

# *Peace on the Street Inc.*

**Peace through Strength / Paz Via Fuerza**

Meditation - Martial Arts / [www.peaceonthestreet.com](http://www.peaceonthestreet.com)

Peace on the Street  
at LaGuardia House  
307 116<sup>th</sup> St, New York, NY 10035  
212-978-8776  
**10/4/12**

**Commission Members  
NYC Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 7<sup>th</sup> Fl., New York, NY 10007**

**Dear Members:**

**My name is Stan Koehler and since 2003 I have directed a program for youth in Spanish Harlem. I also own property and live in El Barrio. I am very concerned that the political boundaries of the district are drawn to insure the integrity of the community. To that end, I am writing in opposition to the proposed boundaries for District 8 and in support of the Unity Plan. I will leave to others to present the reasons why we should not splinter off the important and historical parts of our community that lay to the west of Park Ave and restrict myself to two points.**

**First, Randall-Ward's Island must be restored to the district. We are plagued with gangs in our community. One of the remedies is sports activities for our youth. Our youth, suffering from the cutbacks in recreation programs, must continue to have support in using these island recreation areas. It's essential that their council person, elected by their parents and families, also has the responsibility to insure that our youngsters continue to have access to Randall-Ward and its programs.**

**Second, if the Bronx section is going to expand, we need to remove the long, thin, gerrymandered section that stretches up the East River to the Cross Bronx Expressway. This section needs to be reintegrated into the neighborhoods that had these blocks sliced away. The Unity Plan provides this.**

**More importantly the Unity Plan provides increased representation for the Mexican New Comers and the Chicano youth. Mexican Americans make up a significant part of the population of El Barrio. They are especially represented amongst business owners.**

**They are also a significant population in the Bronx section of the Unity map. Removing the thin strip crawling up the East River and expanding the Mott Haven area will reflect a more organic neighborhood as well as allow the interests of this group of Latinos to be represented on both sides of the river.**

**Sincerely,**

**Stan Koehler  
Executive Director**