



**Districting
Commission**
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BENITO ROMANO
Chair of the Commission

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February 8, 2013

Commissioners

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Marc Wurzel
Justin Yu

Staff

Carl Hum
Executive Director

Office

253 Broadway, 7th Fl
New York, NY 10007
tel: (212) 442-6940
fax: (212) 788-9470
info@districting.nyc.gov

BY HAND

Speaker Christine C. Quinn
Council of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Quinn and City Council members,

The City of New York 2012-2013 Districting Commission ("the Commission"), hereby submits, for the Council's review, its plan for dividing New York City into fifty-one districts for the election of members of the New York City Council. This plan was adopted by the Commission at a public meeting on February 6, 2013. As the Council considers the plan adopted by this Commission, the Commission encourages Council members to review the testimony and submissions provided by the public during the districting process, as well as the staff memorandum detailing the changes in each of the districts. All of these submissions, and substantial additional information, is available on our website at <http://www.nyc.gov/districting>.

Numerous mechanisms have been made available for the provision of public comment, including, among others: the ability to submit testimony or comment online through the Commission's website or by email; the use of free online mapping software to create and submit alternative plans; the opportunity to speak at any of the fifteen public hearings held throughout the five boroughs between last August and January of this year; and the traditional methods of mailing and faxing public comment to the Commission's office.

By all accounts, the public has offered considerable input for the Commission's consideration, including oral testimony of nearly 500 individuals at public hearings and thousands of written submissions, including both hard copies and electronic submissions received at the Commission's office and made available to the Commission members for their consideration. In addition, the Commission received and reviewed more than 20 districting plans proposed by members of the public. Most importantly, the Commission believes that the public's valuable input, which has been offered through these numerous mechanisms made available by the Commission, has been incorporated to the extent practicable in the plan the Commission now submits to the Council.

Under the provisions of the New York City Charter that govern the districting process, the Commission now submits its plan to the City Council for the Council's consideration. Unless "the council by the vote of a majority of all its members adopts a resolution objecting to such plan and returns the plan to the commission with such resolutions and a statement of its objections," the plan is "deemed adopted." NYC Charter § 51(d). At that point the Commission would file the plan with the City Clerk and submit it to the Department of Justice for pre-clearance. Based upon the advice of the Commission's legal consultants, as well as Dr. Lisa Handley, a world-renowned voting rights expert analyst who was retained by the Commission to review the plan for compliance with Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, the Commission believes that the plan is entitled to pre-clearance.

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Again, this Commission believes that the plan in its current form complies with all applicable law, and incorporates many of the desires expressed by the public, within the limitations set forth by the Charter. It is a districting plan that fairly represents the voters of this diverse and vibrant City.

Respectfully,



Benito Romano
Chair of the Commission

Enclosures

1. Maps, Plan for the Districts of the Council of the City of New York,
2. Metes & Bounds, Plan for the Districts of the Council of the City of New York

cc: Michael McSweeney
Clerk of the Council
141 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

Elizabeth R. Fine
General Council
New York City Council, Office of the General Council
250 Broadway, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10007