

Statement to New York City Districting Commission

Hearing - August 22, 2022

from Mae Lee, Executive Director of Chinese Progressive Association

My name is Mae Lee. I am the Executive Director of Chinese Progressive Association. We are located in Chinatown and the Lower East Side of Manhattan. We serve those who live, work, or go to school in this area. Among other things, we provide services to new immigrants, we help them become U.S. citizens, and register them to vote, and educate so that our community can be more involved in the decision making processes that affect our lives. Typically, those we serve are very low income – a typical client comes from a family of 3 earning \$25k or less per year Chinatown.

We are also a member of the APAVoice Redistricting Task Force.

As we stated at the May 2022 commission hearing, Chinatown and Lower East Side are a community of interest, to be kept together. We see that the Commission's preliminary plan for City Council District 1 does keep our community of interest whole as it ought to be. The Commission's plan for CD1 is pretty much the same as the Unity Map's plan for CD1.

Some our members do live in the other boroughs. I would like to point out that the Unity map, in addition to keeping Chinatown/the Lower East Side community of interest whole, also keeps whole -- Asian American communities of interest that are in the other boroughs. So, we support the Unity Map. The Unity map should be adopted.