



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

**253 Broadway, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**Friday, August 24, 2012  
1:00 p.m. to 1:40 p.m.**

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

**Attendees:**

*Districting Commission Members:*

Jamila Ponton Bragg  
Scott Cerullo  
Kamillah M. Hanks  
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

*Staff:*

Carl Hum, Executive Director  
City of New York 2012-2013 Districting Commission

**Minutes by:**

Jonathan C. Etricks

Chair Benito Romano began the meeting by welcoming the Commission Members and articulating the main objectives of the meeting: to provide an opportunity to discuss the results of the Commission's first round of public hearings, to address various policy and procedural matters and to direct Commission staff on the publication of a preliminary district plan.

The first order of business was to consider and adopt the official minutes of the Public Meeting held on July 17, 2012. Commissioner Roxanne J. Persaud made a motion to adopt the minutes. Commissioner Madeline Provenzano seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The next order of business was to consider and adopt a media relations protocol for the Commission. Commissioner Oscar Odom, III made a motion to adopt the media protocol. Commissioner Thomas V. Ognibene seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The Chair then indicated that the entire Commission would be given a presentation at the September 4, 2012 Public Meeting on the New York City Conflict of Interest Laws.

The next order of business was a briefing by Carl Hum. Mr. Hum, the Executive Director of the New York City Districting Commission, began his presentation by detailing staff appointments made in the interim from the Commission's last public meeting. Jonathan Ettricks was appointed Director of Community Outreach; Shirley Limongi was appointed to Public Affairs Manager; David Cheng was appointed to Director of Technical Services; and Brian Flynn was appointed to Director of Operations.

Mr. Hum discussed his work in developing the Commission's technology information capabilities, including the purchase and installation of Maptitude, a mapping program that has been utilized by many states and municipalities to redraw their district boundaries. Mr. Hum stated that an on-line version of Maptitude will be made available to the public so that they can draw and submit their own City Councilmanic lines. Mr. Hum emphasized that the online version of Maptitude will contain the same datasets used by the Commission in its work to redraw the New York City Council districts.

Mr. Hum also briefed the Commission on the creation of a Resource Room at the Commission offices at 253 Broadway. The room will open to the public sometime after September 3, 2012 and will contain three computers loaded with Maptitude software to permit any person to draw their own maps for submission to the Commission. Mr. Hum stated that the Resource Room will be supported by Commission staff and available outside of regular business hours to ensure maximum access by the public.

Mr. Hum then discussed the use of prison population data in redrawing New York City Council districts. Mr. Hum stated that approximately 21,000 prisoners within the custody of the New

York Department of Correction will be reintegrated into their home City Council districts for purposes of districting.

Mr. Hum continued his briefing by discussing the external meetings he has held with interested groups since being appointed Executive Director to the Commission on July 17. These groups include: ACCORD, Agudath Israel of America, Asian Americans for Equality, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Black Latino and Asian Caucus of the New York City Council, Brennan Center at NYU Law School, Center for Law and Social Justice, Citizens Union, Common Cause New York, Education Center for Russian Jewry, Jewish Community Relations Council, John Flateau, Met Council of New York and NAACP. Mr. Hum stated that any materials he received during these meetings will be made accessible to the Commission.

Mr. Hum then informed the Commission about the planned creation of a Speakers' Bureau and Seminar Series. The Speakers' Bureau will dispatch Commission staff to community groups and other interested organizations to make presentations about the districting process and they can get involved with it. The Seminar Series, a voluntary program for the Commissioners, consists of several days of specialized training on the Voting Rights Act, the New York City Charter and changes and trends in demographic data among the New York City population.

Mr. Hum concluded his remarks by offering a summary of the first round of public hearings held by the Commission. Mr. Hum observed that many of the public comments offered at the hearings fell into specific themes, including: openness and accessibility during the districting process, limiting the population deviation among districts, diversity among Commission staff, and co-terminality with community boards and police precinct boundaries. Mr. Hum also detailed several borough-specific concerns expressed at the public hearings.

Following Mr. Hum's remarks, the Chair exercised his authority under the Commission's by-laws to create five subcommittees to assume primary responsibility for identifying and examining the issues in each borough and to develop proposals for the Commission's consideration. A discussion among the Commissioners ensued, with Commissioner Jamila Ponton Bragg, Commissioner Odom and Commissioner Ognibene discussing several districts and the need for additional information and greater public participation.

The Chair then concluded the discussion among the Commissioners by observing that, in accordance with the City Charter, a preliminary plan for the districts should be created by the Commission staff. Commission staff were directed to create a preliminary plan, based on the current City Council lines, that would take into account the population changes that have occurred in New York City based on United States Census data, as amended by the prison population, and follow the Charter requirements regarding population deviation. The Chair emphasized that this plan would be a starting point for public discussion, and is not intended to be the final plan adopted by the Commission.

With all business concluded, the Chair called for an adjournment of the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.