



ROBERT J. RODRIGUEZ  
Assemblyman 68<sup>th</sup> District

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NYC Districting Commission  
Attn: Jonathan Etricks  
253 Broadway, 7th Fl.  
New York, NY 10007

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Regarding: Redistricting of the 8<sup>th</sup> City Council District

Dear New York City Districting Commission Members:

Please allow this letter to serve as my public testimony for the October 5<sup>th</sup> 2012 City Council Redistricting hearing. As Assembly Member for the 68<sup>th</sup> New York State Assembly District, and a life long resident of Harlem, I write to express my opposition to the proposed map for the 8<sup>th</sup> City Council District. While I applaud the NYC Districting Commission's attempt to honor the demographic goals of our community, the Districting Commission proposal does not reflect my community's interest. I urge you to redraw based on the following recommendations:

- Maintain the Voting Rights Act to insure a majority Latino population;
- Re-draw the map to preserve East Harlem's cultural and economic corridor in the 8<sup>th</sup> City Council District including La Marqueta and the Park Avenue corridor;
- Restore the lines in a way that preserves East Harlem as a contiguous community including Manhattan Valley, and Randall's Island;
- Ensure that the 8<sup>th</sup> City Council District's boundaries are continuous.

East Harlem is a unique district with decades of political, cultural and economic history that have shaped it, as well many of the significant obstacles that we face. It has always been to us, East Harlem's life long residents, one district, and a source of pride and strength from which to approach our goals and challenges. Therefore, we recommend a map that is more reflective of our interests.

As you deliberate on the proposed District lines for the 8<sup>th</sup> City Council District I urge that you honor the concerns and recommendations of this testimony. Additionally, the 9<sup>th</sup> Council District is not acceptably drawn, and negatively impacts the 9<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> districts. It should be redrawn with widely accepted boundaries that allow representative groups to remain contiguous. Thank you.

Respectfully,

**Robert J. Rodriguez**  
Assembly Member, 68<sup>th</sup> District  
New York State Assembly

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