

**STATEN ISLAND BRANCH NAACP**  
**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

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Founded

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August 20, 2012

Redistricting Commission Hearing  
Borough Hall, Richmond County  
Staten Island, New York 10301

**TOPIC: Redrawing City Council Lines for the Borough of Staten Island.**

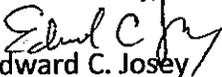
Staten Island currently has three Council Districts: The 49<sup>th</sup> District (North Shore) the 50<sup>th</sup> District (Mid -Island and a portion of Brooklyn) and the 51<sup>st</sup> District (South Shore). The possibility of the Mid-Island Standing on its own free of Brooklyn seems like a good idea.

Every ten years we have the CENUS COUNT that tells of the increase or decrease in population in our communities. According to law, the voting lines/district lines; Federal, State or local should be drawn to give all communities equal population/voting strength as possible.

As a long time resident of Staten Island, and a man-who has voted in every election since becoming of age, I have often wondered if this concept has worked for the African-American Community. It is my understanding that the 49<sup>th</sup> District, the district with the largest African-American population is slated to lose about 10,000 people due to an excess in the population.

According to the Voting Rights Act/Constitution preserving the racial strength is important within a district and should not be diluted. I am speaking in terms of maintaining the strongest possible African -American Vote. I am asking you not to remove any of the African-American streets, Blocks or community from the 49<sup>th</sup> District. You will have a difficult task to remove 10,000 people from District 49, but the figures suggest it must be done.

Presented by,

  
Edward C. Josey

President SI Branch NAACP

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