

Board of Directors October 22, 2012

**Chair of the Board**

Helen D. Reavis

**President**

Ruth E. Acker

**Vice Presidents**

Pam Elam

Marjorie Ives

Sharon Yakata

**Treasurer**

Joan Fabio

**Secretary**

Natalie Rabaa

**Co-Counsel**

Gloria Neuwirth

Eleanor Jackson Piel

**Honorary Directors**

Helen H. Acker

Susan Alf

Goldie Dumpson Brangman

Jane Creel

Margaret B. Howard

Nora Lavori

Blanche E. Lawton

Frances Levenson

Elizabeth Lubetkin Lipton

Phyllis Lusskin

Ethel Paley

Geraldine E. Rhoads

**Directors**

Mary Ann Arisman

Helen Aronstein

Helen Birenbaum

Grace Boone

Annette Choolfaian

Niki Cubides

Elsie Diamond

Monica Foskett

Betty Jones

Virginia Kassel

Carol A. Leimas

Mary C. Murphree

Elaine Pevar Osterman

Day Percy

Mary Ellen Rudolph

Amy Schwartz

Roschel Holland Stearns

Eleanor Stier

Eva-Maria Tausig

Marilyn Wellemeyer

Blaikie F. Worth

Barbara Zucker

**Executive Director**

Taina Bien-Aimé

Mr. Benito Romano

Chair

NYC Districting Commission

253 Broadway, 7th Floor

New York, NY 10007

RE: Next Phase of the Commission's Work

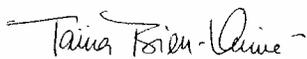
Dear Commission Chair Romano:

As the Districting Commission enters the next phase of its work at today's hearing, the Women's City Club of New York asks that all members of the Commission pay particular attention to the testimony you have received on the importance of keeping intact "Communities of Interest." This is especially true with regard to the Asian-American Community whose population has been divided in ways that dilute its voting power and separate its neighborhoods in the Commission's Draft Maps for Brooklyn and Queens. It is also true for East Harlem, which your Draft Map splits in two.

Providing for fair and effective representation in a City as diverse and complex as ours is a difficult task and we know that the Commission is sensitive to the requirements under the Voting Rights Act. However, as the Commission begins to revise its proposals for presentation to the City Council today, we hope that you will be especially mindful of the importance of communities with established ties of common interest and association, as the City Charter outlines them. The City Council Districts that the Commission draws, while compact and contiguous, must also reflect the heart of a community not just lines on a map.

Founded in 1915, the Women's City Club of New York is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that shapes public policy through education, advocacy and citizen participation. Since its founding nearly 97 years ago, the WCC has fought to improve the lives of New Yorkers. We wish the Commission well as it completes its work.

Sincerely,



Taina Bien-Aimé  
Executive Director



Pam Elam  
Vice- President