

COMMENTS ON THE
NEW YORK CITY DISTRICTING COMMISSION

PRELIMINARY DRAFT PLAN

Rabbi David Niederman

United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg

Thursday, October 11th - 5:30PM - 9:00PM | Medgar Evers College |
Founder's Auditorium | 1650 Bedford Avenue | Brooklyn, NY 11225

UNITED JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS OF WILLIAMSBURG



The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg, Inc. (UJO) was founded in 1966, as a Family Preservation Center, to help families in need living in the community of South Williamsburg. Today, the UJO serves and represents more than 70,000 community residents over 200 not-for-profits, charitable organizations and civic associations that serve the communities of Williamsburg, Clinton Hill and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

USING COMPUTER SCANS OF VOTER REGISTRATION LISTS TO DETERMINE THE "CONTOURS" OF JEWISH WILLIAMSBURG

Expanding southward and eastward, our community now includes significant portions of the neighborhoods of:

- Williamsburg
- North Side-South Side
- Bedford
- Clinton Hill



Source: NYC Department of City Planning and PrimeNY

POPULATION CHANGE IN THE WILLIAMSBURG AREA

	Total Population			White Nonhispanic Population		
	Population 2010	Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2000-2010	Population 2010	Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2000-2010
Williamsburg	32,926	657	2%	28,366	5,041	22%
North Side-South Side	45,774	5,644	14%	23,968	10,245	75%
Bedford	70,713	11,486	19%	18,054	15,594	634%
Clinton Hill	34,791	1,499	5%	12,389	7,419	149%



The census data, as reported by neighborhood by the NYC Department of City Planning show:

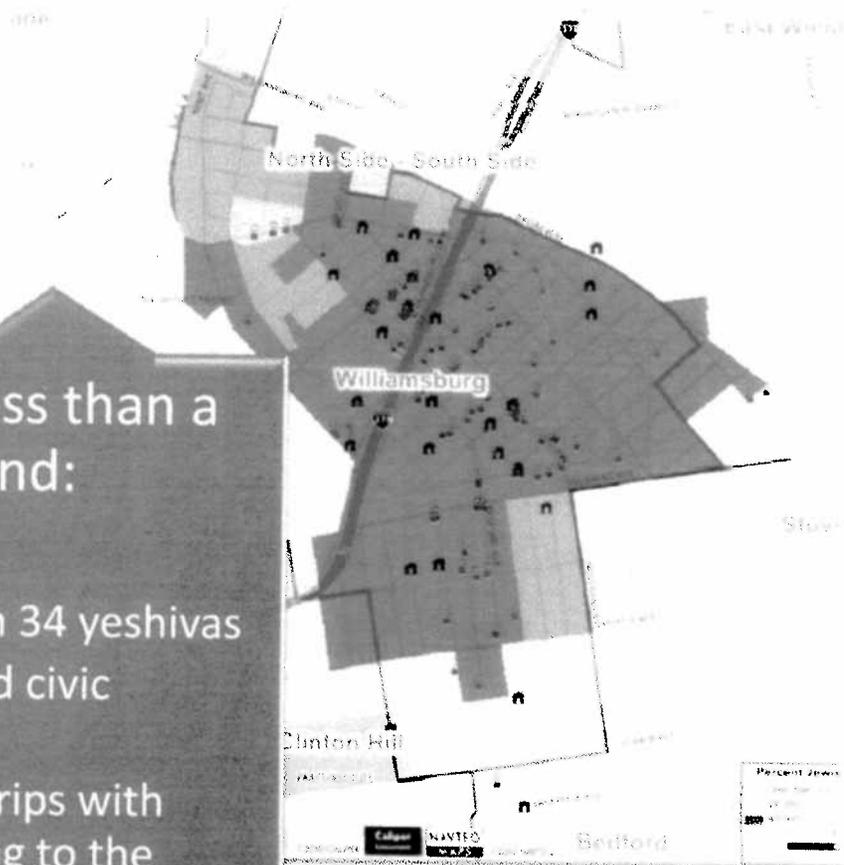
- The population in all four neighborhoods grew, but the White Nonhispanic population exploded.
- Some White Nonhispanic growth reflects the influx of from other neighborhoods.
- The Nonwhite population dropped in each neighborhood.
- Most of the growth of these four neighborhoods is due to the Hasidic communities.



**THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF WILLIAMSBURG
IS AN EXPLICIT "COMMUNITY OF INTEREST"**

Within an area of less than a square mile you'll find:

- 164 synagogues
- 18,000 K-12 students in 34 yeshivas
- Scores of charitable and civic organizations
- Multiple commercial strips with dozens of shops catering to the Jewish community



PLUSES AND MINUSES

Plus

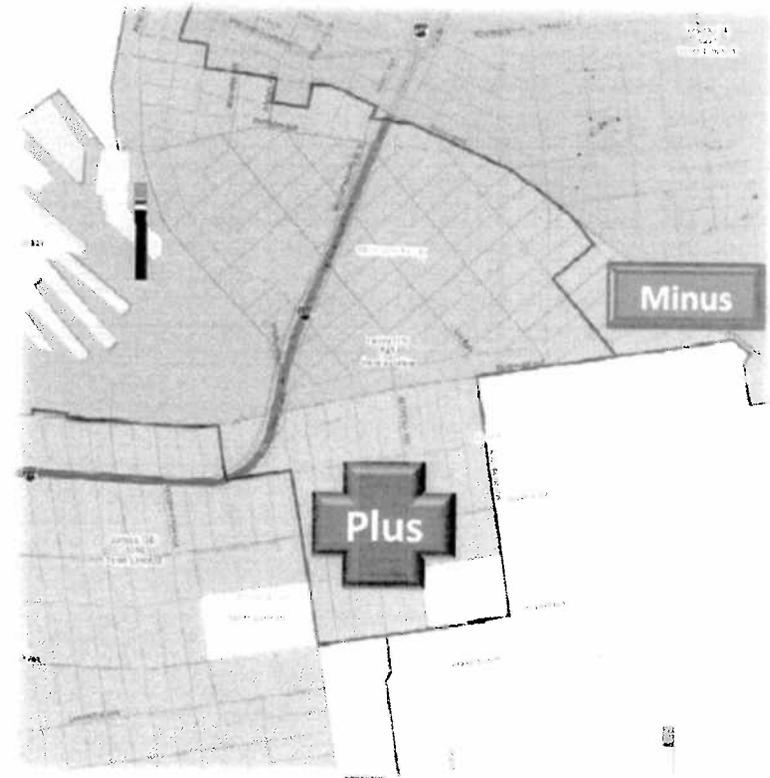
Inclusion of new growth

- **Area south of Flushing.** Since the mid-1990's the Jewish community has grown significantly in the area south of Flushing Avenue. The Preliminary Draft includes much of this new area. In fact, we would prefer it if the line district line south of Flushing Avenue continued on along Classon Avenue until Nostrand and ending at Dekalb.

Minus

Exclusion of areas with significant common interests

- **Broadway Triangle.** Ten years ago we asked for the expansion of District 33 east of Union Avenue. Our request was made in recognition of the plans of many Jewish institutions to build in the area and the advantages of making plans in coordination with the critical mass of the Jewish community of Williamsburg. The Districting Commission agreed and the projected growth followed.
- Until the Preliminary Draft, District 33's border ran along Broadway until it crossed Flushing. The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg has been a key player in the planning process for this area for nearly two decades. Our community has been growing in this direction. It should continue to be in the same district as the majority of our constituencies.



BROADWAY TRIANGLE DEVELOPMENT ZONE



NYC adopted a formal plan for the Broadway Triangle Development Zone in 1996. Even before that the UJO worked closely with the City as a key community partner during the ongoing planning process.

See the HPD ULURP application at:
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/hpd/downloads/pdf/Broadway-Triangle-ULURP-Application.pdf>

GROWING JEWISH PRESENCE IN THE ORPHANED PORTION OF THE BROADWAY TRIANGLE DEVELOPMENT ZONE

Ten years ago the UJO asked the Districting Commission to add the blocks east of Union Avenue to District 33 in recognition of the Jewish community's natural growth and needs for new institutions. That section of the neighborhood already has an influx of Jewish residents and institutions.

The Preliminary Draft cuts off existing voters from their area of common interest and inhibits their ability (and that of the future residents) to obtain effective representation of their interests.



The new synagogues, schools with thousands of students and stores in the orphaned portion of the Broadway Triangle Development zone are a harbinger of residential growth due to a coming spurt of private and affordable housing developments.