

TESTIMONY TO THE NYC DISTRICTING COMMISSION
WESTERLEIGH IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY
NEW DORP HIGH SCHOOL
OCTOBER 9, 2012

Good evening, my name is Michael Morrell and I am president of the Westerleigh Improvement Society. I would like to thank the commission for giving me the opportunity to present the Society's input regarding the districting process.

Our civic association has represented the Westerleigh community, a close knit neighborhood, since 1893. We have over 600 active members and most are owners of single family homes. Many families have lived in Westerleigh for generations.

For more than two decades our community has been divided between two councilmanic districts, the 49th and the 50th. Our civic group has had to work with two representatives in the City Council. Consequently much of what we do is duplicative. It would greatly simplify our work as a civic group if Westerleigh were in a single councilmanic district. Issues regarding land use among many others are more confusing when the community is divided with representation.

This opportunity to testify regarding city council districts arises only once every ten years. This makes it all the more vital that the Society makes its views known to the commission.

I would urge the commission to seriously consider our request and simplify our City Council representation.