

In Re City of New York 2022-2023 Districting Commission Public
Meeting
June 6, 2022

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CITY OF NEW YORK 2022-2023 DISTRICTING COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING
TO DISCUSS AND VOTE ON THE PROPOSED DISTRICTING
PLAN
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31-10 Thomson Avenue
Long Island City, New York
DATE: June 6, 2022
TIME: 6:15 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING in the above-referenced
matter, held at the above-mentioned time and
location, before Sabrina Brown Stewart, a Notary
Public of the State of New York.

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In Re City of New York 2022-2023 Districting Commission Public
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2 A P P E A R A N C E S:

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4 DENNIS M. WALCOTT, CHAIR

5 JOSEPH MALIGNO

6 GRACE PYUN

7 ALI RASOULINEJAD

8 KEVIN JOHN HANRATTY

9 HON. MARILYN D. GO

10 DR. DARRIN K. PORCHER

11 LISA SORIN

12 MAF MISBAH UDDIN

13 MONSIGNOR KEVIN SULLIVAN

14 KRISTEN JOHNSON

15 MARC WURZEL

16 JOSHUA SCHNEPS

17 MARIA MATEO

18 KAI-KI WONG

19 GREGORY W. KIRSCHENBAUM

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MR. RASOULINEJAD: Roll call for the
public meeting of June 6th.

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Collado?

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(No response.)

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MR. RASOULINEJAD: Go?

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HON. GO: Present.

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MR. RASOULINEJAD: Hanratty?

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MR. HANRATTY: Here.

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MR. RASOULINEJAD: Mateo?

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MS. MATEO: Present.

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MR. RASOULINEJAD: Schneps?

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MR. SCHNEPS: Here.

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MR. RASOULINEJAD: Sorin?

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MS. SORIN: Present.

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MR. RASOULINEJAD: Sullivan?

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MR. SULLIVAN: Here.

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MR. RASOULINEJAD: Wong?

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MR. WONG: Here.

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MR. RASOULINEJAD: Uddin?

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MR. UDDIN: Present.

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MR. RASOULINEJAD: Schnall?

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(No response.)

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MR. RASOULINEJAD: Johnson?

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MS. JOHNSON: Here.

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MR. RASOULINEJAD: Kirschenbaum?

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MR. KIRSCHENBAUM: Here.

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MR. RASOULINEJAD: Wurzel?

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MR. WURZEL: Present.

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MR. RASOULINEJAD: And Porcher?

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MR. PORCHER: Present.

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CHAIR WALCOTT: And I'm here as well.

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MR. RASOULINEJAD: Walcott. Excuse me.

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CHAIR WALCOTT: No. No. No. It's for

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the record. For the record.

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So, first, it's an honor again to be
with all of you. And thank you for the roll
call.

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Any old business? Let me just give a
couple of housekeeping items first. And as
our esteemed executive director is not with
us today because he wasn't feeling well, but
he's fine, he wanted to be extra safe and
cautious, so he decided to stay home.

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I'm not sure John has joined us yet
virtually, but that's why John is not here.
So, we'll have a presentation from the team.
Also, I just want to reinforce the point, as
in past meetings, we have translation

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services as well. So, I want to be very clear about that. And in addition to that, I want to take this opportunity to compliment the staff.

We have staffed up really fast and they are fantastic. I just got to give them a lot of props for that. They've done a masterful job. They are very seamless in the way they work with communication to those commissioners but also getting all the complex pieces together. And I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their excellent work and for all that they've done to get us to this particular point.

And with that being said, Joseph, you want to lead us off or --

MR. MALIGNO: Yes, sure.

CHAIR WALCOTT: 'Cause I don't think John is on. And Marc is also on virtual as well. So, Marc Wurzel is on virtual.

So, Marc, welcome to you as well.

MR. WURZEL: Thank you.

CHAIR WALCOTT: Of course. You're welcome.

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MR. MALIGNO: So, I'll just use the mic over here.

So, unless anybody -- like Chair Walcott said, unless anybody have old business, moving forward to the next item on the agenda, which would be the new business.

Initially speaking, we were going to be voting today on a proposed map that we are going to be submitting to the public tomorrow and made available, which would then in turn -- hold on one second. Which would then in turn trigger the period when public hearings would happen.

However, after the tremendous involvement we had with the public and the turnout we had at our preliminary hearing we did on May 26th and the request for more, we are going to be pushing back the submission of the maps and installing four more public hearings for the public, to give an opportunity for them to have an input.

It is going to be four more hearings in the remaining four boroughs. So, the first one that we had on the 26th was in Manhattan.

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So, the next four will be in Queens, Bronx,
Brooklyn and Staten Island.

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The preliminary dates right now for
those hearings are June 27th, June 28th,
July 6th and July 7th. We will update
everyone on times and locations for those
days. As time goes on, we are currently
trying to lock those down.

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So, with that, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIR WALCOTT: So, if I could ask
either you or Grace to explain how we have
the flexibility to do that. I think that's
important both for the commissioners and the
public to know why.

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And in addition to that, the meeting
requirements as far as public notifications,
so, same time we want to do it and we're
going to do it, we have the requirements of
meeting notifications. Thus, that's why the
meetings are more towards the end of the
month and the beginning of July instead of,
say, next week or the following week.

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MR. MALIGNO: Correct. So, that latter
part of what you're referring to, I can

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address and then I'll have Grace address the former part of it.

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But yes, so, we have to abide by the public notice requirements. And in order for us to do that, we need about a safety net of a two-week time frame, that is why they're later on in the month. Otherwise, if we didn't have the notice period that we need, we would have had the hearings much earlier in the month.

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So, that is why we are doing things the way we are doing them, because we do have to give the public adequate time and notice, so that they would get prepared for these meetings. So, that is why they are later in the month and also next month. All right?

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And on that, I'm going to turn the mic over to Grace.

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MS. PYUN: Yeah, sure.

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So, the Charter does lay out certain time frames for the Commission to act, such as, you know, submitting the final plan, holding public meetings. But under the law, those time frames provided by the Charter are

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directory and not mandatory.

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And so, we are able to give reasonable extensions of those timelines in order to, you know, accomplish the Commission's purpose, you know, as long as it doesn't unduly burden the time frames going into the City Council Elections of 2023. So, we do have some wiggle room there.

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CHAIR WALCOTT: Questions from the commissioners?

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(No response.)

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CHAIR WALCOTT: So, if there aren't any questions, one other thing, again, just going back to an earlier point, that if we can get back to Joseph and his team with any potential conflicts around these dates and do it as quickly as possible.

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'Cause I've already looked at the dates and I will be telling one of daughters she will not be seeing me one evening. So, I'm making sure that we try to prioritize these dates and do it as quickly as possible. So, if you could check your calendars, that would be very helpful.

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Any other new business to discuss?
(No response.)

CHAIR WALCOTT: If not, then can we have a discussion on the staffing? Because I think we said that informally before the start of the meeting, that we can introduce our staff. I think that would be helpful to (inaudible).

MR. MALIGNO: So, yes.

So, in addition to our new staff, I just want to introduce Eddie Mortis (phonetic) who is our director of communications.

Eddie is going to be the point person for all media releases and press junctures for the Commission moving forward. He would be the point of contact for all the commissioners, as well as the general public, for any press or media-related needs. So, that's what we got moving forward now.

CHAIR WALCOTT: And community outreach.

MR. MALIGNO: Oh, yes. Thank you.

So, as far as community outreach goes, we just had Miranda Goodwin-Raab start today.

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She's in the back of the room. She is one of the members of our community outreach that we have moving forward. It's her and we are still trying to -- we're still onboarding more people. We have more room to grow and we are trying to do that as quick as possible.

CHAIR WALCOTT: And if I could just say -- we haven't talked about this at all before, but for the commissioners who are from the respective boroughs where we will be meeting for the public input, if you have ideas of locations that would be accessible, an ability for us to try to secure as quickly as possible, then you can go to Joseph with that information ASAP.

And that way, I think that will help staff as well in processing the locations and then locking that down, especially based on the public notification requirement.

MR. MALIGNO: Absolutely. I would encourage if you have this location that you think is good in your respective boroughs for us to hold these hearings, please let me

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know.

I just want to remind everybody, in addition to these preliminary hearings, we're going to be having a second round after the first map comes out. So, there is plenty of opportunity to spread the wealth throughout the boroughs, wherever you feel would be a good location for us to hold one of these hearings or public meetings.

So, please, I welcome the information.

CHAIR WALCOTT: John, are you on?

(No response.)

CHAIR WALCOTT: John is not on.

Questions?

(No response.)

CHAIR WALCOTT: Any other new business or any other old business?

(No response.)

CHAIR WALCOTT: I mean, I hate to say this, but if there aren't any other items to discuss, then we can entertain a motion to move to adjourn.

MR. UDDIN: So moved.

CHAIR WALCOTT: Motion to adjourn.

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Is there a second?

DR. PORCHER: Second.

CHAIR WALCOTT: There's a second.

All those in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIR WALCOTT: Those opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIR WALCOTT: We are adjourned.

So, next thing you will be hearing from us, statements to the public, will be on public engagement or, I'll say it properly, the public session, and you will be appearing and it will be posted also on the website as quickly as possible.

So, thank you very much. The meeting is adjourned.

(TIME NOTED: 6:25 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)

:SS

COUNTY OF QUEENS)

I, Sabrina Brown Stewart, a shorthand reporter within and for the State of New York, do hereby certify that the within is a true and accurate transcript of the statement taken on June 6, 2022.

I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or by marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of June 2022.

Sabrina Brown Stewart
Sabrina Brown Stewart

