



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Mid-Manhattan Branch

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October 3, 2012

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Attn: Jonathan Ettricks

253 Broadway, 7th Fl.

New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Ettricks:

My name is Geoffrey E. Eaton and I serve as President of the NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch, which is located at the Roy Wilkins Center, 270 West 96th Street in the Borough of Manhattan. Our Branch members reside as far South as Battery Park and Chinatown, the Upper East Side and West Side, Harlem and as far North as Washington Heights and Inwood.

The NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch played a pivotal role during the Census 2010 Count: By hosting forums and informational meetings; coordinating and organizing census community awareness events; through phone banking and encouraging residents in many underserved neighborhoods the importance of being counted and filling out and mailing the census form.

The NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch is an active advocating voice for the people who reside in the Borough of Manhattan and for underserved communities within the boundaries. Under the umbrella of the NAACP New York State Conference and President Hazel N. Dukes, the Mid-Manhattan Branch Civic Engagement committee members testified during the redrawing of the New York State Congressional, Senate and Assembly Districts to ensure that districts are representative of their population, which at the end of the day, was not the case when a special master had to be appointed by a three Judge panel to approve Congressional District lines.

It is for that reason why the NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch is submitting testimony to the New York City Redistricting Commission on the proposed City Council District Maps. As President and on behalf of all the officers, executive committee, committee chairs and card carrying members of the NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch, I am submitting testimony in support of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Districting Plan (UMED Plan).

Sincerely,

Geoffrey E. Eaton
President

THE NAACP MID-MANHATTAN BRANCH

GEOFFREY E. EATON

PRESIDENT

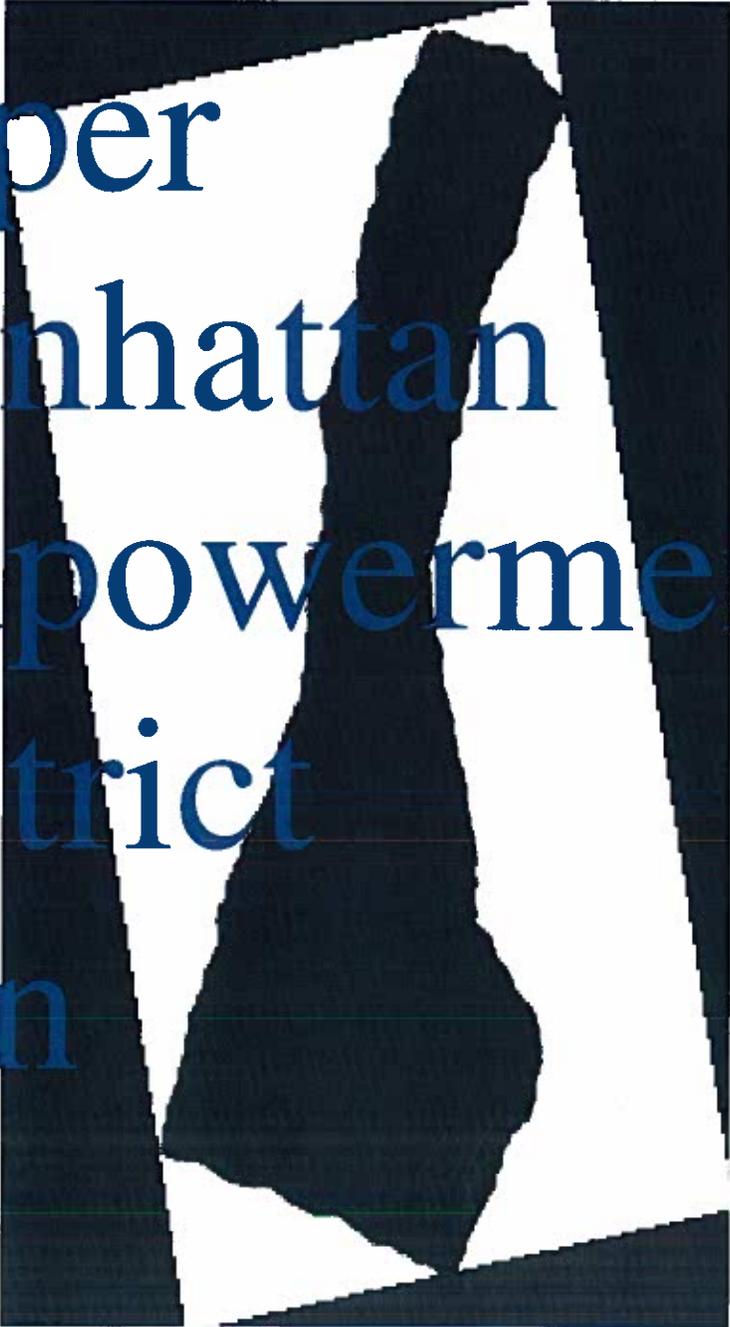
ROY WILKINS CENTER

270 WEST 96TH STREET

NEW YORK, NY 10025

TESTIMONY

October 4, 2012



**Upper
Manhattan
Empowerment
District
Plan**

**Testifying in support of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Districting Plan
I support the UMED plan and believe the district boundaries should be as follows:**

1. The district boundaries of the 9th Councilmanic district should be Amsterdam and Morningside Avenues to the west, 110th Street to the south, 155th Street and the Polo Grounds and Rangel Houses to the north, and Lexington and Madison Avenues to the east.
2. The district boundaries of the 7th Councilmanic District should have a contiguous border along the Hudson River to the west, rest at 97th Street to the south, Morningside and Amsterdam Avenues to the west, and follow Fort Washington Avenue to Interstate 95 (I-95)/the George Washington Bridge entrance. I-95 is a common sense boundary and the district lines should not go further north than I-95. Also to follow historic district lines and maintain the connections of communities of interest the district should also include the Jumel Mansion neighborhood.
3. The district boundaries for the 10th Councilmanic should include the total area north of I-95 including the wholly contained neighborhoods of Cabrini Heights and Inwood. For population purposes the district has to extend south of the common sense I-95 boundary. That extension should not crack in half the heart of Washington Heights' Dominican community at the I-95 boundary as the commission's plan suggests. Instead the area east of Fort Washington Avenue and west of Amsterdam Avenue down to 155th Street should be included in the 10th Councilmanic district.

I believe the districts should follow these boundaries because:

1. THE UMED PLAN IS SIMPLE

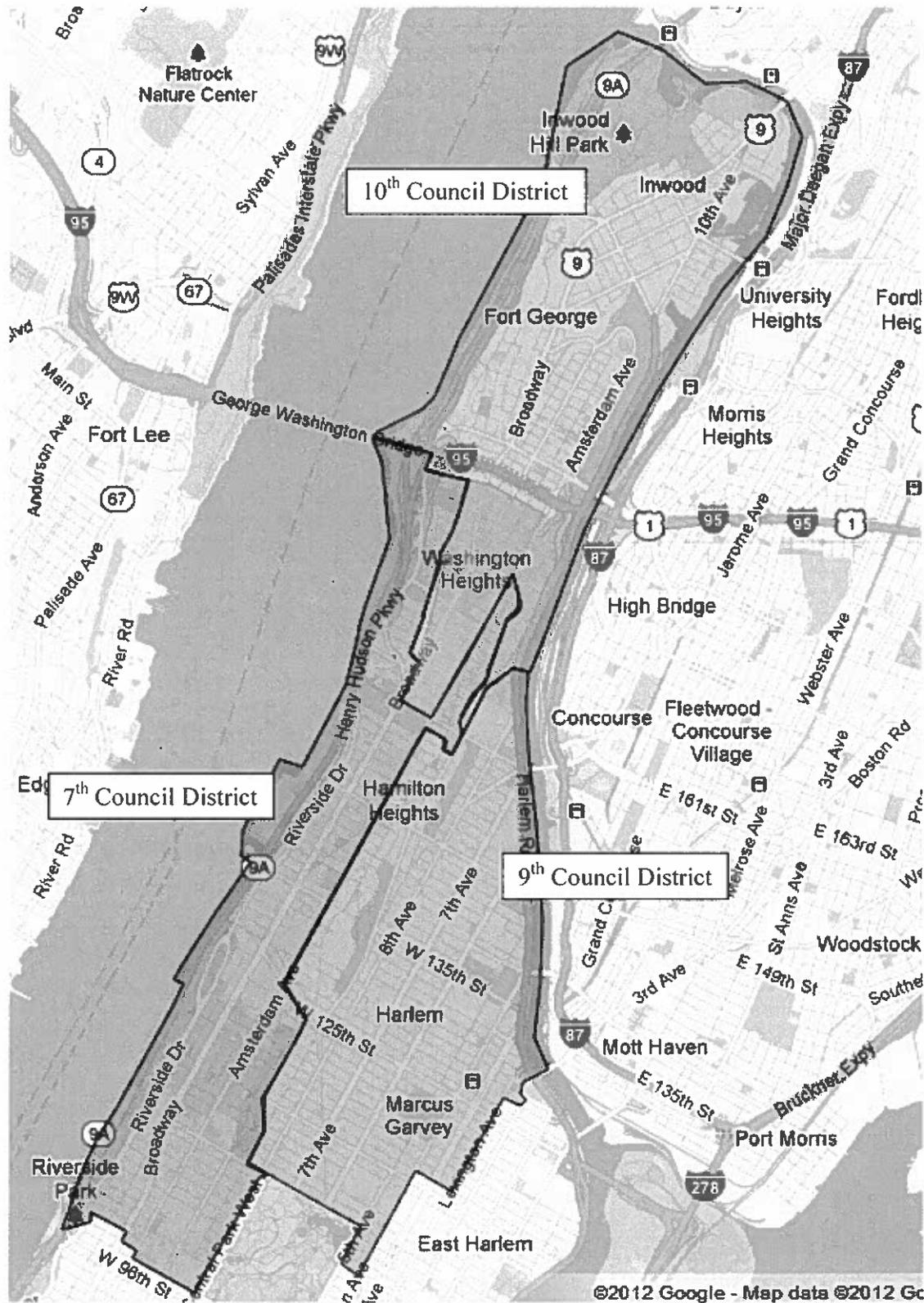
- This plan avoids gerrymandering by using the community districts as its base. These lines were established in 1975 and are universally recognized as community boundaries. Deviations from those boundaries were to adjust for population and were simple changes.
- The deviations either followed existing district lines as in the case of the Jumel Mansion Neighborhood or the Fort Washington Avenue extension or used very simple, long avenue boundaries. Examples would be the lengthy Madison and Lexington Avenues at to the east of the 9th and Amsterdam Avenue and Morningside Aves. between the 7th and 9th.
- Amsterdam Avenue is a simple, but important boundary between the 7th and 9th districts. Several transportation routes run along Amsterdam and it is the western demarcation of several neighborhoods like Hamilton Heights and Sugar Hill.
- Residents of the Upper West side between 96th and 110th Streets which had previously been split between three councilmanic districts would now be in one district, a significant concern raised in previous hearings.

2. THE UMED PLAN IS FAIR

- The plan doesn't just adhere to the provisions of the Voting Rights Act, but goes further to protect the ethnicities and nationalities that constitute the Upper Manhattan political mosaic.
- This plan recognizes the important nationality characteristic of Washington Heights. Looking beyond the Hispanic/Latino designation, its Dominican community was "cracked" in half by the Commission's first redistricting proposal. This plan summarily rejects that approach and reunites the Dominican community to the north and south of I-95 as it currently exists in Council District 10. This protects the voting strength of the Dominican Community in Council District 10 instead of diluting it.
- The plan recognizes the historic African American Community in Central Harlem and the Dominican Community in Washington Heights. Districts 9 and 10 reflect those historic communities, but the plan also recognizes the demographic changes of the community and its proposed district 7 evenly balances traditional ethnic communities with new resident ethnic communities for a district that is more evenly split than the Commission's plan which appeared to favor one ethnic minority over others.

3. THE UMED PLAN IS BALANCED

- Many significant institutions remain wholly contained in single districts in this plan.
- The City College of New York maintains the Amsterdam Avenue boundary and is to its East. It would lie totally within the 9th Councilmanic District.
- One of the Upper Manhattan's largest institutions, Columbia University, with the exception of its athletic facilities, are wholly contained within one district. The current district has the university split across three districts
- La Marqueta which would be split in the Commission's first proposal would now ressolely in 8th Councilmanic district.



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