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THE COUNCIL OF
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DEBI ROSE

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COMMITTEES
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EDUCATION
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NYC Districting Commission Public Hearing at Staten Island Borough Hall August 20, 2012

Presented by New York City Councilwoman Debi Rose

Good Evening,

I want to welcome the Districting Commission to Staten Island as they undertake the arduous task of reconfiguring the borders of the councilmanic districts on Staten Island.

This complicated process, often misunderstood, occurs every ten years in order to comply with population changes according to the census and to ensure that the mandate of one person one vote is realized.

This process has to happen.

The director of the commission has assured me that every effort will be made to preserve communities of interest within the districts so that Staten Islanders will be fairly represented in the new districts.

I have represented the 49th Council District for 2 years and 8 months and have come to know many constituents and community groups.

The possibility of no longer representing some neighborhoods is upsetting to me as my staff and I have worked hard to put the needs of our constituents first.

I am asking the commission to recognize that re-districting Staten Island is unique.

The relatively small size of the population in comparison to the other boroughs combined with geographic factors has created unique problems in transportation, environment, economic development and delivery of municipal services.

In one sense there is a broad community of interest across Staten Island about these issues.

However, Staten Island also has nearly innumerable small neighborhoods- many of only a few blocks- each with a very individualized community of interest.

I am asking you to keep these neighborhoods in the forefront of your considerations as you try to balance population changes with identifiable communities of interest.

Thank you for your hard work. As the work of the commission continues I am looking forward to input from Staten Islanders and your reaction to it.

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