted: Jul 10, 2012

An editorial in New York's Spanish-language El Diario/La Prensa, translated from Spanish by the National Institute for Latino Policy (NILP) argues that Latinos must fight to make their voices heard in the battle over redistricting in New York City.

NEW YORK -- The City of New York began the process to update the districts starting in 2012 that are represented by the 51 legislators who make up the City Council, and thus reflect demographic changes in the last 10 years.

Despite being complex and complicated enough, the Latino community (individuals and organizations) should be familiar with this process and the terminology that describes it, lest they take us for a ride.

Redistricting the electoral map is a complex task because it must ensure that the five counties are divided into legislative districts that ensure the representation on the Council of the diverse communities living in the city. It is complicated because political and partisan interests often interfere in the decision-making.

Several weeks ago Mayor Bloomberg and Council Democrats and Republicans announced the names of the 15 people who now make up the commission in charge of redrawing the map and submitting a final plan in November to the full Council.

This process did not begin well.

Shortly after the announcement, the National Institute for Latino Policy (NILP) noted that only three of the 15-member New York City Districting Commission are Latino, the same number that the commission had in 1990, although the Hispanic community in the city grew by 31% since then.

Under the new demographics, we should have had five representatives on the committee.

The final composition of the committee is disappointing, especially from the Council, which appoints eight of the 15 members.

The way the members of this panel are selected and its final constitution is something that should be analyzed and improved. For now we have to get on this fast train and ensure that the commission does a fair job for Latinos to achieve the representation and participation they deserve.

The newly-formed commission held its initial meeting yesterday, the first of several that will occur during the summer prior to submitting a plan in September for public discussion. It is important that Hispanic groups participate and do their work in the communities they serve to raise awareness about the importance of monitoring the process and attend public hearings.

What is at stake? The power of our voice as a community in public policies that govern our daily lives and in the distribution of funds for vital services in our neighborhoods.

In recent years, Latino neighborhoods have managed to elect 11 Hispanic Councilmembers of the 51 that make up the municipal body. This number -- which represents about 22% of the Council --- is proportional to the share of Latino voters in the city. This parity has been achieved with efforts to incorporate Latinos, make sure we run for office and vote.

However, for various reasons, we do not always get a fair piece of the pie, and our neighborhoods, community groups and small businesses fall short of the support they need to succeed. Hispanics cannot stop sending the message that there are certain lines that cannot be crossed. This is a battle we must fight in a city that often seems reluctant to empower Latinos.

Comments

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TONIGHT: Districting Commission Convenes To Reapportion City Council Districts

by [Erica Sherman](#) on Jul 17th, 2012



City Hall. Source: Wikipedia

The New York City Districting Commission will hold its first organizational meeting tonight, July 17, 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 260 Broadway, in Manhattan.

It will be the commission's task to reconfigure all 51 City Council districts to reflect population shifts. The plan is slated to be submitted to the council by November. This meeting is open to the public. While public testimony will not be received at this meeting, the commission will afford opportunities for the public's input at later dates.

Individuals requesting sign language interpreters for the hearing should contact the commission at info@districting.nyc.gov or call (212) 442-6940.

Related posts

- [Rescheduled NYC Districting Commission Hearing To Be Held At Borough Hall](#)
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BrooklynBus 3 weeks ago

Here we go again. Will we now lose our council district?

Like Reply



Whwsailboat 3 weeks ago

Eight commission members are appointed by the City Council and seven by the mayor. Sort of like the fox watching over the hen house. But that is not that problem. Their primary goal will be to gerrymander districts so that each district has a predominate and monolithic voter block (ethnic, religious, economic etc). This will ensure that the council member need only satisfy that one voter block in his district to be elected. No need for the councilman to compromise with any other voter block of another councilman, even for the common good. I see this as a major dysfunction of our system of government (city, state, federal). When elected officials need only placate one voter block to stay elected, statesmanship and compromise is practiced at their peril. No wonder we have a dysfunctional government with zero statesmen.


Like Reply



Ned Berke ★ 3 weeks ago [in reply to Whwsailboat](#)

It's true what they say, democracy is the worst form of government.

Except for all the others.

 levp liked this

Like

Reply



Whwsailboat 3 weeks ago [in reply to Ned Berke](#)

What "they say" implies a flawed system. But some flaws are worse than others and are usually self inflicted.

Like

Reply



BrooklynBus 3 weeks ago [in reply to Whwsailboat](#)

Whatever happened with the idea that all districts, police, fire, city council, etc would be coterminous with community board districts. Congressional districts would consist of two or more community board districts. Everyone would know what district he is in and there would be no gerrymandering. Guess it went th same way as the metric system which stopped with soft drinks.

Like

Reply


Trackbacks

Trackback URL <http://www.sheepsheadbit>

[Rescheduled NYC Districting Commission Hearing To Be Held At Borough Hall | Sheepshead Bay News Blog](#)

08/09/2012 10:00 AM

[...] New York City Districting Commission will hold five public hearings — one in each of the city's five boroughs ...

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How dare you criticize those heroic police officers who put their lives on the line every day protecting our property and persons. 30,000 heroes work for us every day and they need our support be...

[More Responses To Anti-Semitic Vandalism At Holocaust Memorial Park](#) · 2 minutes ago



◦ Alex

A good lawyer may get more than \$50,000 from NYC for the victim.
And sue the police officer personally.

More Responses To Anti-Semitic Vandalism At Holocaust Memorial Park · 35 minutes ago



◦ GiJane

Great story. This is the kind of dedication that makes this neighborhood so wonderful.

For Friends & Family Of Brighton Murder Victim, Softball Honors Memory · 42 minutes ago



◦ Moshe

Links of facts above <http://brooklyndaily.com/stori.....>

More Responses To Anti-Semitic Vandalism At Holocaust Memorial Park · 46 minutes ago



◦ MyBrooklyn

to some sources PIG who falsely arrested an innocent person and almost put away him for 7 years in prison and would caused unimaginable emotional distress and financial burden....is not doing any...

More Responses To Anti-Semitic Vandalism At Holocaust Memorial Park · 54 minutes ago

community on **DISQUS**

Redistricting hearings in August

Tweet  0

Posted: Thursday, July 26, 2012 10:30 am

The city Districting Commission will hold five public hearings, one in each borough, on redrawing district lines on Aug. 13 and 23.

The Queens hearing will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. Aug. 21 at the Flushing Library, located at 41-17 Main St., Flushing.

Individuals wishing to pre-register for speaking time or to submit written testimony in advance should go to nyc.gov/districting. Those who want to address the commission at a hearing will get up to three minutes.

People who wish to submit written comments may either email them to hearings@districting.nyc.gov or bring them to the NYC Districting Commission, Attn: Jonathan Ettricks, 253 Broadway, 7th Fl., New York, NY 10013.


Anyone who needs to have an interpreter available for either sign language or a foreign language should contact the city at hearings@districting.nyc.gov or by calling (212) 442-0256 five days in advance. The city said “it will accommodate such requests.”

The full schedule of hearings is available at nyc.gov/districting.

More about Politics

- **IMAGE:** [Minimum wage, voting at issue for GOP in 15th district](#)
- **ARTICLE:** [Richmond Hill irked by ‘historic’ snub](#)
- **ARTICLE:** [Minimum wage, voting at issue for GOP in 15th district](#)
- **IMAGE:** [Meng bankroll to steamroll Halloran? 1](#)

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世界日報

紐約社區

華裔父女機警 搶匪失風落網

半小時連搶2店 華女勇出聲 父親店未受害 拉往中環出警 警方小內圍捕

【本報訊】一名華裔父女在紐約中區華埠，於週一晚上遭遇搶劫。該名華女機警，在搶匪搶劫其父親的店舖時，勇敢地出聲，使得搶匪失風落網。警方在接到報警後，迅速趕到現場，並在半小時內將兩名搶匪連同其父親的店舖一併圍捕。

據悉，這起搶劫案發生在週一晚上約九時。當時，一名華裔父女正在中區華埠的一家店舖內。兩名搶匪闖入店內，搶劫了店舖內的現金和珠寶。在搶劫過程中，一名華女勇敢地出聲，使得搶匪感到驚訝和恐懼。搶匪在搶劫完店舖後，試圖逃跑，但被警方及時發現並圍捕。警方在現場將兩名搶匪連同其父親的店舖一併圍捕。

警方表示，這起搶劫案的兩名搶匪分別為一名華裔男性和一名非裔女性。兩名搶匪在搶劫店舖後，試圖逃跑，但被警方及時發現並圍捕。警方在現場將兩名搶匪連同其父親的店舖一併圍捕。

搶匪名案與警 4人未出庭

【本報訊】一名華裔父女在紐約中區華埠，於週一晚上遭遇搶劫。該名華女機警，在搶匪搶劫其父親的店舖時，勇敢地出聲，使得搶匪失風落網。警方在接到報警後，迅速趕到現場，並在半小時內將兩名搶匪連同其父親的店舖一併圍捕。

搶門學Pod Touch 華裔少年被捕

【本報訊】一名華裔少年在紐約中區華埠，於週一晚上遭遇搶劫。該名華裔少年在搶劫過程中，勇敢地出聲，使得搶匪失風落網。警方在接到報警後，迅速趕到現場，並在半小時內將兩名搶匪連同其父親的店舖一併圍捕。

東區連成工廠被焚毀

【本報訊】一名華裔父女在紐約中區華埠，於週一晚上遭遇搶劫。該名華女機警，在搶匪搶劫其父親的店舖時，勇敢地出聲，使得搶匪失風落網。警方在接到報警後，迅速趕到現場，並在半小時內將兩名搶匪連同其父親的店舖一併圍捕。

地鐵搶手機閃過 眾乘客連2案

【本報訊】一名華裔父女在紐約中區華埠，於週一晚上遭遇搶劫。該名華女機警，在搶匪搶劫其父親的店舖時，勇敢地出聲，使得搶匪失風落網。警方在接到報警後，迅速趕到現場，並在半小時內將兩名搶匪連同其父親的店舖一併圍捕。

世界日報

紐約社區

地鐵服務評分 Q線奪冠軍

「乘客滿意」年度報告「號稱」台港名列第二 台灣僅獲第四 連續兩年獲獎

【本報訊】紐約地鐵服務評分，Q線奪冠。根據「乘客滿意」年度報告，Q線在過去一年中，獲得了乘客的廣泛認可。Q線在過去一年中，獲得了乘客的廣泛認可。Q線在過去一年中，獲得了乘客的廣泛認可。

州參議員史密斯 競選連任市長

【本報訊】紐約州參議員史密斯，在週一晚上宣佈競選連任市長。史密斯在週一晚上宣佈競選連任市長。史密斯在週一晚上宣佈競選連任市長。

亞裔西力旺孟

【本報訊】一名華裔父女在紐約中區華埠，於週一晚上遭遇搶劫。該名華女機警，在搶匪搶劫其父親的店舖時，勇敢地出聲，使得搶匪失風落網。警方在接到報警後，迅速趕到現場，並在半小時內將兩名搶匪連同其父親的店舖一併圍捕。

亞裔反攻擊孟文 被此招

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世界日報

紐約社區

地鐵服務評分 Q線奪冠軍

「乘客滿意」年度報告「號稱」台港名列第二 台灣僅獲第四 連續兩年獲獎

【本報訊】紐約地鐵服務評分，Q線奪冠。根據「乘客滿意」年度報告，Q線在過去一年中，獲得了乘客的廣泛認可。Q線在過去一年中，獲得了乘客的廣泛認可。Q線在過去一年中，獲得了乘客的廣泛認可。

州參議員史密斯 競選連任市長

【本報訊】紐約州參議員史密斯，在週一晚上宣佈競選連任市長。史密斯在週一晚上宣佈競選連任市長。史密斯在週一晚上宣佈競選連任市長。

亞裔西力旺孟

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Districting Commission to hold hearing on Staten Island

Published: Wednesday, July 25, 2012, 2:30 PM Updated: Wednesday, July 25, 2012, 2:30 PM


By Judy L. Randall
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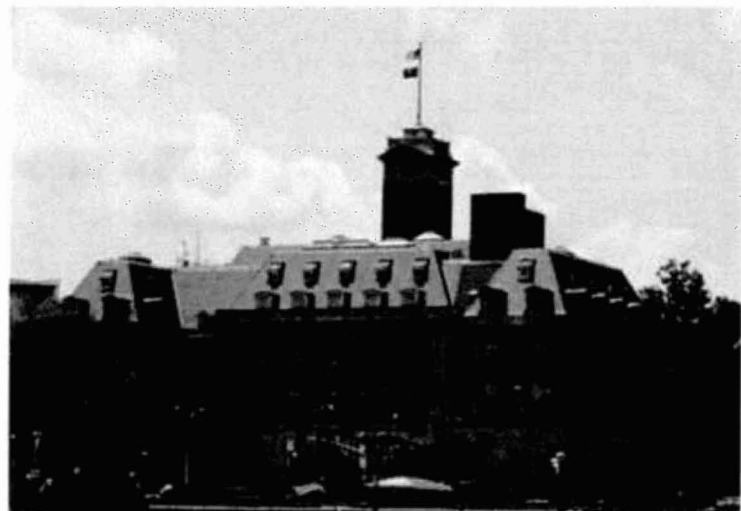
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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The New York City Districting Commission, charged with redrawing City Council districts, will hold a public hearing on Staten Island Aug. 20.

The hearing will be held in Borough Hall, St. George, from 5 to 9 p.m.

Commissioners will be on hand to hear testimony from the public about the initial phase of redistricting for the 2013 citywide elections.



Staten Island Advance

Redistricting occurs every decade, after U.S. Census data is culled to reflect population shifts.

The Districting Commission will hold a meeting at Borough Hall on Aug. 20 at 5 p.m.

If you want to pre-register for speaking time, you may sign up online at <http://www.nyc.gov/districting>.

Individuals will be given three minutes of speaking time.

Written comments may be submitted to: hearings@districting.nyc.gov. Or by mail to: NYC Districting Commission, Attn: Johnathan Ettricks, 253 Broadway, 7th Floor; New York, NY 10007.

Public hearings will be held in all five boroughs in August.

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Asian American and Latino Groups Gear Up for NYC Redistricting

Asian Americans for Equality, Casita Comunal de Sunset Park, and Common Cause/NY Announce Redistricting Workshop in Southwest Brooklyn

BROOKLYN, NY (08/01/2012)(readMedia)-- In response to major population growth in Southwest Brooklyn, Asian and Latino community organizations will announce a partnership with redistricting experts at Common Cause/NY to maximize their representation in the New York City Council, by hosting a redistricting workshop for members of the 38th Council District.

Press conference will include demographic data, maps, etc...

Translation will be available.

WHO:

Members of Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE) and Casita Comunal de Sunset Park, and Common Cause/NY

WHAT:

Asian and Latino Groups Announce Partnership and Redistricting Workshop for Southwest Brooklyn Community

WHEN:

Thursday August 02, 2012 at 01:00PM Eastern Time (US & Canada)

WHERE:

Casita Comunal de Sunset Park
414-45th Street (between 4th and 5th avenues)
(R train to 45th Street)
Brooklyn, New York 11220

NOTES:

Background

Every ten years council districts are redrawn to reflect demographic changes in the census. Public participation is essential to ensure fairly drawn districts that accurately reflect local communities. The New York City Districting Commission, charged with drawing new City Council districts by March 5, 2013, is holding public hearings in each borough from August 13-23. Common Cause/NY is a good government group with an expertise in the redistricting process. In the state and federal redistricting process earlier this year, Common Cause/NY created the only set of statewide redistricting maps which heavily informed the court drawn Congressional maps currently in effect.

Posted Wednesday August 01, 2012 at 01:27 pm by [Common Cause of New York](#)



Common Cause of New York

Common Cause, 212-691-6421

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Vallone Presses Mayor To Hire More Cops



Councilmember Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria), a firm believer that we must increase our police force, especially with crime creeping up steadily, took strong exception last week to Mayor Michael Bloomberg's assertion that we can stand pat.

The mayor defended the present level of city cops on his weekly radio show, despite daily headlines and TV reports almost daily informing us that statistics show overall crime is up in the city.

Incredibly, the murder rate is down almost 16 percent, although shootings are up about 10 percent.

The mayor maintained that since he took office, the police force has been reduced "by 4,000 or 5,000", to a total of 34,800. "And every year, we've brought crime down," he stated.

"Would the city be safer if you put a cop on every corner?" he asked, and answered, "Yes, probably, but you can't afford that."

The mayor also praised the job Police Commissioner Ray Kelly is doing, saying the police force is "phenomenally well managed".

But Vallone, the chairman of the Public Safety Committee that oversees the workings of the NYPD, doesn't see it as Bloomberg does.

"It is really unfathomable to me that he can stick with this position. Citywide crime is up for the first time in 20 years.

"He also recalled that the police rolls about 10 years ago totaled about 41,000."

Vallone, whose Public Safety post keeps him in steady touch with cops of all ranks, said he's heard the complaint from them that they don't have the manpower to deal with this current crime spike. He also advised that the mayor should listen to the experts.



Vallone doesn't see it as Bloomberg does. "It is really unfathomable to me that he can stick with this position. Citywide crime is up for the first time in 20 years."

But the mayor had stated confidently on his radio show, "Our job is not to employ as many people and to spend as much of the taxpayers' money as we can. Our job with the police department is to bring crime down," and he has done so since he became mayor. He finished up by saying, "We have the best police department in the world."

Vallone last week also called for Albany lawmakers to pass the Three Strikes, You're In bill, which mandates a prison sentence for anyone convicted of three misdemeanors within 10 years.

He explained: "The only way to prevent the problem of chronic misdemeanors is to eliminate turnstile justice and teach these repeat offenders a valuable lesson: Three Strikes You're In."

The *Daily News* editorial on the question thought the mayor had made good case for his position, but it also concluded: "If Vallone, a public safety expert and a sensible fellow, is concerned about policing levels, he needs to be taken seriously."

CUOMO FINDS SILVER LINING, ENDS STRIKE: Governor Andrew Cuomo decided to personally get involved in the stalled negotiations between Con Ed and the utility worker's union— and about five hours later, it was settled.

The governor, however, had a strong ally in working this little miracle, the threat of a storm which could do serious damage and knock out thousands of customers' power.



The mayor maintained that since he took office, the police force has been reduced "by 4,000 or 5,000", to a total of 34,800. "And every year, we've brought crime down," he stated.

Later on, the governor noted, "Sometimes a storm has a silver lining..." and in this case it "changed the tone of the negotiations, and brought both sides together.

MENG EMBARRASSED, BUT RELIEVED: The arrest of former New York state Assemblymember Jimm Meng, father of Queens congressional candidate Grace Meng, last week, could have damaged her campaign, but it appears she escaped any harm.

Meng, herself an Assemblymember, in Flushing said in a statement after the arrest was announced, "I am shocked and deeply saddened by these allegations. Prior to this afternoon's reports, I had no knowledge my father's actions or the investigation. I am independent of my father—always have been, always will be. Until more facts emerge and we have a better understanding of the situation, the only thing further I'll say is that I urge my father to fully cooperate with all authorities."

Wisely, we think, there was no effort by her congressional race opponent, Councilmember Dan Halloran (—C—Whitestone) to create any embarrassing situations.

Meng was arrested by the FBI on charges that he allegedly promised to help another person under arrest by bribing prosecutors. Meng asked for \$80,000 from the person in the other case, allegedly received the money and kept it for himself.

Meanwhile, Meng announced introduction of legislation requiring the purchase of domestically made United States flags for use by all agencies, departments and commissions of New York state.

Meng stated, "It is just common-sense: an American flag should be made in America. It is only appropriate that the world's most famous symbol of freedom is manufactured in a country that is free, right here in the United States."

Meng said that according to the U.S. Census Bureau, an estimated \$5.3 million worth of American flags were imported from other countries in 2006.

Halloran, meanwhile, called on Meng to agree to participate in five televised debates during their campaigns for the 6th District seat. The debates would take place at various locations in the district, which runs from Glendale to Bayside.

There was no reply from Meng as this issue was being printed.

On another subject, Halloran announced a forum, scheduled last night at the Poppenhusen Institute in College Point where participants from the public will take part in drawing up a budget which Halloran would submit to the City Council, totally or in part. He calls it participatory budgeting which will "give constituents unprecedented say in how their tax dollars are spent".

The first such meeting was held on Tuesday, July 17.

PUSH FOR MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER STADIUM: Assemblymember Francisco Moya (D–Corona) and Councilmember Karen Koslowitz (D–Forest Hills) feel Queens, with its huge “ethnically diverse” population is ready for a Major League Soccer Team and a stadium in Flushing Meadows–Corona Park.

Moya and Koslowitz say the closest team to New York City presently is in New Jersey, and major league officials are interested in getting a team in Queens.

The plan has good prospects for jobs, both construction and service; tax revenue from anticipated huge crowds of fans; a health-building outlet for youths and tourism.

“With Major League Soccer looking to expand in New York City and a growing population addicted to the game, the time has come for a dedicated soccer stadium within the city,” say Koslowitz and Moya.

HEARINGS ON CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING: A hearing in Queens by the NYC Districting Commission, which is creating new Council districts for the 2013 elections, has been scheduled for August 21 at the Queens Library, Flushing Branch, 41-17 Main St., Flushing from 5 to 9 p.m.

Individuals wishing to pre-register for speaking time or to submit written testimony in advance may do so by signing up online at www.ncy.gov.districting. A three minute time limit will be in effect for all speaker

Other questions may be directed to the NYC Districting Commission at hearings@districting.nyc.gov or by calling 212-442- 0256 five days in advance of the hearing.

ADDABBO REACHES OUT TO CHAPLAINS FOR VETERANS: Concerned that a crisis situation may be developing, state Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr. (D–Howard Beach) is sending out an appeal to clergy of all faiths in the metropolitan area who work with returning veterans from Iraq, Afghanistan and all-eras, who may be members of their faith communities.

Addabbo, a member of the senate veterans committee, stated that, “Military chaplains may be seeing a crisis situation with many wounded warriors from overseas conflicts who are trying to adjust to civilian life and dealing with problems such as higher unemployment among younger returning veterans and even homelessness.”

Addabbo added: “Multiple activations have had a devastating affect on many family relationships and family finances, as well as to their mental, physical and spiritual health. Some press reports have noted a suicide rate of one a day this year.”

As this developing crisis unfolds, Addabbo said, the VA New York Harbor Healthcare System will hold a working luncheon and information session for clergy of all faiths on August 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the St. Albans VA Primary & Extended Care Chapel in St. Albans.

For a required reservation, RSVP by the close of the business day on August 21, to Chaplain Dr. Sotar Alfonso-Lloyd at 718-526-1000, Ext. 2652. or e-mail Sotar,Alfonso-Lloyd@va.gov. or Loretta Mathews, Program Assistant at 212-686-7500, ext. 6478, or e-mail Loretta.Mathews@va.gov.

GOLDFEDER SEEKS EXPANDED SUBWAY SERVICE FOR CASINO VISITORS: Assemblymember Pt Goldfeder (D–Rockaway), responding to increased demand for full-time, round trip subway service to Aqueduct Racetrack and the Resorts World Casino since it opened last October at Aqueduct, has called on the MTA for expansion and increased service of the Aqueduct Racetrack subway station.

Currently, the station only opens on racing days for Manhattan-bound service, the lawmaker said, and the construction sought at the facility will be necessary before full-time and south bound service can begin.

Goldfeder cited the casino's drawing power and revenue intake as reasons to grant his request, which would likely boost business there.

Meanwhile, Goldfeder announced that Mayor Bloomberg has agreed to his and U.S. Senator Charles Schumer's request for \$3 million to purchase additional sand to fill in areas of the Rockaway Peninsula that were affected most by recent storms and erosion.

LIU SMACKS NYCHA: City Comptroller John Liu peeled off the layers of the city Housing Authority last week "like an onion", and found "the more you peel back the more you want to cry".

Testifying at the New York City Housing Authority's fiscal plan for 2013, the comptroller declared: "The financials in their draft plan, set against the backdrop of ineffectiveness by NYCHA leadership, is a recipe for disaster, and those who feel the brunt of the pain are the residents. These serious issues demand comprehensive answers."

After Liu had submitted formal comments on the NYCHA's plans earlier at a public hearing, he issued a statement calling on agency officials to accept responsibility: for placing New Yorkers in danger, operating in "a fiscally irresponsible manner", governing behind closed doors, and wasting millions in tax dollars on an expensive consultant report that has yet to be publicly released.

Liu further blasted the agency for its "lack of ability to fill high level positions, reducing headcount in favor of outsourcing that adversely affects NYCHA residents, and the lack of disclosure regarding the agency's job-related education and drawing programs."

Liu issued his comments in his capacity as the city Chief Financial Officer and credited the agency for its dedication to providing affordable housing to more than 400,000 residents.

But, he emphasized, he had serious questions about its management, finances, and ability to deliver services.

Among the questions he posed to the housing agency in his formal comments were:

- Why it failed to install surveillance cameras, a crime-fighting tool, while it has \$42 million in funding for such purposes.

- Why did NYCHA hire the Boston Consulting Group under a reported \$10 million no-bid contract? "Did NYCHA's chairman fail to disclose his former employment with BCG? And why has NYCHA refused to disclose a report prepared by BCG with taxpayer money, which has led to a federal investigation?"

- Why does the agency want to borrow another \$500 million when it has more than \$777 million in uncommitted and unspent capital-fund grants dating back several years?

- When NYCHA pays the NYPD \$70 million annually, is it getting its money's worth?

- Why are so few NYCHA residents hired as uniformed officers when it needs many more uniformed officers who are rooted in its own communities, to improve police-community relations?

KOO PROPOSES 'COMFORT WOMEN MEMORIAL' STREET RENAMING: Councilmember Peter Koo (R-C-Flushing) has proposed renaming the southwest corner of Northern Boulevard and Union Street in Flushing to pay tribute and honor women known as "Comfort Women" who were victimized during World War II by being "taken from their homeland and sent all over the world where they were forced to do hard labor during the day then raped, brutalized and battered at night".

Koo added, "Although we cannot go back in time to change history and stop the barbaric acts against innocent women perpetrated by Japanese soldiers, we can honor the bravery exhibited by these women. We can also document their hardships, acknowledge their sacrifices, and never forget their anguish."

Koo, the owner of a chain of drugstores, was elected to office about three years ago as a Republican, but says he intends to run for the state Assembly this year on the Democratic line in the 40th AD in Flushing. Others seeking the party's nomination in the September 13 primary are Ethel Chen, Yen Chou, and Ron Kim.

FIRST REPUBLICAN SEEKS QUEENS SENATE SEAT: A Republican, J.D. Kim, announces he is the first Korean-American to be seeking a state senate seat in New York state where he has filed petitions to run for the newly drawn 16th Senate District seat this year.

In announcing his candidacy as a Republican, Kim described the senate post he is seeking as "the historical first Asian majority senate district in the state."

During the session earlier this year, the majority party in the state senate, headed by state Senator Dean Skelos (R-Rockville Center) drew the new lines for senate districts around the entire state and made no effort to hide the fact that changes were made to favor Republicans in previously heavily Democratic areas. One of those was the new 16th Senate District covering Flushing and nearby areas which Kim referred to in his statement.

Kim admitted candidly, "...results in fact show success in collection efforts (of petitions) throughout the entire geographic area and across ethnic lines".

But he wisely added that "in keeping with his goal to be the most powerful advocate for every resident in the district regardless of ethnic or socioeconomic background", Kim had made a strong effort to collect signatures on petitions throughout the entire district and also worked closely with overlapping Assembly candidacies.

In all, Kim submitted more than 1,700 signatures, "more than double the amount required", to get on the ballot.

Other Republican candidates have reported similar easy efforts in collecting petitions to get on the ballot.

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Asian, Latino Groups Want Demographics Reflected In City Council

By: NY1 News

Like

Asian and Latino community groups are fighting to make sure changing demographics are reflected in next year's City Council.

The groups announced a partnership with Common Cause NY in Sunset Park, where Asian and Latino populations are soaring.

Common Cause and the public will help the city redraw district lines, a process that happens every 10 years and helps define community borders.

Activists said it means much more than electing an Asian or Latino official.

"It really helps us as a city as a whole that we have everybody represented and at the table," said Christopher Kui of Asian Americans for Equality.

"It's about making sure the city agencies and city state and federal government responds to the population and our needs," said David Galarza of La Casita Comunal de Sunset Park.

The New York City Districting Commission will hold public hearings in each of the five boroughs from August 13 to August 23.

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0 COMMENTS

Brooklyn Asian, Latino Groups Huddle With Common Cause Before Council Redistricting Meet

BY CELESTE KATZ

Brooklyn Asian and Latino community organizations are joining forces with redistricting experts from Common Cause/NY in an effort to get more representation on the City Council.

Asian Americans for Equality, Casita Comunal de Sunset Park, and Common Cause are hosting a Saturday redistricting workshop on the state of the 38th CD in advance of a slated Monday public hearing of the NYC Districting Commission. The commission is charged with drawing new Council districts by next March.

"Distinct lines should keep neighborhoods and communities intact to preserve their history and cultural contributions to our city," said AAFE's Christopher Kui.

The groups say growing Asian-American and Latino populations have pushed up the area's total voting-age population by 4.4% over the last 10 years.

The Asian-American voting-age population has increased by 36% to just under 33% of the district. The Hispanic voting-age population has jumped 13%, and the number of white, non-Hispanic residents old enough to vote has declined by 11%.

"This process is about making sure that our voices as a community are heard and respected," said La Casita Comunal de Sunset Park's David Galarza. "The Asian-American and Latino community may not share a common language, but we share many common goals and dreams for ourselves and our families."



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Asian-Americans brooklyn city council Latino voters Redistricting

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Public participation important in city districting process

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Posted: Thursday, August 9, 2012 3:02 pm | Updated: 3:05 pm, Thu Aug 9, 2012.

BY BENITO ROMANO AND CARL HUM

Every decade, following the US Census, legislative boundaries (“lines”) are adjusted to reflect changes in population. While the process at the federal level involves congressional districts while statewide, it involves the Assembly and Senate districts.

For New York City, it will reshape the 51 City Council districts. This process, called “districting,” is a complex task that falls under the jurisdiction of the City Council. The New York City Charter establishes a Districting Commission to carry out this process on behalf of our city’s government.

Over the next few months, the Districting Commission will undertake this important task. The commission will develop criteria it should use in creating the district lines. Applying the constitutional standard of “one person, one vote” to ensure essentially equal population.

And in complying with the Federal Voting Rights Act, the districting plan must provide an opportunity for minority “voting blocs” (blacks, Hispanics and Asian Americans) to elect candidates of their choice. The charter also requires the commission to consider communities of interest, as well as observing certain technical features. For example, districts are not to cross county boundaries.

The commission’s districting plan will be subject to review by the City Council and in final form by the U.S. Department of Justice (or the federal district court in the District of Columbia).

In carrying out its work, the commission will be examining public records, especially the results of the 2000 and 2004 elections, census records and community studies. However, the commission’s most essential resource is hearing from the public about the nature and extent of changes in population during the past decade, the shared (and divergent) interests of these groups’ past voting activity (registration, turnout, and voting behavior).

The decade of the 2000s saw significant population changes in the city’s population. Citywide, there was a decline in population and differing patterns of growth (and some decline).

Hispanic and Asian American populations grew substantially, both as to overall number and spread in white and black population, a slight increase in the former and a slight decrease in the latter.

While the commission and its professional staff will explore these and other issues, essential will be understanding of the changes, their meaning, and consequence for crafting the district lines.

The commission will be holding several sets of public hearings in each of the boroughs. All New Yorkers will have the opportunity to give testimony. Our 15 commission members are drawn from each of the boroughs; they reflect the diversity of the city and are committed to a process that is transparent and inclusive of every New Yorker.

The strength of our democracy is enhanced by such participation. Make your voice heard. Make your voice count. Public hearings will begin on August 13.

Benito Romano is the chair of the NYC Districting Commission and Carl Hum is the executive director of the Commission. For a list of hearing dates, go to nyc.gov/districting.

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More about **Census**

- **ARTICLE:** City questions Census report of vacancies in southern Brooklyn

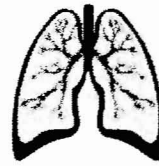
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Letters, Week of August 9, 2012

August 9, 2012 | Filed under: Your Letters | Posted by: admin

Ch-ch-changes

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To The Editor:

Re "The Villager is sold to I.T. executive Jennifer Goodstein" (news article, Aug. 2):

Thanks to Mr. Sutter for his years of successfully publishing these vital community papers. Best wishes to Ms. Goodstein as she steers NYC Community Media for the next generation.

Kimberly Donahue

Thanks for a stellar job

To The Editor:

Re "The Villager is sold to I.T. executive Jennifer Goodstein" (news article, Aug. 2):

John, you have done a stellar job leading a phenomenal team of journalists who so thoroughly, fairly and brilliantly have covered our neighborhoods.

You will be missed -- but you leave behind a talented, award-winning team.

Good luck in pursuing new adventures and we will see you in the neighborhood.

Corey Johnson

Please, digitize the archives!

To The Editor:

Re "The Villager is sold to I.T. executive Jennifer Goodstein" (news article, Aug. 2):

Let's hope the excellent quality of the paper will be maintained. All best wishes and hopes as well that the archives — which go back to 1933 and are vital to Greenwich Village history, archivists, amateurs, mavens and historians — will now be put online for all to read and use.

Patricia Fieldsteel

Way to go, sis!

To The Editor:

Re "The Villager is sold to I.T. executive Jennifer Goodstein" (news article, Aug. 2):

Congratulations to my sister-in-law, Jennifer, on her new business venture. Very proud of you.

Rochelle Spector

Unify the Village district

To The Editor:

Next week we have the opportunity to put the Village back together again...at the first Districting Commission hearing leading up to the 2013 City Council elections. Greenwich Village used to be in one district, but more recently it has been divided into three districts, with two of the three councilmembers generally deferring to the third on every issue...and thus not representing their constituents. After all, it wasn't just the residents of one part of the Village who were affected by what happened to St. Vincent's and Washington Square Park.

Unlike many other geographical areas in the city with somewhat vague boundaries, Greenwich Village has very distinct and clear-cut borders, as recognized by the City Planning Commission when it drew community board lines. Nevertheless, a powerful member of a previous Districting Commission opined that if Fifth Ave. was good enough to be the line demarking East and West in Manhattan, it was good enough to provide a neat divide, wherever possible, for Council districts. And that's why Villagers living east of Fifth Ave. and south of the park have been gerrymandered out of the district that includes the majority of Villagers.

The Districting Commission is seeking your input at the first Manhattan hearing Thurs., Aug. 16, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., at New York Law School, 185 West Broadway. You can sign in online at www.nyc.gov/districting. Come and testify. This is our chance to make the Village whole again.

Carol Greitzer

Typical N.Y.U. hype

To The Editor:

Re "N.Y.U., affordable co-op reach deal on long-term lease" (news article, Aug. 2):

As always, New York University aggrandizes itself, as do the politicians. We still don't think N.Y.U. is one of the "good guys" nor are Chin, Quinn and Stringer. The article had no mention of Assemblywoman Glick, who, of all those cited, was the most on-our-side politician of them all. Thank you, Ms. Glick, for all your support!

Sylvia Rackow

Rackow is a member, Committee to Preserve Our Neighborhood

Smart, sexy and powerful

To The Editor:

Re "Burlesque will be on the menu with stripped-down poetry club" (news article, Aug. 2):

I'm interested in learning what it is about the modern burlesque movement that's so sexist in K Webster's opinion.

Is the problem that we and the venues we're working at are making money on an art form that we enjoy and choose to do? An art form, by the way, that is produced almost entirely by and performed mostly for women. Or is it because there's an element of striptease involved? I'm genuinely curious, and I'm having a hard time accepting the idea that burlesque is an invitation to treat women as anything less than human, unless you feel that way about performance art in general.

My guess is that you just don't know much about neo-burlesque.

I personally know most of the women in that Duane Park promo photo that was on The Villager's front page last week. I won't pretend to speak for them, but they're incredible, smart, talented women. Some are business owners. A couple produce shows of their own. Throughout the scene there are doctors, professors, mental health professionals — these are not women doing this for lack of other options.

They're also not performing out of some internalized self-hate. They're strong, confident women of varying body types who've decided that being smart and being sexy need not be mutually exclusive.

Maybe you didn't say "burlesque is degrading," but the implication that it's inherently sexist is completely unfair.

Kita St. Cyr

Love the Ottomanellis

To The Editor:

Re "Peter Ottomanelli, 65, of famed family meat market on Bleecker" (obituary, Aug. 2):

Love this family. Went to St. Joseph's with them. R.I.P. Peter. The obituary made no mention of Rosemary, the youngest sister.

All of us who were raised in the Village spent all of our holidays on line at the Ottomanellis'. It would not have been any other way.

Condolences to the Ottomanelli family. We share your sadness.

Lisa Kloeppel

Great house, great times

To The Editor:

Re "Key site in early gay rights history faces demolition" (news article, July 26):

I remember this building very well as the home of Bruce Voeller, Arnie Kantrowitz and Jim Owles. I went to several wonderful parties there. It was a time of huge optimism, intense bonding among gay activists, and a feeling of outrage that could scorch the streets.

All of the house's residents were active in the Gay Activists Alliance, whose clubhouse or community center on Wooster St. in an old firehouse — which became known as The Firehouse — became legendary. Their weekly Saturday evening dances were the forerunners of gay dance clubs in the city. They also orchestrated their famous "Zaps" from The Firehouse.

~~This house should be preserved for its historic associations. Jim Owles and Bruce Voeller are no longer with us, Arnie Katrowitz is. I'm glad for that.~~

Perry Brass

Brass is the author of "King of Angels," a new gay, Southern, Jewish, coming-of-age novel set in Savannah, Georgia, in 1963, the year of John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Squawking about Chick-fil-A

To The Editor:

Mayoral wannabe City Council Speaker Christine Quinn calling on New York University to shut down its Chick-fil-A franchise was an attempt to score political points with gay, lesbian and extreme liberal supporters, who also by coincidence are campaign contributors.

Her rationale is based upon the owner's political beliefs, which I also disagree with. New Yorkers face a 9 percent unemployment rate with an additional 7 percent more who have given up looking, long-term pension funding shortfalls in the billions, along with critical issues dealing with education, housing, transportation, public safety and the environment, just to name a few. A future mayor should clearly have more important issues to deal with than going after Chick-fil-A.


How disappointing to see progressive liberals like Quinn throwing her lot in with the Moral Majority social police and politically extreme conservatives who attempt to use government rules, regulations and the threat of boycotts to impose their own moral values on others. For those who don't like Chick-fil-A's owner's political beliefs, please feel free to purchase a competitor's product.

Larry Penner

E-mail letters, not longer than 250 words in length, to lincoln@thevillager.com or fax to 212-229-2790 or mail to The Villager, Letters to the Editor, 515 Canal St., Suite 1C, NY, NY 10013. Please include phone number for confirmation purposes. The Villager reserves the right to edit letters for space, grammar, clarity and libel. The Villager does not publish anonymous letters.

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NYC Districting Commission Public Hearings Begin Monday

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Posted: Friday, August 10, 2012 4:57 pm

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Just a reminder - the first round of Public Hearings of the New York City Districting Commission begin this Monday at the following locations:

BROOKLYN Monday, August 13th 5PM-9PM Brooklyn Borough Hall 209 Joralemon Street New York, NY 11209 By Subway: Borough Hall (Court Street) Station on the 2, 3, 4, 5, M, & R lines By Bus: B25, B26, B37, B38, B41, B45, B51, B52, B54, B57, B61, B65, B67, B75, B103 serving Borough Hall area

MANHATTAN Thursday, August 16th 5PM-9PM New York Law School 185 West Broadway New York, NY 10013 By Subway: Brooklyn Bridge Station on the 4, 5, & 6 lines; Chambers Street Station on the 1, 2 & 3 lines; City Hall Station on the N & R lines; Chambers Street Station on the A & C lines By Bus: M1, M6, M15, M22, M103, B51, & express buses serving City Hall area

STATEN ISLAND Monday, August 20th 5PM-9PM Staten Island Borough Hall 10 Richmond Terrace Staten Island, NY 10301 By Subway: St. George Station on the Staten Island Railway By Bus: Across from the Staten Island Ferry & served by all buses serving the ferry

QUEENS Tuesday, August 21st 5PM-9PM Queens Library at Flushing 41-17 Main Street Flushing, NY 11355 By Subway: Main Street-Flushing on the 7 line and on the Long Island Railroad Port Washington Branch By Bus: Q12, Q13, Q17, Q19, Q20A, Q20B, Q25, Q26, Q27, Q34, Q44, Q58, Q 65, Q 66 and QBX1 serving Main Street area

BRONX Thursday, August 23rd 5PM-9PM Lehman College 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West East Dining Room, Music Bldg. Bronx, NY 10468 By Subway: IRT Number 4 or the IND "D" line to Bedford Park Boulevard. Metro North's Harlem line has a local stop at the Botanical Gardens station. By Bus: 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 12, 22, 26, 28, 32, and 34 have stops at or near Lehman College. Liberty Lines BXM4A and 4B express buses from Manhattan stop near the campus at Bedford Park Boulevard and the Grand Concourse. Good connections are available on Westchester 20 or 20X buses from White Plains, Hartsdale, Scarsdale, and Yonkers via Central Park Avenue. The Number 4 from Yonkers also stops near the campus. Individuals wishing to pre-register for speaking time or to submit written testimony in advance may do so by signing up online at <http://www.nyc.gov/districting>.

Individuals wishing to speak at any hearing will be provided up to three minutes of speaking time.

NOTE: The meeting locations are fully accessible to those with physical disabilities.

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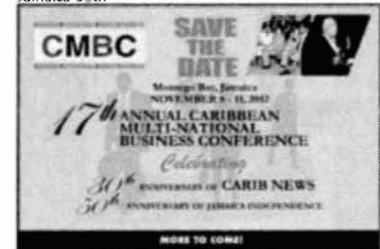
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Update: Alternate side parking (street cleaning) regulations will be suspended Wednesday, August 15 for Feast of the Assumption.

News

5 Things You Should Know This Week

Weight Watchers enrollment, R&B singer Ledisi in concert and a fundraiser for Walter T. Mosley

By **C. Zawadi Morris** [Email the author](#) August 13, 2012

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Related Topics: [Bedford YMCA](#), [Ledisi](#), [Marcy Library](#), [Martin Luther King Jr. Concert Series](#), [Walter T. Mosley](#), [Wingate Field](#), [two steps down](#), and [weight watchers](#)

1. R&B Crooner **Ledisi** will perform in Brooklyn on Monday, August 13, as a part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. free concert series. The concert is at Wingate Field, with entrances on Brooklyn Avenue between Rutland Road and Winthrop Street. The public is encouraged to bring their own chairs. A limited amount of general seating is available on a first come, first served basis. The program begins at 7:30pm.

2. On Monday, August 13, at 6:00 p.m. is the **Weight Watchers enrollment** at the Bedford YMCA, located at 1121 Bedford Avenue. This group meets weekly at the YMCA. At the Weight Watchers meetings, participants receive all the information they need on eating healthy, plus get the guidance they need to stay health.

3. On Monday, August 13, from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., the first round of **Public Hearings of the New York City Districting Commission** begins this Monday at Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Stret, Bklyn, NY.

4. Learn about **job resources for formerly incarcerated people** on Tuesday, August 14, at 6:00 p.m. at the Marcy Library. Gain job radiness skills and learn about your rights as a job seeker with a conviction on your record. Topics covered include filling in the gaps on your resume, answering questions about conviction and learning employment law. Marcy Library is located at 417 ekalb Avenue.

5. Please join **Friends of Walter T. Mosley**, candidate For the New York State Assembly, 57th District, for a fundraising reception at Two Steps Down, 240 Dekalb Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, on Thursday, August 15, from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. **\$1,000 - \$500 - \$250 - \$100 - \$75. [Click HERE to Purchase Your Tickets Now!](#)** To RSVP Please contact Jeff Guillot at 212-239-7323 or email jeff@theadvancegroup.com.

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NYC Districting Commission begins public hearings

Associated Press

Published 10:18 p.m. Monday, August 13, 2012

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NEW YORK — The New York City Districting Commission has begun its first round of public hearings ahead of its once-a-decade redrawing of the city's electoral lines.

The commission held its first public hearing in Brooklyn on Monday. Hearings in the other boroughs will be held through next week. The first draft of the commission's proposed plan is scheduled to be

released next month.

Dick Dadey, the executive director of Citizens Union, says the most recent Census results mean this round of redistricting is likely to create more significant changes than those the city saw 10 years ago.

He's urging the commission not to make decisions based on the impact they'll have on elected officials currently in office.



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Asian Group Advocates Redistricting; Help for Undocumented Students

ASIAN ADVOCATES IN NYC | AUGUST 12, 2012 | BY: SYLVIA LEWIS

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Emerging Youth group of AALDEF teaching our undocumented students.

Credits: Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

The **Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)** will testify at the first NYC Council Redistricting hearing in Brooklyn on **Monday, August 13**. As they have done in the past two decades, AALDEF will propose new NYC Council district lines that reflect the NYC's Asian American population growth. Major spikes have happened in the Asian populations in Queens and Brooklyn, according to Census reports cited on their website. AALDEF has put together a **factsheet** (<http://aaldef.org/new-york-city-council-redistricting.html>) on everything you need to know about redistricting for the Asian community.

Founded in 1974, AALDEF is a national organization based in New York City that protects and promotes the civil rights of Asian Americans across the country by combining litigation, advocacy, education and organizing.

Issues faced by undocumented students is not only a Hispanic issue. It impacts the Asian community too. Their recent **Deferred Action Legal clinics** (<http://aaldef.org/obamas-dream-act-directive-on-deferred-action----faqs.html>) held in New York City and New Jersey drew large audiences and addressed the issue of undocumented Asian American students. Their youth group called *Emerging Voices* have begun organizing and reaching out to area students.

AALDEF also reacted to the Sikh Temple shooting in Wisconsin with a **Newsday Op-Ed** (<http://www.newsday.com/opinion/oped/sehgal-sikh-temple-shooting-shows-how-hatred-can-transcend-boundaries-1.388>) piece and participated in local vigils.

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Redistricting's big impact on Staten Island's Mid-Island Council seat

Published: Monday, August 13, 2012, 2:20 PM Updated: Tuesday, August 14, 2012, 2:01 AM



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By Tom Wroblewski/Staten Island Advance

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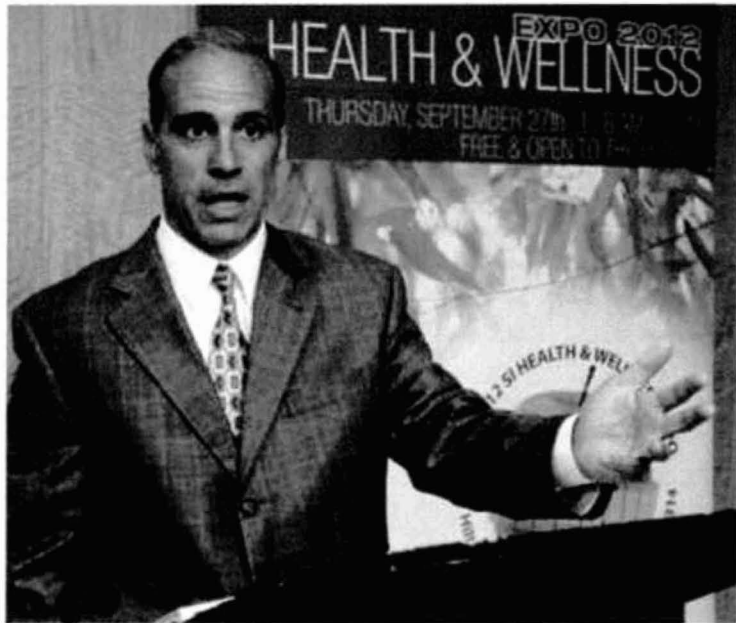
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(http://blog.silive.com/latest_news/print.html?entry=/2012/08/public_hearings_on_city_counci.html)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The time is growing closer when Staten Island will likely bid Brooklyn adieu in the City Council.

The New York City Districting Commission will set to work redrawing the boundaries of all 51 Council districts with an initial series of public hearings this week and next, including one on the Island next Monday.

It is expected that when the re-drawing is done, Councilman James Oddo (R-Mid-Island/Brooklyn) will no longer have any constituents in Brooklyn, meaning that the Island will have stand-alone Council districts for the first time in 30 years.



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(http://media.silive.com/latest_news/photo/oddojpg-0c2558bc82115e57.jpg)

Staten Island Advance photo

It is expected that Staten Island Councilman James Oddo will no longer have any constituents in Brooklyn when district lines are re-drawn.

That should be the "big change" Islanders will see in the process, said Oddo, who has represented parts of Brooklyn since being elected in 1999.

"Let Brooklyn be whole, let Staten Island be whole," Oddo said. "At the end of the day, we will still have the traditional North Shore, Mid-Island and South Shore seats."

He added that while some Island district lines will be adjusted here and there, he doesn't expect any drastic changes to borough Council boundaries.

The Island districting hearing will be held on Aug. 20, from 5 to 9 p.m., at Borough Hall, 10 Richmond Terrace.

Those who want to pre-register for speaking time or to submit written testimony in advance can do so by signing up **online** (<https://blog.advance.net/mt-static/html/www.nyc.gov/districting>). A full schedule of hearing dates can also be found there. Hearings begin tonight in Brooklyn.

Those wishing to speak at any hearing will be provided up to three minutes of speaking time.

Council district lines are redrawn every 10 years to accommodate shifts in population within the city seen in the U.S. Census. Following public hearings, the panel must submit its plan to the Council in November.

Oddo said that population shifts here will allow for the Island to have three self-contained districts.

"It's good for Staten Island," said Councilman Vincent Ignizio (R-South Shore). "We can have three councilmembers speaking for the borough. All the time and resources can be focused on the borough. The Island continues to grow and prosper."

Lawmakers here have said that due to population growth, the North Shore and South Shore districts would shrink geographically, while the Mid-Island seat would get larger.

"There is no contention," Ignizio said of how the Island redistricting is expected to shake out. "There is no fight."

The average Council seat is expected to have around 160,000 people in it when all is said and done.

Three Islanders serve on the commission: Kamillah Hanks of Stapleton, president of the Historic Tappen Park Community Partnership; Robert Hart of West Brighton, a former Council staffer and one-time Advance reporter, and Annadale resident Scott Cerullo, brother of former South Shore Councilman and current Grand Central Partnership chief Fred Cerullo.

Appointments to the commission were made by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Odio, who is the Council Minority Leader.

Advance Political Editor **Tom Wroblewski** (<mailto:wroblewski@siadvance.com>) writes the **Polit Bureau blog**. (<http://www.silive.com/newslogs/politics/>) Follow him on **Twitter** (<https://twitter.com/%21/TomWroblewski1>).

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The City Council district boundaries are based on population. To meet the population minimum some Island districts would have to take in part of Brooklyn. But since the SI population has grown so much that is no longer necessary.

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so instead of doing nothing for 2 boroughs he'll just be down to 1---oh isnt that nice to hear

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Now can they limit Savino's and Grimm's Districts to SI so we can have more politicians focused on where they represent?

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IIRC a congressional district has to contain about 620,000 people. I hope SI never gets that large. So we will always have a small piece of Brooklyn.

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NYC Districting Commission begins public hearings

MONDAY AUGUST 13, 2012, 8:33 PM

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NEW YORK (AP) — The New York City Districting Commission has begun its first round of public hearings ahead of its once-a-decade redrawing of the city's electoral lines.

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He's urging the commission not to make decisions based on the impact they'll have on elected officials currently in office.

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NYC Districting Commission begins public hearings ahead of once-a-decade boundary redrawing

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

August 13, 2012 - 8:27 pm EDT



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(Story distributed by The Associated Press)

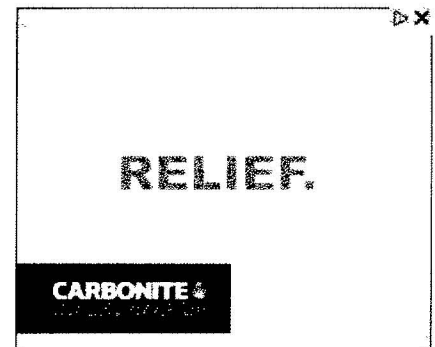
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POLITICS

08/13/2012 10:24 PM

Commission Holds First Hearing On How To Redraw City Council District Lines

By: Zack Fink

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Because of population changes in the city, all 51 City Council districts are having their lines redrawn in time for next year's elections and the group in charge of that big task held its first public hearing in Brooklyn on Monday. NY1's Zack Fink filed the following report.

The census data is in, and now the City Districting Commission wants to hear from New Yorkers.

"Well, we have lots of raw data. The thing that we can most benefit from is individuals telling us about their neighborhoods and how they perceive those neighborhoods so that we can take that into consideration," said City Districting Commission Chairman Benito Romano.

There are 51 City Council seats, a number that will remain unchanged with next year's elections. Each seat represents roughly 160,000 people.

But there were some significant changes in the city's ethnic makeup. The city's population grew more than 2 percent, but not evenly over ethnic and racial lines.

"The city from 2000 to 2010 grew tremendously. But there is a story within a story in terms of ethnic groups, there has been vast changes with regard to the asian population. They grew around 32 percent," said City Districting Commission Executive Direction Carl Hum.

As a result of the increasing Asian population, Asian-American groups want to make sure ethnic neighborhoods remain undivided.

"If you have a community that's been fractured among different districts they can't elect someone of their choosing. And right now we believe the City Council lines may be outdated," said James Hong of the Asian-American Redistricting Coalition.

The Latino population also grew, while the white population remained relatively stable, the city's African-American population declined.

"There's a slight decrease, but not enough to cause any major changes in the redistricting process," said Esmerelda Simmons of Medgar Evers College.

Monday's hearing was the first of five public hearings being held in August, one in each borough.

In September draft maps are due and the council will vote on a plan in November. And the final district maps are expected in march 2013.

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First Posted: August 13, 2012 - 8:27 pm

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Updated: Wednesday, 15 Aug 2012, 12:33 PM EDT
Published : Wednesday, 15 Aug 2012, 12:33 PM EDT

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) — It's a six-month prison sentence for a soldier charged after the suicide of Asian-American private from New York City. Specialist Ryan Offu of Greenville, Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty yesterday to hazing and maltreatment. Authorities say Danny Chen shot himself last year in Afghanistan after being hazed over his ethnicity.

NEW YORK (AP) — A San Francisco hedge fund founder told jurors at his Manhattan trial that his trades were based on legitimate research rather than inside information. Douglas Whitman denied yesterday that he used inside information to make nearly \$1 million.

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York City Districting Commission has begun public hearings ahead of its once-a-

decade redrawing of the city's electoral boundaries. The first draft of the commission's proposed plan is scheduled to be released next month.

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Authorities say a Brooklyn dentist has admitted paying recruiters to solicit homeless Medicaid patients with cash. State officials say Lawrence Bruckner of Plainview submitted hundreds of false Medicaid claims. He also admitted failing to pay taxes on payments he received from other dentists who worked at his clinics.

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AUGUST 15, 2012 7:33 AM

City Council Redistricting: Representation Or Segregation? The Debate Begins...

BY CELESTE KATZ

I blogged recently about Asian-American and Latino political interest groups huddling with Common Cause/NY about getting more representation on the City Council in advance of a hearing on the city's upcoming redistricting process.

Now, here's an update about that hearing from our Erin Durkin:

Asian-American groups are pushing for an Asian City Council district in Brooklyn, where the group's population has surged.

At the first hearing Monday night of the city's Districting Commission, which will redraw the lines for City Council seats for next year's elections, advocates pushed for a new district in Sunset Park and Bensonhurst that would be plurality Asian American.

"Asian voters are being disenfranchised by the current City Council lines," said James Hong of the Asian American Community Coalition on Redistricting and Democracy. "This part of the borough has changed rapidly and dramatically over the past ten years."

Brooklyn's Asian voting age population has jumped 46% over the last decade, to more than 250,000 people. The state created the borough's first Asian-majority Assembly district in its own redistricting process earlier this year.

The area is currently divided between five different City Council districts, advocates said.

"Opportunities for political representation have not kept pace with population growth, with no elected official of Asian descent in Brooklyn," said Christopher Kui, executive director of Asian Americans for Equality.

He said the change did not have to come at the expense of other demographic groups, noting that the last round of city redistricting a year ago created three Council districts in downtown Manhattan where Asian Americans, Latinos, and the LGBT community have each elected a member to the Council.

Still, not all in the neighborhood were behind the idea.

"Why segregate?" said Gladys Bruno, a member of Sunset Park's Community Board 7. "We have been learning from each other's cultures, so why change that?"



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Here And Now

Gov. Andrew Cuomo is in New York City with no public schedule.

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver will be joined by immigrant advocates at an announcement regarding funding “to help young, immigrant New Yorkers overcome barriers to education, employment, and economic empowerment.” 11:30 a.m., 250 Broadway, Manhattan.

At noon on the steps of City Hall in Lower Manhattan, former NYC Mayor Ed Koch will endorse Assemblywoman Grace Meng’s NY-6 run. (This is noteworthy since Israel is a big issue in this area and Koch’s nod last year helped win NY-9 for GOP Rep. Bob Turner).

US Senate hopeful Wendy Long is holding a press conference on the state Capitol steps (East side) at 11 a.m. She’ll attend the NY 20th District Advocates Liberty Forum at the Clifton Park Elks Lodge in Ballston Lake at 7 p.m.

The NYC Districting Commission will hold five public hearings Aug. 13-23 to hear testimony from the public concerning the initial phases of its work in drafting a new districting plan for the New York City Council. Today’s meeting: Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon St. 5-9 p.m.

Headlines...

Ex-Rep. Anthony Weiner and his wife, Huma Abedin, live in a \$3.3 million Manhattan apartment owned by a longtime Clinton donor. A spokesman insists they’re paying market rate rent.

Silver is reportedly open to the idea of a casino at Coney Island or Willets Point.

Thanks to an ethics inquiry from Sen. Tony Avella, state lawmakers can no longer accept free USTA President’s Suite seats at the upcoming US Open. NYC lawmakers are awaiting a COIB ruling.

Ex-Erie County Executive/congressional hopeful Chris Collins “would not – even when asked again and again – endorse or even comment” on the controversial budget plan proposed by Congressman/VP candidate Paul Ryan.

Ryan will release only two years worth of tax returns – just like Romney.

Tom Precious writes: “Unlike any other group, Seneca Nation leaders have not only done battle with the governor, but they have held their own, and been largely unmoved by rhetorical barbs coming from the Cuomo administration.”

Hoping to pressure the presidential candidates to talk about immigration, Mayor Bloomberg is traveling to the cities where they’ve set up campaign HQs – Chicago (Obama) and Boston (Romney) – to hold talks with local officials.

In 2007, Joe Martens founded the Catskill Mountainkeeper – one of the state's strongest and most visible opponents of fracking. Since then, he has evolved from activist to DEC commissioner.

Crusading Financial Services Superintendent Ben Lawskey once busted a rigged charity carnival shooting game, ensuring a stuffed animal win by his child.

If Cuomo is serious about pushing new gun control measures through the Legislature next year, he has a lot of bills to choose from. But the Senate Republicans aren't on board with most of them.

New York's retiring House members and several former members of the state's congressional delegation are using their leftover campaign cash to help candidates running in key House races around the state.

Of the 63 state Senate seats up for grabs, 31 senators are running unopposed in November. In 2010, only nine candidates had no major-party opposition.

The NY Post gives Cuomo's teacher performance evaluation data deal gets an "I" for incomplete.

As county fraud investigators probed her former nanny's public assistance benefits, Westchester DA/JCOPE Chair Janet DiFiore doubled her campaign war chest as she gears up for next year's election. She has \$517,721 on hand.

Like her husband, Sen. Tom Libous's wife, Frances, chairwoman of the state Workers Compensation Board, has real estate holdings in Florida that she does not want to discuss.

State regulators are cracking down on yoga studios, even after they won a hard-fought battle that exempted them from paying sales tax.

Brendan Lyons: "At an undisclosed location off the Thruway in Coxsackie last week, in a meeting that no one wants to talk about, Democratic Party leaders from seven counties gathered to discuss whether two state Supreme Court seats up for election this fall will be one-horse races for the 14-year terms."

City officials and police experts defended the NYPD officers who shot and killed a knife-wielding man in Times Square over the weekend, saying they did what they were trained to do.

Hundreds of One World Trade Center tours have quietly been arranged in the past year as the new building has taken shape on the downtown skyline, mostly through the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the site's developers and designers.

Major League Soccer is closing in on a final deal with state and city officials for a \$300 million, 25,000-seat, state-of-the-art soccer-stadium complex in Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens.

Newsday thinks New York can learn something from North Carolina when it comes to rescuing local governments in fiscal distress.

If you've never received a polling call asking for your opinion on Cuomo's job performance, [here's your chance](#) to weigh in.

Dan Janison [pays tribute](#) to the late Liberal Party leader Ray Harding.

A chorus of prison watchdog groups [is describing](#) New York's solitary confinement practices as some of the worst in the nation.

[Some of the biggest consumers](#) of local food this month – in terms of physical size and how much they eat – are members of the New York Giants during their training camp at the UAlbany.

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This entry was posted by [Liz Benjamin](#) on August 13, 2012 at 7:28 am, and is filed under [Uncategorized](#). Follow any responses to this post through [RSS 2.0](#). You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.

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gecannonphd

The Romney-Ryan mantra on lower taxes on the wealthy.

Romney-Ryan (R-R) want to lower the fed. income tax rate for the top earners. But this segment already has it very good.

R-R use the "nominal" top rate of 35%, and argue it is so high it de-incentivizes the job creators.

But the 35% is not the real rate. The "effective" rate, the real rate, is about 15%...the lowest in 30 years.

Tax lawyers and CPAs work full time reducing the "nominal" rate to the lowest rate legally allowed.

K Street lobbyists work full time to obtain tax credits, excemptions etc. (what wonkish budgeteers like Ryan call "tax expenditures"), which now total over \$1 trillion ,with a T, yearly.

Ryan wants to lower the "nominal" rate by eliminating many expenditures. What would, or could politically, be eliminated?



The \$75 billion home mortgage deduction?

Would the Ryans, Romneys, and Obamas agree to that on their mansions?

That's a clown question, bro.!

The \$120 billion employer deduction for health care?

That's another clown question, bro.!

Employers would drop health insurance for millions.

The \$38 billion deduction for charitable giving?

There you go again...another clown question, bro.!

And how about eliminating the \$150 billion that is saved by using off-shore tax havens?

Now that's a clown question, on steroids!

Like Jack Benny traveling over alligator-infested moats to visit his vault, Mitt like to make occasional visits to the Caymans and Bermuda to carass his stash.

Lowering "nominal" tax rates by eliminating expenditures will not happen.

[2 days ago](#)

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gecannonphd

(City officials and police experts defended the NYPD officers who shot and killed a knife-wielding man in Times Square over the weekend, saying they did what they were trained to do.)

From the media stories and the cell phone videos, this episode smacks of stupidity on the cops part.

This man apparently had a knife, not a gun.

He apparently was suspected of having pot, or selling same.



And the cops fired in the middle of 37th-38th streets, busy Times Square area.

Pot possession should be de-criminalized, and later legalized.

Possession of pot should be a violation, not a criminal offense.

[2 days ago](#)

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Districting: Help wanted

August 16, 2012 | Filed under: Editorials | Posted by: admin

Every decade, following the U.S. Census, legislative boundaries are adjusted to reflect changes in the population. Nationally, this involves congressional districts while statewide, it involves the Assembly and Senate districts.

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For New York City, it will reshape the 51 City Council districts. The New York City Charter establishes a Districting Commission to carry out this important function, essential to the operation of our city's government.

Over the next few months, the Districting Commission will undertake this important task. The Charter provides the commission with criteria it should use in creating the district lines. Applying the constitutional standard of "one person, one vote," the districts must be of essentially equal population. And in complying with the Federal Voting Rights Act, the districting plan must provide an opportunity for members of the "protected classes" (blacks, Hispanics and Asian-Americans) to elect candidates of their choice.

The charter also encourages consideration of so-called "communities of interest," as well as observing certain technical features. For example, districts are to be compact and contiguous, not be twice as long as they are wide, or have many jagged lines. Districts should respect county boundaries.

In our coverage area, for example, one question might be whether — especially, after the recent contentious City Council vote to approve the N.Y.U. 2031 development plan on the superblocks — should this area be kept in Lower Manhattan's District 1? Do the superblocks' residents "share

interests” to a greater degree with residents in District 3 (Greenwich Village, Chelsea and Hell’s Kitchen) or possibly District 2 (the East Village)?

Also, should District 3’s eastern boundary be Fifth Ave., or — as former Councilmember Carol Greitzer advocates — would it be better if Greenwich Village were “unified” by including the area all the way over to, say, Bowery/Fourth Ave.? This would mean District 2 would lose this area.

Should Soho be shifted out of District 1? Does opposition by many Soho residents to a proposed Soho Business Improvement District mean they have more in common with residents living in District 3?

Neighbors who have strong feelings on these issues are encouraged to turn out at the hearings to voice their feelings.

However, just testifying, for instance, that a particular district’s councilmember didn’t vote on a certain issue how residents would have liked won’t impress the commission. Residents must convey why adjacent blocks or neighborhoods share — or don’t share — common interests, why they should be united, or split off.

The commission’s districting plan will be subject to review by the City Council and, in final form, to approval by the U.S. Department of Justice (or the federal district court in the District of Columbia).

As part of its first round of hearings, the Districting Commission will be holding a Manhattan public hearing on Thurs., Aug. 16, at New York Law School, 185 West Broadway, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. The public is invited to pre-register for speaking time or submit written testimony at nyc.gov/districting, where the schedule of hearing dates is also listed.

The commission is slated to produce maps of proposed district lines by early September. A second round of public hearings will be held in October. The City Council will vote on the revised lines in early November. However, if the Council rejects the revisions, it will trigger another round of hearings to be held by March.

The commission’s 15 appointed members are drawn from all the boroughs and reflect the city’s diverse population. All New Yorkers are eligible to give testimony at the districting hearings. Our democracy is enhanced by such participation — when people make their voices heard, and make their votes count.

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Poll: Voters don't see the harm in a sick-pay mandate



BY AZI PAYBARAH

8:43 am Aug. 16, 2012

Most New York City voters support the idea of a bill requiring employers to provide sick pay and don't believe it will harm business, according to a Quinnipiac poll.

City voters support the Paid Sick bill 73-20 percent, according to Quinnipiac, whose poll showed Republicans to be the only group not favoring it (by 48-42 percent.)

In the meantime, the owner of Park Slope's popular Bogota Latin Bistro, who signed on to a letter to City Council Christine Quinn opposing the bill, has reportedly reconsidered his position.

The question for Quinn, who is preventing the bill from being voted on in the Council, is whether she can find a compromise on the legislation that's acceptable to the bill's union supporters but also to Mayor Michael Bloomberg and business leaders, who strongly oppose it.

Last week, Bloomberg signaled that he wasn't inclined to support any bill that mandates sick pay.

During his weekly radio show, he said that the legislation would hurt businesses and that "the economy can't stand it."



Briefing: Quinn, Bloomberg and Crowley. Azi Paybarah via flickr

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Quote

"Bringing in someone who grew up in public housing, with a rags-to-riches story, who could identify with Brooklyn and African-Americans, that was slick."—City Councilwoman Letita James

Events

"Governor Andrew M. Cuomo is in New York City."

10 a.m. City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Rep. Joseph Crowley attend the renaming of a post office in honor of Pvt. Isaac T. Cortes, at 1449 West Ave. in the Bronx.

11:30 a.m. Quinn, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and State Senator Dan Squadron file an amicus brief in support of residents at Independence Plaza on the corner of North Moore and Greenwich St., in Manhattan.

1 p.m. Mayor Michael Bloomberg has a Q&A announcing new funding for a shark exhibit at the New York Aquarium at Surf Ave. at W. 8th St., in Brooklyn.

1 p.m. Quinn attends a Council hearing on public housing security cameras at NYCHA facilities in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

1:30 p.m. New Yorkers for Great Public Schools release a report that links Mitt Romney donors to "the political front group StudentsFirst" which seeks to influence upcoming elections, on the steps of the Tweed Courthouse at 52 Chambers St. in Manhattan.

5 pm. The New York City Districting Commission holds a public hearing at New York Law School, at 185 West Broadway in Manhattan.

6:15 p.m. Bloomberg hosts a reception in honor of Dominican Heritage, at Gracie Mansion.

Newsletter

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2012

News Corp's owner is over the moon for Paul Ryan. [[@RupertMurdoch](#)]

Joe Biden is "a cynical tool" for his "chains" comment yesterday. [[New York Post](#)]

Washington

Asked if she'd ever run for office, Chelsea Clinton says maybe. [Jonathan Van Meter]

The comment gets picked up. [Arienne Thompson]

An editorial board criticizes retiring Rep. Ed Towns, who "made sure" paperwork associated with his personal loan from Countrywide was excluded from a congressional subpoena three years ago. [New York Post]

2013

"It's time for the LGBTQ community to come together to support this safe, sane, and sensible policy," the co-directors of Queers for Economic Justice wrote in a *Gay City News* op-ed. [Amber Hollibugh and Brandon Lacy Campos]

Farid Ali Lancheros, owner of Bogota Latin Bistro in Park Slope who signed a letter opposing the Paid Sick bill, now supports it. [Will Yakowicz]

Flashback: State inspectors once found the restaurant had short-changed employees. [Capital New York]

Yesterday's Quinnipiac poll was probably more about name recognition than anything else. [David Seifmar]

The poll said most voters don't care about a candidate's sexuality. [Tina Moore]

City Hall

A *Times* investigation found police in the 32nd Pct. in Manhattan, 44th and 46th Pcts in the Bronx and 115th in Jackson Heights, Queens, used force at much higher rates than the rest of the city. NYPD spokesman Paul Browne said that's because they file reports indicating "hands on suspect," which could mean "a frisk or to guide a suspect to the sidewalk." [Ray Rivera]

The labor-backed New Yorkers for Great Public Schools found that donors to the the group StudentsFirstNY also donated to Mitt Romney and other Republicans. [Geoff Decker]

"Virtually every line in this report contains charges that range from absurd to dishonest," said SutdentFirstNY's deputy executive director, Glen Weiner. [Michael Grynbaum]

City Council

Former councilman Larry Seabrook blames his mistress. [Bruce Golding]

Albany

"Disturbing, obviously," is how Cuomo described *Daily News* reports of NYCHA officials sitting on money that was intended for security cameras. [Glenn Blain]

The Yogurt Summit was "historic," Cuomo said. [Thomas Kaplan]

After Cuomo's intervention, Con Ed workers approved a contract. [AP]

State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli's audit faulted the state's Thruway Authority for not finding more savings before turning to a massive toll hike. [AP]

State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced the arrest of a crew on Staten Island illegal pharmaceutical drugs. [Josh Saul]

State Senator Tony Avella was correct in raising a red flag when U.S. Open organizers gave free tickets to elected officials. [New York Times]

From Capital

Chuck Schumer said Paul Ryan is "Cheney-like." [Reid Pillifant]

M.T.A. chairman Joe Lhota is "absolutely not" opposed to facilitating a major league soccer stadium in Queens, under certain conditions. [Dana Rubinstein]

Council Speaker Christine Quinn rejected free tickets to the U.S. Open. [Azi Paybarah]

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Will Berman run? Districting issue could decide it

August 16, 2012 | Filed under: News | Posted by: admin

BY LINCOLN ANDERSON | There are three expected candidates for the Third District City Council race in 2013, Corey Johnson, Yetta Kurland and Andrew Berman. But redistricting could affect whether one of them — prominent preservationist Berman — ultimately runs or not.

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Berman has not yet opened a campaign account, and a large factor behind this is reportedly the redistricting question.

Meanwhile, Johnson has “maxed out,” raising about \$170,000, the maximum eligible to receive public matching funds under the city’s campaign finance law. Kurland has raised more than \$70,000.

Every 10 years, following the Census, New York City Council districts are adjusted to ensure fair representation and equal population distribution between all the city’s 51 districts. No more than a 10 percent population differential is allowed between the largest and smallest district.

While New York City’s population as a whole grew by only 2 percent from 2000 to 2010, areas like Chelsea and Lower Manhattan saw their number of residents surge. The Third Council District grew by more than 14 percent, while the number of people living in Lower Manhattan’s District 1 spiked 13 percent.

Currently represented by Council Speaker Christine Quinn, District 3 covers the West Side from Canal to 55th St., taking in most of Greenwich Village, as well as Chelsea, and stretching east as far as Park Ave. at some points.

Facing term limits, Quinn is running for mayor in 2013 — which opens up the Council's so-called "gay seat" for a new representative. Quinn is openly gay, as are Kurland, Berman and Johnson.

District 1, currently represented by Margaret Chin, extends up from the Battery through Tribeca, Chinatown, the Lower East Side and Soho, also taking in the area around Washington Square.

Meanwhile, District 2, represented by Rosie Mendez and covering the East Village, Union Square area and part of the Lower East Side, only saw a 2 percent population growth.

In short, both Districts 1 and 3 are likely to "shed territory" due to their population booms. Some have speculated that Chin's District 1 will lose the N.Y.U. superblocks — between Houston and W. Third Sts. and Mercer St. and LaGuardia Place — and possibly also Soho, with these being ceded to either District 3 or 2. That would mean District 3 could add areas at its southern edge — which could mean it would lose territory at its northern end, which is where Berman currently lives, on W. 47th St., to be exact. But, if he is able to stay in the district while the superblocks are added to District 3, it could be a powerful incentive for Berman to enter the race — since he has a very strong following there: His organization, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, has allied with N.Y.U. Faculty Against the Sexton Plan to oppose the N.Y.U. 2031 expansion scheme, and they are poised to file a joint lawsuit against the mega-project.

"Andrew Berman is our champion," said Sara Jones, of the LaGuardia Corner Gardens, which is located on the southern N.Y.U. superblock. The gardeners fear their green oasis will be destroyed by the university's desire to wedge 2 million square feet of new development space into the superblocks.

Asked last week if he would move, if necessary, to stay in District 3, Berman declined comment. Assuming he owns his apartment, that could make the decision harder.

Asked if he has made up his mind whether he'll throw his hat in the ring, Berman said, "I don't have any updates to give you at the moment."

The election is still a ways off, so he still has some time to decide.

"It's 14 months out. There are some very important things that are still yet to happen," he said.

Johnson and Kurland both live in Chelsea, in the heart of District 3, and so don't face the possibility that their homes would be shifted into a neighboring district.

Another consideration for Berman is that, were he to campaign for office, he would have to leave his position as executive director at G.V.S.H.P. Not only would this mean he'd lose his income, but it would be a major blow to G.V.S.H.P., which has become a force to be reckoned with under Berman's active leadership.

This week, the New York City Districting Commission is kicking off its first round of public hearings on redistricting. A Manhattan hearing will be held on Thurs., Aug. 16, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., at New York Law School, 185 West Broadway.

The first maps by the commission of proposed new district boundaries should be out by Sept. 5. The Council is expected to adopt the new boundaries in November.

Berman has often been at odds with Quinn on development issues, and some speculate, as a result, the Council speaker might try to get back at him by redistricting the preservationist right out of District 3.

Insiders think Quinn would favor Johnson over Berman or Kurland, the latter who criticized the Council speaker for not doing more to save the financially doomed St. Vincent's Hospital from closing or from advocating for a replacement hospital. Nevertheless, Quinn is said to have strongly backed Joe Restuccia, executive director of the CHDC affordable housing organization in Clinton, over Johnson for Community Board 4 chairperson two years ago, and she was reportedly shocked that the 30-year-old upstart pulled off the victory.

However, spokespersons stressed that the redistricting process is being done by an independent commission.

Responding to the idea that Quinn might take a hand in the process and try to block Berman from running in District 3, Council spokesperson Jamie McShane retorted, "That's ridiculous. The commission is nonpartisan, independent and decisions about lines are made with input from the community at series of public hearings that begin this week."

McShane added that Quinn has "other things" she's focusing on right now, apparently referring to her responsibilities as speaker and her own bid for mayor.

Shirley Limongi, a spokesperson for the Districting Commission, echoed McShane, saying, "The commission is an independent commission with no political agenda. Neither the Council speaker nor the mayor controls this process, nor are they involved. Granted, the Council has to approve the final redistricting map, but the process is entirely done by the commission."

Meanwhile, Johnson appears to have taken on the mantle of frontrunner. Earlier this month, he slammed out an e-mail blast, titled "Boom!" announcing that nearly 600 local leaders, activists and advocates are supporting him. His endorsers range from block association leaders and P.T.A. presidents to Rory O'Malley, the star of "Book of Mormon."

"Our campaign is moving into a new phase of excitement," said Johnson. "The support from grassroots leaders and activists is overwhelming. Together, we can work for more affordable housing, stronger schools with smaller class sizes, economic and social justice, and the intangible quality-of-life elements that are so essential to the city we love."

Asked about redistricting's impact, Johnson said, "I think it's a total unknown how the district's going to change — but I think however it changes, I'm going to campaign hard and talk about my track record and accomplishments as community board chairperson and also my vision for the district."

As for activist Kurland, a close political ally of hers, Dodge Landesman, said, "I doubt the district will change too dramatically, so she's not really thinking about it too seriously." However, he added, "Her activism on the West Side has also impacted neighborhoods beyond those just lying in the current Third Council District area. For example, she wanted to save St. Vincent's Hospital, not only to benefit residents of the Lower West Side, but to alleviate hospital overcrowding for people living near the various hospitals in Community Board 6. If her district goes east, north or south, residents of Manhattan in general recognize her efforts."

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Staten Island public hearing Monday for NYC Districting Commission

Published: Monday, August 20, 2012, 6:21 AM



Tom Wroblewski/Staten Island Advance
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- As it prepares to redraw boundaries for the 51 City Council districts, New York City Districting Commission will hold a public hearing on Staten Island tonight.

The commission will meet at Borough Hall, 10 Richmond Terrace, from 5 to 9 p.m. Those who want to register to speak or would like to submit written testimony can go here.

The 15-member commission had begun holding public hearings throughout the city. The commissioners, including three Islanders, must submit a plan to the Council by this November.



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Staten Island Advance photo

The New York City Districting Commission will hold a public hearing on Staten Island Monday at Borough Hall from 5 to 9 p.m.

Because of population shifts here, City Councilman James Oddo (R-Mid-Island/Brooklyn) is expected to lose the constituents he has represented in Brooklyn, meaning that the Island will have completely self-contained districts for the first time in 30 years.

Council district lines are redrawn every 10 years to accommodate shifts in population within the city seen in the U.S. Census.

The three Islanders on the commission are Kamillah Hanks of Stapleton, president of the Historic Tappen Park Community Partnership; Robert Hart of West Brighton, a former Council staffer and one-time Advance reporter, and Annadale resident Scott Cerullo, brother of former South Shore Councilman and current Grand Central Partnership chief Fred Cerullo.

Appointments to the commission were made by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Oddo, who is the Council Minority Leader.

Advance Political Editor **Tom Wrobleski** writes the **Polit Bureau blog**. Follow him on **Twitter**.

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