

In Re City of New York 2022-2023 Districting Commission Public
Hearing
June 27, 2022

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2 CITY OF NEW YORK 2022-2023 DISTRICTING COMMISSION

3 PUBLIC HEARING

4 TO HEAR TESTIMONY FROM THE PUBLIC CONCERNING THE

5 INITIAL PHASES OF ITS WORK IN DRAFTING A NEW

6 DISTRICTING PLAN FOR THE 51 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

7 DISTRICTS

8 -----X

9
10 94-45 Guy R. Brewer Boulevard
Jamaica, New York

11 DATE: June 27, 2022

12 TIME: 4:04 p.m.

13

14 PUBLIC HEARING in the above-referenced

15 matter, held at the above-mentioned time and

16 location, before Sabrina Brown Stewart, a Notary

17 Public of the State of New York.

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June 27, 2022

1 A P P E A R A N C E S :

2

3 DENNIS M. WALCOTT, CHAIR

4 JOSEPH MALIGNO

5 GRACE PYUN

6 ALI RASOULINEJAD

7 DR. DARRIN K. PORCHER

8 MAF MISBAH UDDIN

9 KAI-KI WONG

10 KEVIN JOHN HANRATTY

11 YOVAN SAMUEL COLLADO

12 DR. JOHN FLATEAU

13 MONSIGNOR KEVIN SULLIVAN

14 MARIA MATEO

15 LISA SORIN

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1 I N P E R S O N S P E A K E R S :

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3 FELICIA SINGH

4 RENÉ HILL

5 MICHELE KELLER

6 FARZANA LINDA

7 JACKIE MARIANO

8 BESS DEBETHAM

9 AARON FERNANDO

10 ELIZABETH DIENTE

11 PRINCES DELEON

12 MARCIAL REID

13 JOHN BAHIA

14 MARCIA O'BRIEN

15 AMBIKA PERSAUD

16 WILLIAM STANFORD

17 SELVENA BROOKS-POWERS

18 ALFRED OSBOURNE

19 IRNEL STEPHEN

20 ARIANNE MALIWANAG

21 ANGELA LI

22 REV. CARLENE THORBS

23 LIZ OUYANG

24

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1 O N L I N E S P E A K E R S :

2 PAUL GRAZIANO

3 LARA GREGORY

4 HENRY EULER

5 WILLIAM PERKINS

6 ALBERT LIU

7 LIZ NACINOVICH

8 FITZROY SEARLES

9 LINDA LAM

10 SALLY WONG

11 MILLY WONG

12 DONNA DOWNES

13 ALBERT BALDEO

14 YOONJOO LEE

15 JOHN PARK

16 RICHARD DAVID

17 CARINA NIEVES

18 SHAWN CHANDLER

19 JEAN HALL

20 FAY HILL

21 ARACELIA COOK

22

23

24

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1 CHAIR WALCOTT: Okay. Good afternoon.
2 My name is Dennis Walcott, and welcome to our
3 Queens Public Hearing on the redistricting
4 process. And before we officially start, I
5 want to thank Dr. Earl Simons who's in the
6 back.

7 Doctor, would you raise your hand for
8 making the arrangements for York College.
9 And just so you're aware that this building
10 is basically closed and they've opened it up
11 for us because they're about to undertake a
12 major \$15 million renovation for the
13 Performing Arts Center.

14 So, I just wanted to share with you and
15 thank you for your openness and generosity in
16 having this open for the community, so thank
17 you very much, Doctor.

18 And before we call up our witnesses to
19 testify, I'd like to have those members of
20 the Commission who are here to introduce
21 themselves and then we'll take it from there.
22 And just from a process point similar to what
23 we've done in Manhattan, we'll have in person
24 testimony and then we'll do virtual, in
25 person, virtual until we exhaust the process.

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1 And our goal is to make sure that we go to
2 all five boroughs.

3 And so, we did Manhattan already the
4 end of May, now Queens. And then on
5 Wednesday, we'll be in Brooklyn and then next
6 week we'll be in the Bronx and Staten Island.
7 So, we'll make sure we hit all five boroughs.
8 And also, we have been briefing members of
9 the City Council delegations, as well as
10 plans to meet with the executive side of
11 government as well.

12 So, with that being said as a
13 foundation, I'll start with my right and then
14 go to the left.

15 MR. PORCHER: Good afternoon, ladies
16 and gentlemen. And I'm honored to sit in
17 front of you as a Commissioner under this
18 esteemed and highly important Commission. My
19 name is Dr. Darrin Porcher, and tomorrow, I
20 think, is a very important date that we need
21 to highlight in connection with the
22 primaries. And I think that this is the time
23 that we need to exercise our constitutionally
24 protected rights and vote for your candidate
25 of choice at tomorrow's primary.

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1 But I thank you very much, and I'm
2 happy that we have you in attendance for
3 today's forum.

4 MR. UDDIN: Yes, good afternoon. My
5 name is Maf Misbah Uddin, U-D-D-I-N. I am
6 involved with Labor Movement in the City of
7 New York, treasurer of District Council 37,
8 president of Local 1407. Glad that we are
9 representing labor branch, labor group, the
10 community in this Commission and I welcome
11 you. Thank you very much.

12 MR. WONG: Good afternoon, ladies and
13 gentlemen. My name is Kai-Ki Wong. I live
14 in Queens. My experience is, I have 35 years
15 for the zoning history, but I'm not so
16 familiar with redistricting --

17 CHAIR WALCOTT: Move your mic closer.
18 Pull your mic closer.

19 MR. WONG: Oh, okay.

20 So, when I tried to make better my
21 effort to more understanding the restricting
22 rule. If you have a question for the map
23 that's my (inaudible) one day, and the zoning
24 history could be somehow the connection with
25 the redistricting map. That's my dream.

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1 Okay. Thank you.

2 CHAIR WALCOTT: Before we get to our
3 executive director, we have other
4 commissioners who have joined us and more
5 will be coming. They are coming from other
6 meetings and from different parts of the City
7 as well.

8 MR. HANRATTY: Thank you.

9 Kevin Hanratty.

10 MR. COLLADO: Yovan Collado from the
11 Bronx.

12 CHAIR WALCOTT: Thank you very much.
13 We'll be up there soon.

14 And with that being said, Council
15 Member? Council Member, are you ready? To
16 give her testimony or comment, we have
17 Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers.

18 Council Member, welcome. It's always a
19 pleasure to see you.

20 MS. BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you and good
21 afternoon, everyone. It is always great to
22 be here in Southeast Queens, especially at
23 this Premier Higher Institution York College.

24 I am proud to see how many have come
25 out tonight, and watching virtually as well,

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1 to speak in support of their communities. It
2 is extremely crucial that we engage the
3 public in this process.

4 So, thank you to Commissioner Walcott
5 and the entire Districting Commission for
6 holding this and many other public meetings.

7 The way we draw our district is
8 fundamental to our democracy. The shape of
9 our districts play a part in who we choose to
10 represent us, which in turn affects how
11 government addresses every issue we face.
12 So, it's important that we get these lines
13 right and create district maps that best
14 serves the needs and interests of communities
15 all across the City.

16 It's especially important that we
17 protect the voting power of marginalized
18 communities. I'm a lifelong Southeast Queens
19 resident. I grew up, actually, in
20 St. Albans, and I currently reside in the
21 Rockaways. And now, I represent parts of
22 Southeast Queens and the eastern part of the
23 Rockaway Peninsula. From Laurelton's
24 tree-lined streets on 225th Street, to
25 Seagirt Boulevard's ocean view, to our

1 thriving small business corridors on Beach
2 20th Street, Merrick Boulevard, Francis
3 Lewis -- just to name a few.

4 Council District 31 is a microcosm of
5 New York City. Southeast Queens is
6 predominantly black and includes many members
7 of the Caribbean diaspora. Communities like
8 Arverne By The Sea, established in the early
9 2000s, helped to create generational wealth
10 for many young black owners like myself.

11 Unique to Southeast Queens, many
12 neighborhoods in District 31 have created a
13 pathway to homeownership for many black and
14 brown homeowners. Our neighbors are
15 incredibly diverse, but we are united through
16 our shared commitment to our community.

17 We have a very active and vibrant
18 network of civic groups, full of people who
19 are truly invested in doing what's best for
20 their neighborhoods. And although New York
21 State has steadily lost population in recent
22 decades, our district has grown but still
23 within the margins. This may have
24 significant impact on the placement of our
25 district lines.

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1 So, as the Commission works to produce
2 new maps, I urge you to consider the
3 following realities in my district:

4 Our communities have suffered during
5 the COVID-19 pandemic, Far Rockaway with the
6 second deadliest zip code at the height of
7 the first wave. But we have remained
8 resilient and continue to fight for issues
9 critical to us.

10 From the dire need for emergency health
11 care to keeping Jamaica Bay free of illegal
12 dumping and better infrastructure for our
13 streets, District 31 speaks with a united
14 voice. Our community share similar
15 topography, socioeconomic status and
16 interest --

17 (Time buzzer beeps.)

18 MS. BROOKS-POWERS: Can I just -- if
19 you don't mind.

20 Not only that, but our communities are
21 contiguous. Our shoreline, which stood years
22 of coastal erosion from Superstorm Sandy to
23 Hurricane Ida, Council District 31's
24 residents share a continued commitment to
25 advocate for innovative policies and

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1 infrastructure to protect the vital New York
2 coastline.

3 Environmental stalwart like the Eastern
4 Queens Alliance, led by Ms. Barbara Brown,
5 "Fight to maintain my district ecological gem
6 Jamaica Bay." Their commitment to
7 environmental stewardship, paired with my
8 advocacy, ensured that we created the
9 beautiful Idlewild Park Preserve
10 Environmental Science Learning Center. We
11 also have active civic groups that keep our
12 residents connected and invested in our
13 neighborhoods, from the Federated Blocks of
14 Laurelton to Rosedale Civic Association.

15 These groups are an unwavering voice
16 that speak to the evolving needs of our
17 residents. Altering district lines will
18 disrupt the fabric of our communities,
19 misaligning conflicted interests and
20 undermining this community's resounding
21 voice.

22 I'm also proud to represent parts of
23 JFK. The JFK Redevelopment Project is
24 profoundly valuable as an economic drive in
25 District 31, with an estimated 10,000 jobs in

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1 development. Reinvesting in the people and
2 businesses of Council District 31 will not
3 only ensure the success of the redevelopment,
4 but will maintain the quality of life for the
5 residents of Southeast Queens.

6 As such, JFK should remain in the
7 district, so that my constituents can
8 continue to have direct access to employment
9 opportunities and benefits. Our communities
10 deserve a unified voice in government.
11 Diluting our voting power across districts
12 will weaken that voice. It would alter the
13 representation we see in government and
14 threaten our ability to advocate for
15 ourselves and address the issue we face.

16 As you all work to produce our new
17 maps, I urge the Commission not to break up
18 these strong minority communities, especially
19 in light of what we see going on on a federal
20 level.

21 We cannot continue to let our voice be
22 stifled. We need districts that keep our
23 communities together, so that we can continue
24 to stand together on the issues that matter
25 most. Our neighbors are counting on each

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1 other to keep showing up and fighting for all
2 of the issues that matter to us. That is why
3 it's so critical that we keep our
4 neighborhoods together.

5 I urge the Commission, finally, to keep
6 these pressing needs in the mind as you all
7 continue this important work. Thank you so
8 much for your consideration and time.

9 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you, Council
10 Member, for your testimony, and we appreciate
11 that.

12 MS. BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.

13 CHAIR WALCOTT: Before we go to our
14 virtual testimony, Dr. John Flateau, would
15 you like to please introduce yourself and
16 give a little background, so people have a
17 sense of who you are as our executive
18 director.

19 DR. FLATEAU: Thank you, Chair and
20 Commissioners and New Yorkers. My name is
21 John Flateau. I'm honored to serve as the
22 executive director of our brilliant staff of
23 the Districting Commission. We've got a lot
24 of work ahead of us. We're glad to see you.

25 At the beginning of summer, don't

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1 disappear during the summer. That's when all
2 the lines are going to start moving around.
3 So, pay attention. We need your
4 participation. Reach out to all of your
5 networks to bring your information, your
6 constructive suggestions to the table, so
7 that these 15 distinguished New Yorkers will
8 have the input, that we get to reset
9 democracy for the next decade of
10 New York City.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR WALCOTT: Thank you, Doctor.

13 And now, we'll have our testimony from
14 our virtual testimony.

15 Yoonjoo Lee? Okay. Yoonjoo Lee? Oh,
16 I see it up here. Yes, Yoonjoo Lee?

17 All right. You're on mute I see.

18 MS. LEE: Oh, yes. Can you --

19 CHAIR WALCOTT: There you go. We can
20 hear you now.

21 MS. LEE: Yes. My name is Yoonjoo Lee,
22 and I am representative here of Murray Hill
23 Merchandise Association, which we have more
24 than 70 stores in between 149th Place and
25 150 Street.

1 Most of the stores are belonging to
2 Asian parties, like Chinese restaurants and
3 Korean restaurants. So, we are all
4 considering about the restrict the changing
5 (sic). I am not so sure what are you going
6 to talk about, so we are very interested and
7 concerning about the changing the
8 destruction.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIR WALCOTT: Thank you very much for
11 your testimony.

12 Next is Marsha O'Brien or Marcia
13 O'Brien. Thank you. Welcome.

14 MS. O'BRIEN: Good evening, everyone.

15 CHAIR WALCOTT: Hold on one second.
16 There you go. Just move it up a little, so
17 that way -- thank you very much. Yep.

18 MS. O'BRIEN: Good evening, Chairman
19 and Councilmember. My name is Marcia O'Brien
20 and I'm the president of the 148th Driver and
21 Community Block Association, also the second
22 vice chair to Community Board 13 and the
23 president and board chairperson of the
24 Rosedale Civic Association.

25 Thank you for inviting my testimony at

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1 this public hearing to address the
2 redistricting of the New York City Council
3 District lines. My colleagues from the
4 Rosedale Civic Association will also
5 highlight our history, the infrastructure,
6 zoning and quality of life concerns of our
7 community.

8 Allow me to make reference to the
9 February 2013 revised district plan. There
10 are three fundamental sources of law that
11 governs redistricting; the U.S.
12 Constitution's 14th Amendment, the Federal
13 Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the
14 New York City Charter. As it relates to the
15 14th Amendment for equal protection that
16 establishes that one-person, one-vote
17 standard. This also requires that districts
18 be generally of equal population.

19 We think our district is able to
20 successfully maintain the population size
21 within the 10 percent of overall population
22 deviation allowed under the Charter. We do
23 not want our district to be disrupted.

24 As it relates to voting rights, we are
25 strong in our voting. We are a strong voting

1 community. We have a synergy. We need to
2 ensure that changes suggested for
3 redistricting in our district, that's
4 District 31, is nondiscriminatory. Please do
5 not disrupt our district.

6 As it relates to keeping our
7 neighborhoods and communities of interest
8 intact. We feel that our district is
9 reasonably compact and contiguous. We have
10 similar priorities. Our electives are
11 familiar with our priorities from flooding,
12 zoning, quality of life issues, et cetera.
13 It makes sense to keep our communities
14 together.

15 Redistricting will disproportionately
16 impact our district. Many voters will
17 disengage from the voting process. It will
18 be demoralizing. It also will contribute to
19 the growing inability of local geography to
20 bind people together as a cohesive community.
21 Noncompetitive district produces
22 unaccountable legislators.

23 Thank you again for the opportunity to
24 testify.

25 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for

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1 taking the time, coming out as well.

2 Next, we'll have a virtual testimony.

3 Lara Gregory.

4 MS. GREGORY: Good afternoon, Chair
5 Walcott and Members of the City Redistricting
6 Commission. My name is Lara Gregory and I'm
7 a lawyer by profession.

8 I was one of the volunteers who worked
9 during the pandemic for the Queens Complete
10 Count, organized by the office of the Queens
11 Borough President and then headed by Sharon
12 Lee. I served as member of the Queens
13 District Attorney AAPI Advisory Board, and
14 also served the Queens community as member
15 and director at large of Queens Community
16 Board 4, which covers Elmhurst.

17 In order for me to adhere to the time
18 limit, I will be reading my testimony.

19 I've lived in Queens for close to
20 20 years. In fact, when I first moved to New
21 York, my cousins brought me to the Phil-Am
22 stores and restaurants in Woodside to find
23 specific cures for homesickness, like the
24 fruit drinks that we had during summer,
25 cantaloupe or melon juice or you may not be

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1 familiar with it, but I promise you it tastes
2 great, avocado shake.

3 It was also the place where, before the
4 advent of the internet and online news,
5 uncles and aunts will get a copy of the
6 Filipino Reporter, an actual physical
7 newspaper that printed stories and news from
8 the homeland. It is a place where people
9 mark their celebrations, from baptisms, to
10 weddings, anniversaries, block parties and
11 even receptions after a loved one is buried.

12 No wonder that this month, that corner
13 of Roosevelt Avenue and 70th Street was named
14 Little Manila Avenue. And you should have
15 seen the joy that caused the spontaneous line
16 dancing on the street. In deed, if Woodside
17 is home and a place to nourish bodies and
18 soul with warm meals, Elmhurst is the place
19 where our community members work and devote
20 their time.

21 Our New York community as a whole
22 survived the two-year pandemic at an enormous
23 cost to the lives of Filipino nurses and
24 health care workers who perished while taking
25 care of patients, regardless of race, color

1 or creed. The fact that a third of the
2 nurses who perished were Filipino Americans,
3 even if they make up only four percent of the
4 nurses population, means that they were the
5 ones who had direct patient contact. At
6 times the only humans the patients saw until
7 the end.

8 Filipino Americans are the nurses and
9 health care workers who cared for the sick,
10 whether in the hospital, nursing homes or at
11 home. The teachers who teach the kids at
12 school, the nannies who care for the babies
13 at home, so that the parents can get their
14 good night's rest. And the home workers who
15 make sure your household is running smoothly.

16 I ask you to honor the lives of the
17 heros of the pandemic, as well as the regular
18 heros of our daily lives, who keep our
19 children safe and our families comfortable by
20 keeping the integrity and wholeness of
21 Woodside and of Elmhurst within District 26
22 and within District 25 respectively.

23 Thank you so much for listening.

24 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
25 testimony, as well. Thank you.

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1 Next here, we'll have -- and forgive me
2 if I mispronounce the name. Is it Ambalisa
3 Persaud (phonetic)?

4 MS. PERSAUD: Ambika Persaud?

5 CHAIR WALCOTT: Ambika. Yes, I'm
6 sorry.

7 MS. PERSAUD: Good afternoon. Thank
8 you to the New York City Districting
9 Commission for convening this hearing today.
10 My name is Ambika Persaud. I'm an active
11 member and summer organizer at South Queens
12 Women's March, a local grassroots gender
13 justice organization.

14 I've also lived in the Queens
15 neighborhoods of Richmond Hill and
16 South Ozone Park for most of my life.
17 Founded right before the pandemic hit,
18 South Queens Women's March amplifies the
19 voices of South Queens' diverse women and
20 gender expansive people.

21 We are a multigenerational
22 intersectional platform working to foster
23 women's empowerment. We take our sisterhood
24 to the street to unify women and gender
25 expansive people and connect them to the

1 tools and resources necessary to empower
2 their own lives and drive.

3 That includes fighting food insecurity
4 and period poverty, tackling gender-based
5 violence, promoting empowerment for youth and
6 professional development, and promoting civic
7 engagement, all while meeting people where
8 they are, which is what brought us to become
9 a proud member of the APA Voice Redistricting
10 Task Force.

11 Much of our work has been based in the
12 South Queens neighborhoods of Richmond Hill
13 and South Ozone Park, home to vibrant and
14 widespread Asian American populations,
15 specifically South Asians, mainly consisting
16 of Punjabi and Indo-Caribbeans that census
17 data does not fully account for.

18 These communities have been
19 gerrymandered for far too long. We have
20 advocated and we will continue to advocate
21 for AALDEF's Asian community of interest
22 maps. As a community of interest, we take
23 the same mass transit, we attend the same
24 schools, we worship in the same faith-based
25 institutions, we eat the same types of

1 cuisines and we share similar socioeconomic
2 statuses, yet we have been among the most
3 egregiously divided at every single level of
4 government.

5 At the City Council level, we are
6 divided into three council districts -- 28,
7 29 and 32, with most of our community living
8 in Districts 28 and 32. If you take a look
9 at the overlay of the AALDEF community of
10 interest map with the existing council maps
11 for these districts, which we are submitting
12 in our testimony, you will see how we are
13 divided, even at the very heart of our
14 community of interest.

15 As you go to the drawing board and
16 consider these maps, we ask that you please
17 do not divide us. Please keep Richmond Hill
18 and South Ozone Park whole to the extent
19 possible. This is about equity for an Asian
20 population in Queens, that has grown larger
21 than any other racial group, per the last
22 census, by 29 percent. An increase many
23 local CBOs, including ours, put so much
24 energy into capturing by tirelessly
25 advocating for equitable voting rights and

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1 yet the current political climate continues
2 to enrage us.

3 Just this morning, the New York Supreme
4 Court struck down a New York City law that
5 would have granted voting rights to 800,000
6 noncitizen residents. Now, it is more
7 important than ever to ensure voter equity
8 for minority populations, especially in the
9 neighborhoods of Richmond Hill and
10 South Ozone Park. Our rights are on the
11 line, including our bodily autonomy.

12 Thank you for listening. As we always
13 say at South Queen Women's March, "Our voice
14 is our power."

15 CHAIR WALCOTT: Thank you very much for
16 your testimony as well.

17 Next, we'll do virtual.

18 William Perkins, welcome. Mr. Perkins?

19 MR. PERKINS: Yes. Hello,
20 Commissioner. I apologize. I had to unmute.

21 CHAIR WALCOTT: Not a problem.

22 MR. PERKINS: All right. Commission,
23 thank you for hearing my testimony. I will
24 be brief. Mine is about keeping our district
25 intact and fully intact, particularly JFK

1 Airport, which is on the periphery of our
2 district.

3 Again, my name is Bill Perkins. I have
4 been a resident of Rosedale since 2003. I
5 currently serve on Rosedale Civic Association
6 as a board member. I'm a former president
7 and board chair. I'm also on the Eastern
8 Queens Alliance, which is a community of
9 seven civics, which represents this
10 community. I serve as vice chair and I'm a
11 former member of the Community District
12 Education Council 29.

13 Rosedale is primarily a single and
14 two-family home community. We have a little
15 bit less than 30,000 residents which are
16 predominantly black and West Indian. Our
17 neighboring communities, which are Laurelton,
18 Brookville and Springfield Gardens have a
19 similar footprint and makeup of home types
20 and demographics.

21 We have common concerns regarding
22 health and public safety, and we continue to
23 work with our elected officials and our
24 communities on education and bringing
25 economics and businesses to our community.

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1 Most recently, we have partnered
2 together on certain issues that we've had in
3 our community regarding public safety, one of
4 which I'm working with the elected officials
5 in securing the 116th Precinct, which will
6 be, you know, a tremendous benefit to the
7 community, to bring parity and public safety
8 to this part of Queens.

9 We worked together in the early 2000s
10 on rezoning to stop overdevelopment in our
11 community, and we're currently working on
12 quality of life issues; such as getting
13 illegal truck parking off of our residential
14 streets and our parks.

15 So, with that, I say that to
16 demonstrate that we, as a community, not only
17 Rosedale, but our neighboring towns, you
18 know, really are -- are really one -- speak
19 one voice. We have common issues, which is
20 why we want to make sure we keep our district
21 intact.

22 Thank you for hearing my testimony.

23 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
24 testimony, sir.

25 Next, in person, William Stanford, Jr.,

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1 Mr. X, the Five-borough Man.

2 MR. STANFORD, JR.: When you redraw the
3 lines, you should go by the bus corridors,
4 which I had mentioned the previous decade,
5 also earlier in this day. Go by the bus
6 corridors, that's the best way to redraw
7 them. This way we'll know who is
8 representing us.

9 Yesterday, I double-clicked on the
10 events, the hearings and meetings you held
11 before today. I first discovered them on the
12 website yesterday. And as I stated earlier
13 today, this event was originally scheduled to
14 be held across the street at 94-20 Brewer
15 Boulevard. When I arrived there, I
16 discovered it's scheduled to be here at
17 94-45 Brewer Boulevard.

18 If you changed the site -- if you have
19 to change the site, tell us before time, not
20 after or possibly reschedule the event.
21 Okay?

22 Earlier today, I asked a female
23 employee, "Can I testify live?" And she
24 didn't answer my question, which I didn't
25 appreciate. A male employee (inaudible) told

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1 me I had to sign another sheet if I wanted to
2 testify. That's not very swift. Starting up
3 -- changing the location after time isn't
4 very swift. Starting these public hearings
5 at a time when people are still -- 4 p.m. at
6 a time when people are still working isn't
7 very swift. So, you need to take that into
8 consideration.

9 And thank God that we were only across
10 the street from that building because if we
11 were further away, I wouldn't have made it.
12 So, please take what I say into
13 consideration. Okay? In other words, take
14 your time and do it right, like the SOS Band.

15 CHAIR WALCOTT: Thank you for your
16 testimony, sir.

17 Next is virtual.

18 Milly -- is it Sally Wong or Milly?

19 MS. MILLY WONG: It's Milly Wong.

20 CHAIR WALCOTT: Milly Wong. Okay. I'm
21 sorry.

22 MS. MILLY WONG: That's okay.

23 Hi, everyone. I just want to talk
24 about Elmhurst south side of Queens
25 Boulevard, which consists of predominantly

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1 working class homeowners who live in private
2 two/three family homes. It is a quiet oasis
3 against the more hustle and bustle of the
4 north side of Queens Boulevard.

5 We're asking that the south side of
6 Queens Boulevard, up until Grand Avenue, be
7 redrawn to be included with the Maspeth
8 district. Our two communities, Maspeth and
9 Elmhurst, share the same civic organization.
10 We grew up together. We walk to the same
11 supermarkets, churches, schools. Our
12 families bought homes in the neighboring
13 communities. We even once shared the same
14 elected.

15 We're asking to be returned to the
16 original council maps that align our little
17 enclave with our sister community of Maspeth.
18 The recent assembly redistricting returns
19 this part of Elmhurst with Maspeth. Most of
20 us do not cross Queens Boulevard to the north
21 side. It is a very dangerous intersection.
22 It is a major barrier.

23 We are currently in District 25, which
24 encompasses most of Jackson Heights and
25 Elmhurst. The communities of the north side

1 and the south side of Queens Boulevard are
2 very different. Unlike the south side, the
3 north side consists of taller, more densely
4 populated apartment dwellers.

5 The difference is so great that many of
6 our interests that affect our lives are in
7 direct conflict with the residents of the
8 north side. Our concerns are muted against
9 the more populous and louder voices of the
10 other side. The south side wants to keep the
11 intense development of the north side at bay.

12 The influx of developers buying up
13 houses in the area and converting them to
14 condos and apartment buildings has saturated
15 the north side. They're now eyeing the south
16 side. We've seen beautifully kept
17 owner-occupied homes bought out by developers
18 and having it be converted to multifamily
19 absentee landlord buildings.

20 These new structures destroyed the
21 scale and context of our community, where
22 there was once neatly preserved with similar
23 architectural design homes, we're seeing ugly
24 eyesores that jut out against a once neat and
25 uniformed street.

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1 Longtime residents are moving out of
2 our area, allowing developers to infrastate
3 with little resistance. These changes
4 destabilize a community. Many of these
5 unwanted changes would not have occurred had
6 we had the support of civics and local
7 electives.

8 We need representation from our
9 officials that are aligned with our
10 interests. Many of our interests and wishes
11 are in direct conflict with the north side.
12 Should our representatives represent
13 homeowners or tenants? Should he advocate
14 for increasing development in housing density
15 to accommodate the housing needs of the north
16 side constituency? Or should he advocate for
17 the desires of the less influential south
18 side?

19 Our area has been impacted by increased
20 criminal activities, including gangs, drugs,
21 prostitution, et cetera. Our homes broken
22 into, our cars stolen. Yet we continue to be
23 told by our precinct that their efforts are
24 on the north side. We know that side has a
25 higher concentration of criminal activity,

1 but should our neighborhood suffer, too?

2 Recently, we found out through our
3 Maspeth neighbors that the building that
4 houses the local firehouse, the Elmhurst
5 Eagles, is in jeopardy of collapsing because
6 the developer right nextdoor compromised its
7 foundation. It is damaged beyond repair.
8 The timeline to rebuild the firehouse is
9 ten years.

10 No one knew about this issue, so little
11 attention was made of it. There continues to
12 be a lack of urgency and communication with
13 regards to contingency plans.

14 I could go on and on, but in the
15 interest of time and with consideration to
16 the other speakers, I just want to conclude.
17 Elmhurst South side of Queens Boulevard would
18 be better served if it was in line with
19 District 30.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
22 testimony.

23 Next, we'll have Alfred Osbourne.

24 MR. OSBOURNE: Thank you so much,
25 Mr. Chairman and distinguished Committee.

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1 We're just happy to be here to come and voice
2 our opinion, that hopefully we could
3 influence our community.

4 My name is Alfred Osbourne and I'm a
5 43-year resident of Rosedale and just happy
6 and love my community. I, also, am the first
7 vice president of the Rosedale Civic
8 Association and also the chairperson of the
9 Quality of Life, which is a very important
10 issue for all of us.

11 I want to just talk on some issues that
12 we -- that were discussed by my colleagues.
13 I just want to add some things. One of the
14 things is that we're a very cohesive
15 community, working very closely with our
16 counsel person and also the NYPD. I'm also
17 the chair, the community liaison, between
18 NYPD and the community, which is something I
19 enjoy, also.

20 So, basically, what we want to do is
21 keep our community intact, keep it because we
22 know that the decisions that are made by you
23 will impact us for the next ten years, so
24 that's why we're here. And we also want to
25 say is that, let's take for instance JFK, we

1 want to still have JFK as part of our
2 community, because not only we have the issue
3 of the noise and pollution, but we also have
4 jobs. So, we have to weigh both sides in
5 terms of this, so very important.

6 We also have the issues of -- here in
7 Southeast Queens, especially in Rosedale, is
8 the issue of flooding. Flooding is a very,
9 very big problem. We got certain parts have
10 been completed, and we want to keep it
11 intact, so we could continue with our
12 relationship with our council person, to keep
13 putting sewers.

14 I was very much a part of the initial
15 construction of the sewers. I want to
16 continue to be a part of that and working
17 closely with our council person. When you
18 have a change of leadership, you have a
19 change of priorities. So, that's why we want
20 to make sure that our priorities stay the
21 same.

22 The other issues that we want to talk
23 about is crime. Crime, as I said, I'm the
24 liaison with NYPD. We have the 160th
25 Precinct which is coming in. Again, we want

1 to keep the priorities forefront -- right
2 front and center, that any issues that we
3 have, we have a much faster response in our
4 community.

5 And that's what it is, trying to
6 minimize crime and keeping our community
7 intact. 'Cause our community is in the city,
8 but it has a suburban feature and we want to
9 keep it that way.

10 Thank you so much.

11 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
12 testimony, sir.

13 Next, will be virtual.

14 Liz Nacinovich.

15 MS. NACINOVICH: Hello. My name is Liz
16 Nacinovich, and I am the president of the
17 Broadway Flushing Homeowners' Association.
18 We have more than 1,500 homes in our
19 association in the boundaries. And it's very
20 important that we keep our representation in
21 our community as one. We have more than half
22 of those homes that are covered by a deed
23 restriction, that we have now had to go to
24 court quite a few times in order to keep that
25 intact. And we -- right now, the lines are

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1 being drawn that are separating our community
2 and it's very important that we stay
3 together.

4 And so, I would ask the Commission to
5 please look at these types of situations and
6 be cognizant of the community that we have
7 built, and that it's very important that
8 we're represented by the people that have
9 been with us all along.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
12 testimony.

13 Next will be -- is it Irnel Steven?

14 MR. STEPHEN: Stephen.

15 CHAIR WALCOTT: Stephen. My apologies.
16 I will try not to repeat it.

17 MR. STEPHEN: That's okay. I'm used to
18 it.

19 CHAIR WALCOTT: As you're coming up, if
20 there's another sheet -- we're at the end of
21 this sheet. Thank you very much.

22 MR. STEPHEN: My name is Irnel Stephen.
23 I lived in Rosedale since 1974. My council
24 person (inaudible) wasn't even born yet. So,
25 when I leave from Rosedale, I just been there

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1 with my councilman, so that's the only one
2 who understand. I've seen how the importance
3 of keeping what you need. Rosedale,
4 Laurelton, Springfield Gardens, Far Rockaway
5 have commonalities. Mainly one-family homes,
6 homeowners and also similar AMI.

7 It is important. We're not asking for
8 favor. We're only asking to keep what we
9 already have that is working well. Yes, we
10 are flooding. Yes, after Sandy you got
11 devastated. After Sandy, there was a new
12 advising, there was a study made for elevated
13 board way, stay good. Nothing has been done.

14 There's the study, the design, I think
15 (inaudible). But this same project, it's not
16 high-five of the governor, what he does,
17 high-five of the mayor, not one single thing
18 has been assigned to do the work. It doesn't
19 make any sense. The only evacuation route,
20 blocked, is through that.

21 Now, the road in the middle of the
22 marsh. We're in danger. We need to keep the
23 City intact, so that problems can get solved
24 together. There's no need for a change. We
25 have you and we call you our voice.

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1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
3 testimony.

4 As we prepare for the next virtual
5 testimony, just a little bit of housekeeping,
6 in that we are transcribing all the remarks,
7 so we have an official record as well. And
8 we've also had two, I think, new members of
9 the Commission join us since we did the
10 initial introduction.

11 MS. MATEO: Good afternoon. My name is
12 Maria Mateo.

13 MR. SULLIVAN: Kevin Sullivan.

14 CHAIR WALCOTT: And welcome the both of
15 you.

16 Next.

17 MODERATOR: Albert Liu.

18 CHAIR WALCOTT: Albert Coo?

19 MR. LIU: Hello, good evening. Thank
20 you, Commissioners, for this speaking
21 opportunity. My name is Albert Liu, and I am
22 the part-time civic coordinator for Korean
23 Community Services in Bayside, Queens and
24 also the KCS representative to the APA Voice
25 Redistricting Task Force.

1 The APA community of interest in
2 Bayside, Auburndale needs to continue to be
3 kept whole in one district. Please refer to
4 the neighborhood map of Bayside, Auburndale
5 that AALDEF has submitted.

6 The APA community in Bayside,
7 Auburndale is primarily of Korean and
8 Chinese. They share similar interests
9 related to schools, small businesses,
10 restaurants, tutoring centers, churches and
11 grocery stores, many of whom do not speak
12 English as their first language.

13 Founded in 1973 in Woodside, Queens,
14 KCS moved to Bayside to specifically meet the
15 growing linguistic and cultural needs of the
16 Asian community in Bayside. From 2000 to
17 2010, the APA community in District 19 grew
18 by 53 percent from 28,000 to 43,000. And
19 according to 2020 census data, in it,
20 additional 36,000 Asian Americans have been
21 added to the population in Bayside,
22 Auburndale.

23 Because the APA community in Bayside,
24 Auburndale has been kept together in the same
25 district, KCS has made a huge impact on the

1 Asian American community there. Last year,
2 we provided more than 50,000 meals for
3 homebound adults, organized 72 free COVID
4 testing clinics, served as an early voting
5 site and much more.

6 Additionally, the APA community is able
7 to elect a candidate of their choice that
8 will understand their culture and diversity.
9 Please keep our communities of interest whole
10 and together.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
13 testimony.

14 Next is Felicia Singh.

15 MS. SINGH: Hi, I'm Felicia Singh. I
16 am the advocacy and campaigns manager for
17 Jahajee Sisters.

18 Jahajee Sisters is a healing and
19 political home for Indo-Caribbeans who have
20 survived or are at risk for experiencing
21 gender-based violence, and we are organized
22 to help achieve gender justice.

23 Our community of support guide
24 survivors to heal, recover and thrive in our
25 leadership development, grassroots organizing

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1 and arts activism. We amplify community
2 voices to transfer culture, including the
3 systems that hold us back.

4 Our Indo-Caribbean community is a large
5 and marginalized Asian American population.
6 Our members primarily reside in Richmond
7 Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park areas
8 in Queens. We ask you to keep these
9 neighborhoods together in the redistricting
10 process. We're here to advocate that you
11 consider AALDEF map and boundary lines as one
12 community of interest that encompasses
13 neighborhoods of Richmond Hill and
14 South Ozone Park.

15 In hearing from our membership who are
16 women and nonbinary folks, the consensus is
17 clear. For years of counting, our community
18 remain in constant struggle for resources and
19 funding from programs, from our schools to
20 smoother roads and highway, to the dire need
21 for a community center. We know the
22 implications of not having the basics in our
23 community because we've lived without it for
24 decades, despite Indo-Caribbeans being the
25 second largest immigrant community in

1 New York City.

2 We're home to Little Guyana and Punjab,
3 where many members of our community are
4 undocumented, speaks several languages and
5 are deeply working class. The demands for
6 resources are currently split between three
7 different council members -- Council 32, 29
8 and 28.

9 One of the council members currently,
10 today, supported the Supreme Court decision
11 to prevent noncitizen residents to vote in
12 New York City. Representation is about being
13 able to turn to an elected official who
14 shares the same values as the people they
15 represent. There's a deep misalignment of
16 this in our communities in Richmond Hill,
17 South Ozone Park and even Ozone Park.

18 Our immigrant communities, documented
19 or not, are counted in the census, and they
20 need to be counted in every other way. This
21 is where you all come in.

22 Again, consider AALDEF map and boundary
23 lines with one community of interest that
24 encompasses neighborhoods of Richmond Hill
25 and South Ozone Park.

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1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
3 testimony.

4 Virtual, next, Linda Lam, welcome.

5 MS. LAM: Good afternoon. Thank you,
6 Commissioner and members of the Commission
7 for allowing me the opportunity to speak.

8 My name is Linda Lam, and I am a
9 homeowner and resident of Seabury Street of
10 Elmhurst on the south side of Queens
11 Boulevard. I'm also a board member of the
12 Newtown Senior Center, vice president of the
13 Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater
14 New York and a block captain of the civic
15 organization, COMET, which stands for
16 Citizens of Maspeth and Elmhurst Together.

17 I have been a resident and a homeowner
18 on the same street for 48 years. My area is
19 currently included under City Council
20 District 25. My area and my neighboring
21 street are made of one to three-family homes
22 and we go shopping, our children go to
23 school, and we go play, picnicking and have
24 our little league games at Juniper Valley
25 Park, all on the south side of Queens

1 Boulevard.

2 The north side of Queens Boulevard,
3 part of District 25, is made up mostly of
4 apartment buildings and shops and the needs
5 of what are mostly apartment dwellers and
6 business are very different from me and my
7 neighborhoods on the south side of Queens
8 Boulevard.

9 For the past 48 years, I'm sorry to say
10 that for our much-needed constituent
11 services, we usually have to go to the
12 neighboring District 30, because our needs
13 are mostly not met by our own District 25.

14 These include constituent services;
15 such as workshop and services to helped with
16 property assessment, issues with sidewalk
17 violations, illegal commercial parking on
18 residential streets, senior transportation,
19 assistance for seniors with snow removal,
20 various health screening for seniors and
21 recreational outings. We usually have to go
22 to District 30 for these services.

23 We would, therefore, like to request
24 that our neighboring streets with boundaries,
25 including Grand Avenue on the west, Queens

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1 Boulevard on the north and 59th Avenue and
2 Woodhaven Boulevard on the east, be included
3 as part of District 30.

4 This redistricting would be consistent
5 with and justify our requesting the
6 much-needed service our members -- our
7 seniors and our neighbors and I have been
8 receiving in hope to continue to benefit from
9 District 30.

10 When we ask for services, our words can
11 be louder and we do not have to say, "I'm
12 sorry. I'm not from your district, but I
13 would like to receive services from your
14 office." And then be told that priority
15 always go first to residents in the district.

16 I urge you to have the aforementioned
17 area to be put under District 30, to be in
18 line with the same characteristic of the rest
19 of District 30.

20 Thank you very much on behalf of
21 myself, my neighbors and my seniors in the
22 affected area. Thank you.

23 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
24 testimony as well.

25 Next, we have René Hill.

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1 MS. RENÉ HILL: You're going to have to
2 excuse me, because I'm sick and I just got
3 out of bed because I knew I had to be here.

4 I was the chairperson of Community
5 Board 12.

6 CHAIR WALCOTT: Can I just ask you -- I
7 was going to say the same thing.

8 MS. RENÉ HILL: Take my mask off?

9 CHAIR WALCOTT: No. I mean, it's up to
10 you and your comfort level, but we're
11 transcribing, so I see her leaning forward.
12 So, whatever you're comfortable with.

13 MS. RENÉ HILL: Okay. So, I was the
14 former Queens chairperson of Community Board
15 12. I was the vice president of St. Albans
16 Chamber of Commerce. I have to write it
17 down -- so, New York City CERT member, I am
18 right now, Addisleigh Park member, I'm still
19 right now. I helped to landmark Addisleigh
20 Park, so that we can keep the community as it
21 is, a black historical community with
22 beautiful homes, so that developers don't
23 come and ruin it.

24 I was the lead member of UCVCR, which
25 helped to fight to save the veterans hospital

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1 or veterans community center for our veterans
2 here in Queens. We have the most veterans in
3 all of New York City. So, I lead that fight
4 and we won. We still have the VA hospital
5 there and hopefully we can bring back
6 services to that hospital.

7 I was a member of and a founder of
8 South Queens Residents Environmental Justice
9 Council. I am former Queens Civic Congress
10 vice president, executive vice president, and
11 that's an organization that covers all of
12 Queens' Civic Organizations. And what else?
13 I was a treasurer at Southern Queens Park
14 Association.

15 So, I have been very active in the
16 community. I have an economics degree from
17 York College, and I was born here 64 years
18 ago, right here in Holliswood Hospital, which
19 is no longer Holliswood Hospital, so I know
20 Queens.

21 And from what I hear, I hear a lot
22 about race and it really disturbs me, people
23 wanting to make it more segregated when
24 Queens has always been an integrated
25 community. And I feel that a lot of people

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1 do want to keep the district as it is.

2 And that's why I back or I support the
3 Queens Civic Congress plan. It was submitted
4 to you. I hope you all read it. It's here,
5 64 pages. And it keeps the communities
6 intact, but yet we're redistricted so that
7 the numbers are fair.

8 I don't know why we're rebuilding the
9 wheel. And if you haven't talked to Paul
10 Graziano that worked on this, you need to.
11 You need to have him -- I know he's going to
12 talk later on. But it seems like we're
13 rebuilding the wheel when someone already did
14 it for you.

15 And I hope that we don't go into
16 segregation. People throwing, you know,
17 their race in it and how -- this is how
18 New York is. And every person elected, if
19 you don't like, you should move in the other
20 neighborhood. I'm sorry, but we can't move
21 districts around just because you want your
22 race to be all in one area.

23 So, I'm René Hill, and I hope that you
24 do check out the Queens Civic Congress
25 proposal.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
3 testimony.

4 Next, will be virtual, Henry --

5 MR. EULER: Euler.

6 CHAIR WALCOTT: Okay. Just wanted to
7 get the last name correct.

8 Henry Euler, welcome.

9 MR. EULER: That's correct. Thank you.

10 Yeah, my name is Henry Euler, and I'm
11 representing the Auburndale Improvement
12 Association today. I'm the new president of
13 the organization. For 15 years, I was the
14 first vice president and the building and
15 zoning chair.

16 My civic organization is the oldest and
17 largest in area in Queens County. We were
18 founded in 1905 and incorporated in 1915.
19 Now, I wasn't around then, but I am a
20 lifelong member of Bayside, 73 years. My
21 organization is a member of Queens Civic
22 Congress. And as Mrs. Hill said previously,
23 that's an umbrella organization made up of
24 dozens of other Queens civic and community
25 organizations.

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1 Queens Civic Congress sponsored a study
2 for the City Council Redistricting for the
3 entire borough of Queens. The study was
4 developed by Paul Graziano, a noted urban
5 planner and well-known land use specialist.
6 The plan was distributed to all of the
7 members of the Queens Civic Congress,
8 including my own, and we approved the study.

9 I was very impressed at the detail and
10 the scope of the study. The proposal keeps
11 communities together as much as possible and
12 adjust districts, so the number of residents
13 in each individual district meets the
14 parameters set up by the Districting
15 Commission.

16 It doesn't reflect the interest of a
17 few. Rather, it respects all of the
18 residents of Queens and tries to set up
19 districts that are representative of each
20 particular area.

21 I believe that the members of my civic,
22 as well as other local community residents in
23 Auburndale -- and by the way, my district
24 runs from 162nd Street to 207th Street in
25 Western Bayside and from 18th Avenue

1 Whitestone all the way down to Booth Memorial
2 Avenue and the Long Island Expressway, and we
3 overlap with many civic organizations. We
4 work together very closely. We get along
5 very, very well. And we would like to stay
6 together in the same district if we can;
7 that's District 19.

8 I believe that -- I think it fosters a
9 feeling of cohesion when we're all together
10 and we're working together, and that's one of
11 the big reasons why we would like to stay
12 together in District 19.

13 And I would end by saying that I would
14 urge the Redirecting Commission to really
15 look over the Graziano study. I heard today
16 a lot of people say that they would also like
17 to remain with their own area in the same
18 district. There may be some changes that
19 have to be made along the way, but I think
20 the Graziano study is a great starting point,
21 and I think that should be looked at very
22 carefully.

23 Thank you so much for letting me
24 testify today. I appreciate it.

25 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for you

1 testimony, sir.

2 Michele Keller.

3 MS. KELLER: Good afternoon. I'm
4 somewhat unready. I just received Paul
5 Graziano's report, so I haven't been able to
6 go over the whole 64 pages. But the pages
7 that I did go over was --

8 CHAIR WALCOTT: Can you just move a
9 little to the -- there you go.

10 MS. KELLER: Well, let me tell you a
11 little bit about myself. I have been in this
12 community since 1975. I was a New York City
13 Police Officer, then I became a detective. I
14 retired in 2005 and I've been on the
15 community board for almost 30 years. And
16 I've been seeing a significant change in
17 District 27.

18 And one of the proposed proposals that
19 Mr. Graziano made for District 27, because
20 we're undercounted, is to take some residents
21 or bring residents from District 23 and 24.
22 And the reason why I say I'm unready is
23 because I want to know how that would impact
24 us further. Because the people that are
25 moving into our district now are changing the

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1 contextual look of our community. So, I will
2 be submitting a detailed testimony tonight.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIR WALCOTT: Thank you very much.

5 And you raised a good point, just so the
6 audience both here and virtual will know,
7 that we will be taking ongoing testimony.

8 So, if you're not available to testify here,
9 either in person or virtually, you could
10 still e-mail the information in and a little
11 later on, we'll give you directly where to
12 send it. So, I just want you to be aware
13 that you have plenty of time to submit your
14 testimony as well.

15 Next is virtual.

16 John Park, welcome. You're on mute.

17 MR. PARK: Hello. Can you hear me?

18 CHAIR WALCOTT: There you go.

19 MR. PARK: Great. All right.

20 My name is John Park -- hello,
21 Commissioners -- Executive Director of the
22 Minkwon Center for Community Action, which is
23 the convener organization for the APA
24 Redistricting Task Force. And also, we're
25 the, you know, the recent convener of the APA

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1 community and some other coalitions in the
2 City participation space.

3 The Minkwon Center alone has registered
4 about 95,000 immigrant voters since 2004 when
5 we started our voter engagement. And then in
6 order to -- you know, when we start out our
7 voter engagement to combat some of the AAPI
8 voter participation rates, which would give
9 them more time, and some of our early first
10 meetings were in 2013, '14.

11 I just want to add that since that
12 time, the AAPIs to the participation rates
13 have increased by 350 percent since our
14 coalition have formed in 2013. The Flushing
15 area is very unique. It a very, very unique
16 place. It's situated in Queens, somebody
17 notes it's the designated endangered language
18 capital of the world by the Endangered
19 Language Association -- sorry. The language
20 capital of the world.

21 And the Minkwon Center is situated
22 right downtown Flushing. And right downtown
23 is considered like the second most
24 trafficked, heavily trafficked place outside
25 Times Square. It feels like the third most

1 maybe at this point, maybe shifting. But the
2 point is still, it's a very concentrated
3 area.

4 Right now, Minkwon has built out a
5 Flushing hate-free zone in the Flushing area,
6 with about 500 businesses, partner
7 businesses, storefront partners. Basically
8 stamped out some of that anti-Asian hate that
9 our communities have been experiencing. But
10 not just like anti-Asian hate, any sort of
11 hate and bigotry, including religious, you
12 know, hate. Because this is Flushing
13 history. This isn't just Minkwon history.
14 This is Flushing local history for people to
15 understand Flushing's history.

16 After the 2008 bubble burst, many
17 developers turned their eyes on Flushing
18 because they believed they were somehow
19 recession-proof. But Flushing had a local
20 economy that was -- you know, some were not
21 as severely impacted in the 2008 recession
22 like the rest of the country and New York
23 City. And so, you know, people thought it
24 was kind of special.

25 But what we learned during the pandemic

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1 is that the AAPI community is not immune to
2 recessions. In fact, it was, you know, as we
3 know and as we saw in day one of the
4 pandemic, it was going to be one of the first
5 places -- one of the first areas to be hit
6 and one of the last to recover, which is like
7 these Asian American commercial areas.

8 So, the point of these examples is just
9 to show that the AAPI community and the
10 Flushing area in the region is a very -- not
11 just a community of interest, but it has its
12 own unique characteristics and that's
13 important to understand.

14 Currently, our community is divided in
15 terms of the proposed maps, into Districts 19
16 and 20. We ask that the lines, the top, the
17 boundaries of our APA neighborhood maps for
18 District 20, the lines in the northeast
19 corner should be extended up to 24th Road and
20 the northwest border should be extended up to
21 the tip of like 20th Avenue.

22 The additional adjustments to maintain
23 a population criteria would be to shift the
24 southern part of Auburndale to District 19,
25 so we can make it fit. In addition to these

1 recommendations, we respectfully ask the
2 Commissioners to incorporate as much of the
3 APA neighborhood maps as possible.

4 The APA Voice Redistricting Task Force
5 understands the communities we work in
6 really, really well. We're not just veterans
7 of the data, the micro and the macro levels
8 also hyper with the block level data. Like
9 we have all this data we've been analyzing.

10 Our added contribution -- basically,
11 what we add to this is perspective, is that
12 we are from these neighborhoods. We
13 understand the cultural context. We
14 understand the languages. These are our
15 parents, right, we understand these
16 communities of interests, we are in them. We
17 are embedded in them. And we know what can
18 happen, you know.

19 This is a lot at stake. This is
20 ten years, and we've seen our communities how
21 they've been hurt because they weren't
22 necessarily held together or compact. We
23 know it can be done and we know it should be
24 done.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIR WALCOTT: Thank you for your
2 testimony.

3 Next, we will have -- is it Feronza
4 (phonetic)? Is it Linda?

5 MS. LINDA: Hi, everyone. My name is
6 Farzana Linda. I am a longtime resident,
7 worker and voter in City Council District 25.
8 I work at Chhaya CDC, a member organization
9 of APA Voice Redistricting Task Force.

10 We support the APA community in
11 Elmhurst whole -- in keeping Elmhurst whole
12 in the same district, and we support the
13 neighborhood map AALDEF submitted to the
14 Commission.

15 Chhaya is a community organization
16 located in Jackson Heights. Many of the
17 clients we serve are in Queens, including
18 Elmhurst, Woodside and Jackson Heights.
19 Chhaya works to build housing stability,
20 economic well-being and power of the
21 South Asian and Indo-Caribbean community.
22 Our services include housing counseling for
23 both tenants and homeowners, financial
24 counseling, free tax prep, immigration
25 services.

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1 We have seen how the APA community has
2 been severely rent and mortgage burdened,
3 which has been exacerbated by the pandemic.
4 The Center for New York City Neighborhoods
5 released a report in June 2021 that estimated
6 75,000 New Yorkers were at risk for
7 foreclosure, with Queens being one of the
8 boroughs with the highest levels of mortgage
9 forbearance and mortgages past 30 days due.

10 Other risk factors for foreclosure are
11 rising home prices. The risk of foreclosure
12 and displacement impact both landlords and
13 tenants. In 2021, the price per square
14 footage of a home in Elmhurst and Corona
15 increased by 13.2 percent, and in Jackson
16 Heights and East Elmhurst, a 108 foreclosures
17 were filed.

18 As vast majority of homeowners own one
19 to five-unit homes in these neighborhoods,
20 most have always rented out parts of their
21 home in order to meet housing cost. With
22 these struggling homeowners, we see tenants
23 continue to see their rents rise without any
24 increase in income, risking homelessness.

25 The APA community in Elmhurst must be

1 kept whole in order to preserve their
2 community and homes. The APA community in
3 Elmhurst has many shared interests in common.
4 They need culturally sensitive and
5 linguistically competent social services.
6 They share various commercial and cultural
7 corridors, enjoy snacks and food from various
8 ethnic street carts, receive information from
9 local libraries and CBOs.

10 It is not uncommon for community
11 members to come to Chhaya to get their taxes
12 done, pick up tea and samosas and then shop
13 for refresh vegetables at the Chinese market
14 off Broadway and Elmhurst on their way home.
15 The same can be said about the APA community
16 in Jackson Heights and Woodside. Currently,
17 the APA community in Elmhurst is kept whole
18 in City Council District 25 with a large
19 portion of Jackson Heights.

20 Similarly, the APA community in
21 Woodside is kept whole in City Council
22 District 26. Both of the Asian communities
23 of interests in these neighborhoods are
24 protected by the Voting Rights Act.

25 As such, the APA communities in

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1 Elmhurst, Jackson Heights and Woodside should
2 continue to be kept as whole as possible but
3 separate and two districts.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
6 testimony as well.

7 Next, we'll do virtual.

8 Paul Graziano.

9 MR. GRAZIANO: Hello, can you hear me?

10 CHAIR WALCOTT: Yes, we can.

11 MR. GRAZIANO: Thank you.

12 Hi, I'm Paul Graziano. I've heard my
13 name a few times today. I wasn't expecting
14 that. I'm an urban planner. I live in
15 North Flushing Queens, where I've lived my
16 entire life, and I presented the Queens Civic
17 Congress proposal for the borough.

18 Now, it has been mentioned several
19 times. I didn't bring it up a month ago at
20 the initial meeting. I have just submitted a
21 slight revision and correction because there
22 was a mistake that needed to be fixed and
23 that was done.

24 But, you know, one of the things that I
25 want to mention is the Queens Civic Congress

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1 represents dozen and dozens of civic and
2 homeowner organizations, and we have other
3 groups like the Eastern Queens Alliance who
4 are allied with us on this, and other
5 organizations as well, representing well over
6 a quarter of a million of the people who live
7 in the borough.

8 We are of every ethnicity, every stripe
9 that you can imagine. And it's always a
10 little disconcerting when I hear discussion
11 that solely focuses on one of the six of
12 seven indices that make up the redistricting
13 process in the City in particular, and this
14 happened a decade ago as well.

15 One of the things I want to remind the
16 public and some of the folks who have spoken
17 today is that we are in a somewhat unique
18 situation in Queens. Because out of the 14
19 districts that are in Queens, only in Queens,
20 not including District 34, which is split
21 between Queens and Brooklyn, we are -- seven
22 of those 14 districts are under, under the
23 minimum population and only two are over the
24 maximum population.

25 And so, we have a very limited ability,

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1 unless you wholesale, wholesale change these
2 districts. And when I say "wholesale," I
3 mean, you would have to completely rewrite
4 the entire map. There is no way to satisfy
5 some of the requests that are being made, and
6 frankly, they shouldn't be. And I'll give an
7 example of Mr. Park who just spoke
8 previously.

9 I live in North Flushing, which is a
10 single-family zoned neighborhood. Two blocks
11 south of me is a high density apartment area,
12 that area is in District 20. The low density
13 single-family area is in District 19.
14 District 19 is a primarily single-family and
15 two-family detached area. In fact, we have
16 the highest concentration of single-family
17 zoning in the City of New York.

18 Our district is 843 people below the
19 minimum that is allowed, and District 20 is
20 3,227 people above the minimum, so they're
21 within the range that they're supposed to be.
22 The problem is the other districts
23 surrounding District 20 are 2,697 below the
24 minimum, that's District 24, which is Kew
25 Gardens Hills, Jamaica Estates, et cetera.

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1 And District 23, which is Glen Oaks, Bayside
2 Hills, et cetera, that area is 8,000 people
3 under the minimum.

4 So, what I have done -- and I think
5 some of the people who have spoken, and
6 you'll be receiving additional testimony from
7 our allied groups -- is to do this in a way
8 that keeps our communities together, as they
9 have been, based on our zoning, our civic
10 areas, and where it makes sense to shift
11 populations of like interest.

12 And we did that, for example, for
13 District 23, where we removed a portion of
14 what's called the Hill Side Courier, which is
15 substantially South Asian, and remove it from
16 District 27 to District 23 because District
17 27 has enough population to shift that.

18 So, again, I hope you will look at the
19 Queens Civic Congress proposal. This has
20 been vetted by literally dozens of
21 organizations, and we all believe that this
22 is the way to go to do the least damage to
23 our long-standing districts of interests,
24 which include, not just demographics, but
25 hard boundaries, civic associations, zoning

1 and other characteristics.

2 So, I thank you for this and I really
3 appreciate your time. Thank you.

4 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
5 testimony as well.

6 Next, we'll have Jackie Mariano.

7 Take you time.

8 MS. MARIANO: Good afternoon,
9 Commissioners. My name is Jackie Mariano.
10 I'm a resident of Elmhurst District 25, and
11 I'm 33 years old. I was born and raised in
12 Elmhurst and have resided in Elmhurst most of
13 my life.

14 Today, I'm a community organizer in
15 Queens, a private practice immigration
16 attorney who works from home, and an adjunct
17 professor at CUNY Hunter College of Asian
18 American studies program. My whole life and
19 work revolves around my experience as a
20 Filipino American from Elmhurst and a desire
21 to serve the Asian Pacific American community
22 in Queens that has made me who I am today.

23 My parents, Filipino immigrants, met in
24 Elmhurst in the 1980s while they found their
25 bearings in this new country. My mother, a

1 nurse, was recruited from the Philippines to
2 work at Elmhurst Hospital. Her career was
3 bookended by health crises as she joined the
4 fight against AIDS in the 1980s and then
5 COVID-19 today.

6 Other Filipino nurses she arrived with
7 became my aunties and uncles, their kids like
8 my cousins. We built a chosen family in
9 Elmhurst and thrived because the APA
10 community, made up of people from various
11 countries of origin, had similar struggles,
12 interests, and cultural practices that caused
13 us to create a community of solidarity and
14 unity.

15 For decades, Elmhurst has been a
16 landing pad for Asian immigrants, their
17 extended families and newly arrived
18 generations of migrants. Broadway has been a
19 lifeline. It's where we found fresh
20 groceries and imported products at Top Line,
21 an Hong Kong supermarket, that offered
22 pan-Asian ingredients that reminded us of
23 home. Where you could find shops that cater
24 to specific nationalities.

25 My family and I went to Jafeli

1 (phonetic) a Filipino video rental and
2 one-hour photo shop every week, where we
3 would rent the latest VHS tapes from the
4 Philippines, develop rolls of film and buy
5 phone cards to call family back home.

6 The APA community should continue to be
7 kept whole in Elmhurst in one single council
8 district. The APA community in Elmhurst have
9 shared immigration history, economies, and
10 socioeconomic demographics, including working
11 class renters on the north and south side of
12 Queens Boulevard.

13 I hope the classist testimonies of
14 other Elmhurst residents do not influence
15 you. Property ownership should not privilege
16 one's vote and political power. To divide
17 our district would fracture the community
18 networks that have been built locally and
19 internationally over decades to help Asian
20 Americans live a life of dignity and respect
21 in Queens.

22 Especially as incidents of anti-Asian
23 hate arise, the Asian American community must
24 be able to have a safe, culturally relevant
25 place to call home. Additionally, as Queens

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1 born and recently migrated Asian youth come
2 of age, they need a united and historically
3 and culturally informed community to nurture
4 their potential to build a future free from
5 hate and discrimination.

6 I advocate for this because without
7 Elmhurst whole, I would not have found my own
8 voice and identify as a Filipino -- an
9 identity as a Filipino American.

10 Thank you for this opportunity to
11 testify.

12 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
13 testimony as well.

14 Next is virtual.

15 Carina Nieves.

16 MS. NIEVES: Hello, Commission and
17 thank you for having this hybrid meeting.
18 MTA can definitely learn from you guys.

19 My name is Carina Nieves. I have been
20 a resident of Richmond Hill since my family
21 moved here in 1994. In high school, I became
22 more familiar with government and politics
23 and how voting can impact our lives. My area
24 of Richmond Hill is in District 29, which
25 includes Rego Park, Forest Hills and Kew

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1 Gardens. We are about 20 blocks.

2 My portion of Richmond Hill is only 20
3 blocks, and we really don't get the
4 representation that we definitely deserve.
5 Our community voice is split into three
6 council districts; District 28 to the south
7 of Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic Avenue to
8 Liberty Avenue, District 32, which starts on
9 114th Street and goes to Woodhaven Boulevard,
10 and then from all the way down to 85th Avenue
11 in the north, and all the way down to Howard
12 Beach area.

13 This has diluted the voice of the
14 voters in our community, Richmond Hill; both
15 north and south. Richmond Hill by me used to
16 be called Richmond Hill North back in the
17 '90s. Both parts of Richmond Hill should be
18 kept as one community, just like the other
19 communities have been able to have that voice
20 in Council for decades being as one
21 community.

22 I urge the Commission to take this into
23 consideration. I have no clue what this
24 five percent deviation is or this -- their
25 Queens Civic Congress proposal. All I know

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1 is that my community has not been represented
2 by my Council Members. They never come to my
3 community. They don't even bother to come to
4 Richmond Hill Block Association meetings.
5 It's like we don't even matter.

6 So, I ask that the Commission take this
7 into consideration, and not just my
8 community. If there's other communities that
9 are disenfranchised by five to ten, twenty
10 blocks being in another -- in somebody else's
11 district, I hope they take that into
12 consideration.

13 And one thing I have to say is: In my
14 previous City Council Member, the council
15 member to the south, actually did -- was
16 someone who actually crossed borders. And I
17 hope that anyone who is from City Council
18 listening to this hearing, I hope you
19 understand that sometimes you should
20 represent all of the City voters, all of the
21 City residents.

22 If someone needs service and they're
23 not in your district, you know, help them
24 out. Why not? You know, you can learn from
25 Council Member Eric Ulrich and what he did

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1 when he took up the mantle to help out those
2 of us in Richmond Hill more. We're not
3 getting the services that we were getting
4 from our Council Member Karen Koslowitz.

5 So, I ask that people please take that
6 into consideration and, you know, keep
7 Richmond Hill together with Richmond Hill
8 South.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
11 testimony.

12 We have been joined by --

13 MS. SORIN: Sorry. I form a ruckus
14 when walking in and I still do.

15 Lisa Sorin from the Bronx. I apologize
16 for my tardiness.

17 CHAIR WALCOTT: That's quite all right.
18 I'm glad you're here.

19 Next, we'll have Bess -- is it Deberham
20 (phonetic)?

21 MS. DEBETHAM: Good evening, all,
22 Mr. Chair --

23 CHAIR WALCOTT: One second.

24 (Brief pause to adjust microphone.)

25 MS. DEBETHAM: Thank you.

1 It's pronounced "De Be tham."

2 CHAIR WALCOTT: Okay.

3 MS. DEBETHAM: DeBetham.

4 CHAIR WALCOTT: Thank you.

5 MS. DEBETHAM: Thank you.

6 I have two testimonies. One, the
7 person couldn't participate virtually or in
8 person, and I will do that first.

9 "A statement of the federation --
10 Federated Blocks of Laurelton. Good
11 afternoon. I am Donald Clarke, Sr., one of
12 the representatives of the Federated Blocks
13 of Laurelton. The longstanding Civic
14 Association in the 31st Council District now
15 adeptly and adroitly represented by the
16 Honorable Selvena Brooks-Powers.

17 Thank you to the distinguished members
18 of the New York District Commission, our
19 elected officials and community leaders for
20 convening this abundantly important and
21 impactful hearing in this strategic venue.

22 First, last and emphatically, we, of
23 the Federated Blocks, stand firmly for
24 maintaining the 31st Council District as is,
25 no changes. A position that is supported by

1 the Queens Civic Congress, our Umbrella Civic
2 Association in Queens.

3 While we understand the origin of
4 redistricting, none of that surpasses or
5 overcome the logic, harmony, commonsense, and
6 workability of maintaining the 31st Council
7 District just as we are. Within the
8 31st District, there is a commonality and
9 community of interest around quality of life
10 priorities, environmental protection and
11 equity, public safety, infrastructure,
12 upgrades and educational quality, to name a
13 few.

14 These priorities are common and
15 prominent throughout the district from
16 Rockaway through Cambria Heights, Laurelton,
17 Rosedale and Springfield Gardens, indeed the
18 entire district. Standing against this
19 commonality of interest and needs is the
20 intended or unintended potential for the
21 dilution of political influence that could
22 adversely impact black and other communities
23 of color through redistricting and
24 fragmentation.

25 Finally, we of the 31st, now we enjoy

1 and benefit from the dynamic and productive
2 representation we have in the Honorable
3 Selvena Brooks-Powers. We can't afford to
4 lose such an invaluable asset. First, last
5 and emphatically, we stand for maintaining
6 the 31st District as is. The Federated
7 Blocks of Laurelton by Donald Clarke, Sr."

8 And my testimony.

9 Speaking as a resident of the Laurelton
10 community for over 50 years, and as a board
11 member of the Federated Blocks of Laurelton,
12 which is the oldest civic organization in
13 Laurelton. When the Federation was organized
14 in 1972, the late Dean of Southeast Queens
15 politics, Archie Spigner, represented us in
16 the New York City Council. He remained our
17 City Councilman until the 31st Council
18 District was created in 1991.

19 In 1991, the late former City
20 Councilwoman, Juanita E. Watkins, represented
21 the following communities: The Rockaways,
22 Rosedale, Brookville, Springfield Gardens,
23 Laurelton, Cambria Heights and JFK
24 International Airport for ten years until
25 term limits.

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1 These communities worked well together
2 then and they work even better today. We
3 support each other. That is why it's so
4 important to ask that the 31st lines remain
5 the same as they are today. When you have
6 something that works well together, why
7 change it? Unless, in my opinion, it is for
8 a nefarious reason to dilute the vote.

9 We have had good representation in the
10 31st and we have good representation in our
11 esteemed City Councilwoman Selvena
12 Brooks-Powers. She is productive, keeps our
13 constituents informed and she is accessible.

14 We are asking you, the Commission, to
15 please, please keep the 31st City Council
16 District lines the same.

17 Thank you so much for listening.

18 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
19 testimony.

20 Next, we'll do virtual.

21 Sally Wong.

22 MS. SALLY WONG: This is Sally Wong.
23 Thank you for scheduling additional hearings
24 for this important City Council Redistricting
25 plan. I greatly appreciate your time and

1 consideration in reviewing my testimony.

2 My family moved to Elmhurst, Queens in
3 the early '70s and has lived on the same
4 block and in the same house for over
5 50 years. In the prior redistricting plan,
6 our area was realigned to Council District
7 25, where community interests and concerns
8 were not congruent with the majority of the
9 population.

10 Today, I am advocating to redistrict
11 our small section of Elmhurst to Council
12 District 30. This would cover the south side
13 of Queens Boulevard from Jacobus to Grand
14 Avenue. Our housing stock and zoning are
15 very similar to our neighboring Maspeth
16 residences, which are mostly comprised of two
17 to three-family homes, where owners have
18 lived in their residence from generation to
19 generation.

20 We have mutual interests, where our
21 seniors attend the same centers, our children
22 study at the same schools and parishioners
23 pray at the same religious institutions.

24 In recent years, Maspeth and our
25 section of Elmhurst have seen developers

1 demolish homes and construct multidwelling
2 units, which are out of scale and character
3 with the surrounding neighborhood. Both
4 Maspeth and my community have been fighting
5 to preserve the prevailing two and
6 three-family character of our neighborhood.

7 Aligning us in the same Council
8 District as Maspeth will give us a more
9 powerful voice at representation, zoning
10 projects, new developments and preservation
11 initiatives. Our sector has a high density
12 of seniors, like the Middle Village area of
13 Council District 30.

14 We need accessibility to programs,
15 services and assistance that currently is not
16 the priority of my council district. I feel
17 that our interests are not at the forefront
18 and are considered the forgotten voice.
19 Additionally, the needs and concerns of
20 residents in my area are similar to Maspeth
21 and Middle Village.

22 Most homes are owner-occupied, where we
23 share the common burden of increasing
24 property taxes, water bills, Department of
25 Building inspections and Department of

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1 Finance filings. Redistricting to the same
2 council district would allow residents to
3 share problems, solutions and advocate as a
4 group with one council member.

5 These are just some of the reasons that
6 I respectfully request for your support in
7 redistricting my area to Council District 30.

8 I thank you all for your time and
9 consideration in listening to my testimony.

10 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
11 testimony.

12 Next is Aaron -- is it Fernando?

13 MR. FERNANDO: Good afternoon,
14 Commissioners and staff. It is Aaron
15 Fernando, so thank you.

16 My name is Aaron Fernando. I am a
17 lifelong resident of Richard Hill, Queens for
18 21 years, how old I am. And last year, I was
19 the field director on a City Council campaign
20 along the Hillside Avenue corridor. Today, I
21 want to speak about both those communities
22 and why they should be kept whole under the
23 new redistricting maps.

24 Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park, as
25 many speakers have already talked about more

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1 eloquently than I could, they have formed as
2 a single immigrant community of interest for
3 decades. They are defined by rows of single
4 and two-family homes inhabited by
5 Indo-Caribbean and Punjabi Americans.

6 The area's borders, as most people
7 would define it, would be Hillside Avenue and
8 Forest Park to the north, Woodhaven Boulevard
9 to the west, the Belt Parkway to the south
10 and the Van Wyck Expressway to the east.
11 Unfortunately, for the last decade, this
12 community has been divided into three council
13 districts -- 28, 29 and 32.

14 While the bulk of the community of
15 interest is in District 28 where I live, the
16 district crosses the Van Wyck to connect to
17 Jamaica and Rochdale Village. The Van Wyck
18 is a clear geographic boundary that should
19 not be crossed when redistricting. Most
20 people don't cross that on a daily basis.
21 It's a very clear boundary that should not be
22 crossed when districts are being drawn.

23 Meanwhile, various parts of Richmond
24 Hill and South Ozone Park are connected to
25 neighborhoods as far long as Breezy Point and

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1 Forest Hills, neighborhoods that share very
2 little in common with each other. Those
3 neighborhoods should be in a single district,
4 Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park.

5 Meanwhile, the Hillside corridor refers
6 to the immigrant communities that fall along
7 Hillside Avenue Eastern Queens. Anyone who
8 has drove along Hillside Avenue or sat down
9 at a restaurant there understands the rich
10 Bangladeshi, Indian Punjabi and Guyanese
11 communities that live there.

12 The area's borders are approximately
13 the Grand Central Parkway to the north, Van
14 Wyck to the west, Jamaica Avenue to the south
15 and the Nassau County border to the east.
16 The neighborhoods -- the portions of
17 neighborhoods there are Briarwood, Jamaica
18 Hills, Hollis, Queens Village, Bellerose,
19 Glen Oaks and Floral Park.

20 Currently, the Hillside corridor is
21 split between three council districts -- 23,
22 24 and 27. South Asians are split into two
23 groups at 188th Street. District 23 connects
24 Punjabi voters to Bayside and Douglaston.
25 District 24 connects Bangladeshi voters to

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1 Kew Gardens Hills and 27 connects the
2 Caribbean voters to St. Albans.

3 South Asian neighborhoods should be
4 kept within a single district, not split into
5 three. I have submitted a citywide council
6 map to the Commission that keeps these
7 South Asian communities together. I propose
8 Richmond Hill district would go from Richmond
9 Hill, South Ozone Park, parts of Ozone Park.
10 It would be 35 percent Asian of morality. In
11 addition, I propose District 19 would keep
12 the entire Hillside corridor in one district.
13 It would be 45 percent Asian.

14 And it's not just about race, as other
15 folks have mentioned. It's about keeping
16 neighborhoods together that have been divided
17 for decades. So, it's about both keeping
18 immigrant communities together, as well as
19 keeping neighborhoods together. It would
20 keep South Asian communities of interest
21 together and allow them to elect the
22 candidates of their choice.

23 And I appreciate you having this
24 hearing today and letting me testify. Thank
25 you so much.

1 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you very
2 much. I appreciate your testimony.

3 Next is virtual.

4 Albert.

5 MR. BALDEO: Good evening. Good day,
6 Commissioners.

7 Certainly, the elephant in the room is
8 Richmond Hill, as you've heard from the last
9 few speakers. And the problem here is that
10 as much as we qualify for representation, we
11 don't -- we have never gotten it. This is my
12 third rodeo. You're the third different
13 groups I've appeared before over my
14 three decades of fighting this issue.

15 Tomorrow is elections at the assembly
16 level and I'm a candidate for that. Why am I
17 here? Because there's a bigger issue that's
18 involved. We have been deprived
19 institutionally and systematically of
20 representation. Because right now, we have
21 City Councils District 32 and 28 that is
22 divided down the middle at 114th Avenue.

23 And that is a major problem because we
24 cannot speak with one voice. And as much as
25 we're compact, contiguous and satisfy all the

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1 criteria of redistricting and the principles
2 there, we have been cut short. We have been
3 shortchanged by various Commissions over the
4 years.

5 Last ten years, there was a Carl Hum
6 who sat on the Commission who came to
7 Richmond Hill. We begged him to come. He
8 went all over. He saw all the districts
9 there, all the Bandese (phonetic), the
10 mastiets (phonetic), all the commonality,
11 Bangladeshis, Guyanese, Punjabis,
12 Trinidadians and he went back and he still
13 couldn't do anything because there's an
14 institutional block against us; that must
15 change with this Commission.

16 Recently, a judge scrapped the
17 districts, the maps, as gerrymandered. And
18 that should send a signal to you that enough
19 is enough. People are looking and the courts
20 are willing to strike any map that you're
21 going to draw that do not do justice to the
22 increase in population, the second largest.

23 The Mayor and all the City government
24 deemed us as Little Guyana, little Punjab and
25 little Bangladesh, and this is the district

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1 I'm talking about or two districts; one is
2 from Hillside to the Conduit and the other
3 boundary is from Van Wyck to Woodhaven. That
4 is as natural, geographic, compact,
5 contiguous and all the legal criteria that
6 are laid out in the laws of a great nation.

7 For you to toss it aside would be an
8 abdication of your sworn duties and it will
9 not be taken lightly. I'm not here to
10 threaten you, but I'm just here to make the
11 reality that we have been coming here for
12 three decades and being chased away with
13 nothing and that must stop.

14 The only person who has reappeared here
15 is Dr. John Flateau, and he could probably
16 give a history as to why we never got our
17 districts fairly, but we're not going to take
18 it anymore.

19 Now, in Bangladesh, we have a talk
20 that's about the Bangladesh in just over the
21 Van Wyck there by Hillside Avenue, that they
22 should have their own district there, Little
23 Bangladesh, Highland Avenue and Hillside. By
24 the same token, we should have our own
25 district in Howard -- in Richmond Hill and

1 Ozone Park and South Ozone Park.

2 It is as compact and contiguous as it
3 could possibly be, demarcated by natural
4 boundaries like the Van Wyck Expressway,
5 Forest Park, Woodhaven Boulevard and
6 South Conduit. What more do you want? Why
7 is this elephant still in the room after
8 three decades? I doubt whether the life of
9 an elephant is that long.

10 So, it behooves you to do your duty and
11 it behooves you to do the right thing. We
12 cannot come here day after day -- like Martin
13 Luther King said, you gave us a blank check
14 that can't be cashed.

15 We had the highest COVID rate. Why is
16 that? Because we don't have representation.
17 Our people died in the highest numbers and we
18 are essential workers, yes, we are the baby
19 sitters, the grave diggers, we are the people
20 who run this country, who make it move, who
21 run the City, who are the bulwark of the
22 city. What do we get in return? Zero. We
23 get little respect, little resources or none
24 at all.

25 We don't even have any kind of justice

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1 here. Our people are locked up just like
2 crazy just to feed into the prison system for
3 people to get out of their contracts. We are
4 used as fillers to fill districts, where your
5 children must grow up in a cycle of poverty,
6 never able to reach the American dream.

7 And chancellor Walcott, you could
8 appreciate what that means, as a former
9 chancellor, where your kids go into the cycle
10 of poverty because there's a glass ceiling or
11 a granite ceiling or a limit to which they
12 can reach.

13 We are great people. We come here and
14 have built Richmond Hill from nothing. We
15 have never been rewarded. We have never been
16 acknowledged, apart from tokenism, like a
17 sign, two inches by three inches "Little
18 Guyana." It's up to you to change that.

19 And you must be able to withstand
20 scrutiny. You have the numbers. We have the
21 largest populations. It is the right thing
22 to do, and that is why this Commission's
23 hands are tied to the law, that you must do
24 what is right. You must do what is fair. We
25 are counting on you. We're depending on you.

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1 And it is three decades now I've been coming
2 back and forth.

3 There's a lack of enthusiasm when
4 people tell me, "I am not going to come out
5 and vote Mr. Baldeo. You're a great
6 candidate. You've fought for decades. You
7 are a hero, but our votes will not be
8 counted. Our votes will not matter."

9 Because there's a man whose father was
10 a chairman of speaker City Council running
11 against the borough, David Weprin, he was in
12 office since 1965 and hand his son the
13 monarchy down, like the British, and now the
14 British, they own the city for generations to
15 come.

16 Are you telling me that that district
17 didn't change since 1965?

18 CHAIR WALCOTT: Could you just wrap
19 up --

20 MR. BALDEO: So, in closing, all I'm
21 asking you is do not lump us with Howard
22 Beach. While I was at the last campaign
23 there and people pulled guns on us, um --
24 retired police officers. There's a lot of
25 tension in these neighborhoods.

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1 Look at me. There's nobody looking
2 like me or talking like me ever elected. You
3 expect people to support us except our own?
4 We are here on a mission, a voyage, a
5 pilgrimage, and we're now in the third decade
6 of it. And please respect that. You have
7 judges. You have a lot of labor unions
8 people there.

9 Do the right thing. Cut us our
10 district. Combine 28 and 32 together. Take
11 us out from the abyss of Rochdale Village.
12 Rochdale Village is the second largest co-op
13 in the --

14 CHAIR WALCOTT: Wrap up, please.

15 MR. BALDEO: -- we have one and two
16 family homes. Do the right thing and make us
17 whole; that's all we ask.

18 And I thank you very much for your
19 service and we look forward to hearing from
20 you.

21 CHAIR WALCOTT: Thank you. Okay.

22 Next, in person, we'll have -- is it
23 Elizabeth Diente?

24 MS. DIENTE: Good afternoon, everybody.

25 CHAIR WALCOTT: Good afternoon.

1 MS. DIENTE: Good afternoon, everybody
2 here. I'm Elizabeth Diente. I'm 83 years
3 old, and I'm familiar of Woodside, Queens.

4 I moved to Woodside in 1976 when my
5 daughter was born, and she had her first
6 birthday in that house where she has to now
7 reside, still residing. When I came here in
8 1970, there were a few Asian in where I -- on
9 our block. As a matter of fact, we are the
10 only Filipinos, and one other Chinese family
11 across the street, and that's about it.

12 But later on, with my daughter's help,
13 my husband -- and my husband, I stayed in
14 Woodside. She formed this Little Manila
15 Avenue and also the Bayanihan Arts, which is
16 the main member association of the APA Voice
17 Redistricting Task Force.

18 The APA community should be kept whole
19 in Elmhurst and Woodside with two separate
20 civic council districts. In the beginning in
21 1976, there were a few Asian Americans,
22 that's when we first bought the house. There
23 were great in -- and then in the '70s, '80s
24 and '90s, there was a big influx of Asian
25 Americans that moved to Elmhurst area and

1 Woodside area.

2 And I have many Filipino friends who
3 are like me went in the health care
4 industry -- doctors, nurses, phlebotomists
5 and who worked in -- who worked at the
6 Filipino restaurant business took off, and
7 which led to the beginning of the Little
8 Manila Coalition.

9 We later move to Rockland County, but
10 on and off I've been visiting my daughter who
11 is still, as I said, in the same house where
12 we lived. In the '70s and '90s, we were few
13 numbers of immigrants struggling hard to make
14 a living in America in health care field. We
15 could not have made the voices -- we could
16 not make our voices heard.

17 There were many labor issues, including
18 displaced fear of American workers, American
19 Asian workers taking over the jobs when in
20 reality, our services were in demand. Now,
21 there's a big population of APA in these
22 neighborhoods, and their contribution need to
23 be recognized and their needs addressed, by
24 keeping the Asian American community as whole
25 as possible.

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1 More APAs, like my daughter, are
2 becoming involved in many, many making voices
3 of the American Asian community heard and can
4 make a difference. The organizations, like
5 the Little America, Little Manila Queens and
6 Bayanihan Arts are one of the examples.

7 Thank you so much for listening.

8 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for
9 coming down, your testimony as well. Thank
10 you.

11 Next is virtual.

12 Geomnam Lee?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIR WALCOTT: Richard David?

15 MR. DAVID: For being here in Queens
16 and for making this hearing so accessible.

17 CHAIR WALCOTT: Richard, can you start
18 from the beginning again? I think you may
19 have been slightly muted in your opening, so
20 can you just start from the beginning?

21 MR. DAVID: Absolutely.

22 All right. Good afternoon. I'm
23 Richard David. I wanted to thank the
24 Commission for making itself so accessible
25 and for being here in Queens. I'm Richard

1 David. I'm a democratic district leader in
2 Assembly District 31, that includes Richmond
3 Hill, it includes South Ozone Park, parts of
4 Rosedale, Springfield Gardens and Brookville.

5 I'm relieved and I'm excited to see so
6 many of my neighbors and friends are
7 participating in this hearing today. I want
8 to echo the testimonies from members of the
9 Rosedale Civic Association, keeping Rosedale
10 together in a single council district. Right
11 now that's Council District 31.

12 This is one of the strongest and most
13 vocal civic associations that we have in New
14 York City, and residents here take a
15 tremendous amount of pride being a part of
16 this organization representing their
17 neighborhood. They must be kept together in
18 Council District 31.

19 I also want to talk about my home,
20 which is in South Ozone Park and in Richmond
21 Hill, where we are deeply divided. We're
22 represented -- as you've heard from other
23 speakers -- by Districts 28, 29, and 32. The
24 reality is because we are divided in three
25 Council Districts, we're not the priority in

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1 any single one of them.

2 And that's reflected in the fact that
3 not a single one of the three members have a
4 council district office in any part of these
5 neighborhoods, and so it means that they're
6 inaccessible. They're harder to get to. And
7 our issues, constituent issues and others,
8 take a longer time to get attention.

9 It also means that we pay for the
10 misrepresentation with our lives. In
11 COVID-19, it took months and months and
12 months to even get a COVID testing site in
13 our neighborhood, and it took a lot of
14 organizing work.

15 And that's why I'm so happy to see a
16 lot of the residents from Richmond Hill and
17 South Ozone Park here today because we know
18 what it's like. We've been on the front
19 lines fighting for our neighborhood, but we
20 want the City Council to fight for us, too.

21 It's also meant that our pride and joy,
22 Liberty Avenue, where we have a lot of small
23 and large businesses, we have places of
24 worship and it's where we gather as a
25 community. We don't even have garbage cans

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1 at this popular and busy shopping corridor in
2 our neighborhood. We have buses and trains
3 there. We don't even have proper sanitation.

4 And so, the reality is, we are here
5 because we want basic services like other New
6 Yorkers, and we're here to ask this
7 Commission to take a look at how we can
8 create a district that would largely include
9 South Ozone Park and Richmond Hill. I
10 believe the AALDEF map gets us very close to
11 an ideal district, and I'm here to speak in
12 support of that map.

13 I am also, in closing, really happy to
14 hear, to have heard that Dennis Walcott is
15 chairing this Commission, and that there are
16 so many other commissioners on this panel who
17 are deeply familiar with the things that I've
18 talked about here today. And I look forward
19 to working with you and supporting your
20 efforts to create a fair Council District
21 that would include Richmond Hill and
22 South Ozone Park in a single district.

23 Thank you so much.

24 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
25 testimony.

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1 Next, we have -- is it Princes Deleon?

2 MS. DELEON: Good afternoon. My name
3 is Princes Deleon, and I am 19 years old. My
4 parents and I moved to America from Saudi
5 Arabia in 2009, seeking financial stability,
6 work and a better life for me.

7 We first lived in my great-aunt's
8 basement, as we came to America with very
9 little money. And eventually moved into our
10 first apartment on 67th Street. We stayed in
11 Woodside, as it was close to the 7 train,
12 which my mother would take to commute into
13 work at a clinic in Lenox Hill. And it was
14 close to my elementary school in P.S. 12 and
15 my middle school in I.S. 125.

16 I grew up there until I moved to Middle
17 Village in 2014. However, I still frequently
18 went to Woodside, as many of my friends that
19 I made growing up live in the neighborhood,
20 and we would often meet in parks and
21 libraries in Woodside and Elmhurst.

22 My parents also recently opened Amazing
23 Grace Restaurant in November of 2020 in the
24 heart of Little Manila and opened an Amazing
25 Grace Grocery across the street during the

1 summer of 2021, where I help them work,
2 part-time.

3 Arriving in New York City was
4 intimidating, as life here is very different
5 compared to life in Saudi Arabia and in the
6 Philippines. However, it was the vast
7 Filipino community in Woodside and Elmhurst
8 that welcomed us and gave my father jobs
9 through connections, showed us how to rent a
10 home, taught us how to navigate public
11 transportation and gave us a chosen family in
12 a foreign country full of unfamiliar faces.

13 Growing up in Woodside, I always saw
14 Elmhurst as almost an extension of Woodside,
15 as it was so close to me and we would often
16 have to go there to visit friends and go
17 grocery shopping. Markets such as Top Line
18 and Hong Kong Supermarket offered affordable
19 groceries and were places where we could
20 easily find Asian ingredients that my parents
21 were familiar with.

22 Likewise, for our friends that live in
23 Elmhurst, they would often have to go to
24 Woodside to send money and balikbayan boxes
25 to the Philippines in businesses such as

1 Lucky Money and Johnny Air Cargo. Along
2 Woodside Avenue, there are also many Filipino
3 restaurants where our families would often
4 meet and bond together.

5 The APA community of Elmhurst, Jackson
6 Heights and Woodside are too big to form one
7 City Council District. Therefore, the APA
8 community in Woodside, Elmhurst and Jackson
9 Heights should be kept in whole in two
10 separate City Council districts. Keeping the
11 APA neighborhoods in these two areas whole
12 recognize the presence of the rising and
13 prevalent APA community in these
14 neighborhoods.

15 It is important that our families share
16 immigration experiences, our restaurants and
17 grocery stores that cater to Asian Americans
18 in our APA community are visible, heard and
19 addressed.

20 Thank you very much for letting me
21 testify. Have a good day.

22 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
23 testimony.

24 Next, we have virtual.

25 Jeanette Tillman.

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1 (No response.)

2 CHAIR WALCOTT: Jeanette Tillman?

3 Jeanette?

4 (No response.)

5 MODERATOR: Okay. Let's try Glynis

6 Aquino.

7 CHAIR WALCOTT: Glynis Aquino?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIR WALCOTT: We'll do one more
10 virtual, unless Glynis is there. I see
11 Glynis Aquino's name up there.

12 (No response.)

13 MODERATOR: They're there but not able
14 to unmute. Husain Mahmoud.

15 CHAIR WALCOTT: Husain Mahmoud?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIR WALCOTT: Why don't we do this:
18 Why don't we go with one in person then we'll
19 get back to virtual again?

20 So, next up for virtual (sic) -- is it
21 Marcial?

22 MARCIAL REID: Thank you for giving me
23 the opportunity to speak here.

24 My name is Marcial Reid, and I'll be a
25 7th grader at Academy of St. Joseph and I'm a

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1 New Yorker. I'm pretty new to speaking in
2 front of committees, but I'm a Filipino
3 American, and I'm here to advocate for our
4 Little Manila community in Woodside and
5 Elmhurst, Queens.

6 I've been coming to Woodside and
7 Elmhurst with my family for as long as I can
8 remember. We come to Little Manila for the
9 food and the groceries that my mom and dad
10 can't get at Whole Foods or Trader Joe's, but
11 most importantly, we come to Little Manila
12 for the community.

13 The Little Manila community was built
14 by people like my grandparents, my Lolo and
15 Lola. They came to the United States in the
16 1970s and when many communities like Woodside
17 and Elmhurst had a shortage of trained
18 doctors and nurses. Many of the Filipinos
19 who came to Queens stayed, built businesses,
20 opened restaurants and went to church
21 together and lived together.

22 I may be young, but I'm advocating for
23 the Filipino American community in Woodside
24 and Elmhurst to be kept as whole in their
25 districts as much as possible. Many of the

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1 Filipino front line workers that died caring
2 for New Yorkers came from our community.

3 Like many communities, Little Manila
4 businesses were affected by the pandemic.
5 Hate crimes against Asians, not just
6 Filipinos, continue. Who is going to
7 represent our community if we are
8 redistricted? If we're redistricted, not
9 much at all. I hope you will make the wise
10 decision to keep our community.

11 Thank you for giving me the opportunity
12 to speak here.

13 (Applause).

14 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for
15 coming out. Much appreciated.

16 Next is virtual. We have Brian
17 Griffith.

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIR WALCOTT: Brian Griffith?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIR WALCOTT: Shawn Chandler?

22 MR. CHANDLER: Yes. So, how are you
23 doing today? Thank you for this -- my name
24 is Shawn Chandler, and I'm a community
25 organizer from Rochdale Village. I'm the

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1 co-founder of JOJ, which is for Jewel of
2 Jamaica.

3 And Rochdale Village is around 5,860
4 apartments, more than a 120 acres of land.
5 We're currently representing District 28, and
6 I basically would like to say that we're
7 definitely not interested in Rochdale being
8 divided up into two separate districts.

9 Basically, that's really much my main
10 concern. We have shopping malls. We have a
11 post office, the library, you name it. It's
12 a beautiful community. And at this point, we
13 are moving to empower ourselves even more
14 into the years to come, and we just don't
15 want to be divided up.

16 We know many different things happening
17 with these redistricting lines, and we want
18 to make sure that Rochdale stays intact. As
19 far as representation, so far we have
20 Adrienne Adams doing a great job with
21 representation, and we look forward to
22 building together.

23 So, I just wanted to say that and keep
24 it really simple, and that's really about it.
25 Thank you very much.

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1 CHAIR WALCOTT: Thank you for your
2 testimony.

3 And Marcial, is it?

4 Ken, do you want to take a picture with
5 him directly at the microphone, if the
6 audience would allow me this one moment.

7 (Applause).

8 (Brief pause in proceedings.)

9 CHAIR WALCOTT: Thank you.

10 All right. Next, we have -- is it
11 John Bahia?

12 MR. BAHIA: Hello, hello. Nice seeing
13 y'all again. Second time here, but good
14 evening. Thank you for having me today.
15 Members of the City Council Redistricting
16 Commission, my name is John Bahia, and I'm
17 the part-time community affair associate at
18 Woodside On The Move, which is a social
19 service inadequacy nonprofit found in 1976 in
20 Woodside, Queens.

21 I'm also a co-founder of Youth on the
22 Move, a youth-led initiative of local Western
23 Queens youths, ages 15 to 25 looking to
24 serve, advocate for the best interest of the
25 youth of their community. I'm also a member

1 of my local community board of Queens
2 Community Board 2, and I'm a resident of
3 Woodside, Queens.

4 Woodside is a vibrant and multicultural
5 neighborhood that is home to several
6 immigrant communities. I, like many others,
7 associate my community, which is Filipino
8 community in Woodside, with Little Manila.
9 Walking along Roosevelt Avenue, you'll see
10 Filipino small businesses everywhere, ranging
11 from restaurants, beauty salons, barbershops,
12 grocery stores, remitted centers and driving
13 schools.

14 Stretching from 63rd Street to 71st
15 Street, the Filipino community has created
16 Little Manila into our own cultural center
17 and business district. Little Manila is a
18 major attraction for Filipinos all across New
19 York City, Long Island, New Jersey,
20 Connecticut and basically the entire
21 East Coast.

22 Other than the commercial district of
23 Little Manila, Filipinos reside in the Asian
24 American community of interest of Woodside
25 and Elmhurst, and we refer this to the Asian

1 American Legal Defense and Educational Fund,
2 AALDEF, COI maps. Specifically for Woodside
3 and Elmhurst and Jackson Heights, Woodside
4 opt to move to support these communities of
5 interest maps and urges the Commission to
6 keep these communities of interest whole to
7 the extent possible.

8 As a nonprofit organization serving a
9 majority of Asian American communities in
10 Woodside and other neighborhoods in western
11 Queens, we highly believe that the AALDEF
12 maps will best represent how the community of
13 interest are kept whole and together.

14 Little Manila and a huge portion of
15 Filipino community residing in Woodside and
16 Elmhurst is currently in one state Assembly
17 district, which is Assembly District 30, and
18 despite their contribution to the local
19 economy and the tourism industry, the
20 Filipino has been effectively silent in New
21 York State legislature both in city and
22 state.

23 This is most evident in economic
24 outcomes for Filipino Americans. Filipinos
25 are the fourth largest Asian ethnic group in

1 New York City and yet Filipinos have the
2 highest poverty rate among Asian. This is
3 even more distressing when you consider about
4 50 percent of Filipinos in New York City live
5 in the borough of Queens.

6 In the recent redistricting process for
7 New York State, we saw the state legislature
8 pass an assembly map that was nearly
9 identical to what the unity map proposed for
10 Woodside. The Filipino community, including
11 Little Manila, was finally unified into one
12 district. This allowed Filipino residents,
13 workers and business owners to have a unified
14 voice in their state government.

15 Finally, Filipinos would have the
16 greatest chance to build a collective voting
17 power and also the opportunity to weigh in
18 their voices on how their community can be
19 invested in, how their community can be
20 supported, and how their community can be
21 seen.

22 With the potential challenges and
23 threats to these newly drawn maps, the
24 Filipino community is concerned that they
25 will have this great chance taken away from

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1 them before being able to use it. This
2 redistricting process is not just about
3 district lines, but being able to establish
4 equity and change amongst economic
5 disparities for large and often overlooked
6 communities in Queens and even New York
7 State.

8 I strongly urge the Commission to
9 please consider our testimonies today.
10 Please keep Woodside and Elmhurst separate,
11 but whole, in their respective City Council
12 Districts 25 and 26 in New York City.

13 Thank you. Thank you so much for
14 having me.

15 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
16 testimony.

17 Next, virtual, Jean Han -- Hung.

18 MS. HALL: Is that Jean Hall, H-A-L-L?

19 CHAIR WALCOTT: Yes, Jean Hall.

20 MS. HALL: Okay. Thank you.

21 CHAIR WALCOTT: You're welcome.

22 MS. HALL: Good evening to the
23 Commissioners. I appreciate having this
24 quick moment just to share with you about my
25 view regarding Rochdale Village.

1 I am a member of the Rochdale Village
2 board of directors. And as was stated, we
3 are a community with 20 buildings that serves
4 over -- that has 5,860 units, serving over
5 25,000 people. It is greatly important to us
6 that our community remain as one district.

7 We are willing to work with any other
8 communities and our neighbors to ensure that
9 the district remains strong, vibrant and
10 viable, but it is critically important that
11 all the work that we're doing to unify our
12 shareholders and to unify this community is
13 not sidetracked by having our community
14 split.

15 I want to thank you. And we will be
16 making a more formal report to you at a later
17 date. Again, thank you.

18 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
19 testimony.

20 Again, as a reminder that we will
21 definitely be accepting other virtual but
22 also written testimony by e-mail.

23 And John, any information?

24 DR. FLATEAU: We could give you -- if
25 you could take out a pen and write this

1 e-mail address down. Many of you have your
2 testimony right now on your smartphone. You
3 could e-mail this before you even leave the
4 room.

5 The e-mail, one word, publictestimony,
6 P-U-B-L-I-C-T-E-S-T-I-M-O-N-Y
7 @redistricting.nyc.gov. We're open for
8 business 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
9 You could submit that testimony at any time,
10 whether you go to another hearing or no
11 hearing, you could always submit your
12 testimony, your narrative.

13 But let me add another request:
14 Wherever you can also send us a map, a map,
15 you are reciting off a lot of boulevards,
16 Avenues, neighborhood boundaries, if you did
17 a quick -- even if it was a map with a pen on
18 one piece of paper, you could submit that as
19 a map to the Districting Commissioners and
20 they will incorporate this into the work that
21 they're going forward with. So, please
22 submit a map, if you can, and submit your
23 testimony at any time.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIR WALCOTT: Thank you, Doctor.

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1 Angela Li.

2 Hold on one second, that way we can
3 adjust the mic.

4 MS. LI: Thank you, Commissioners, for
5 the opportunity to testify. My name is
6 Angela Li. I'm a resident of Elmhurst and
7 I'm 22 years old.

8 I have lived in Elmhurst for more than
9 18 years, and I currently work at Immigration
10 Social Services, a nonprofit serving the
11 Asian American immigrant population for the
12 Chinatown and Lower East Side as a civic
13 engagement coordinator. I assess the member
14 organization of APA Voice Redistricting Task
15 Force, and I'm here to urge you guys to keep
16 Elmhurst whole in one city council district.
17 So, for my testimony, I would like to take
18 you guys on a tour of my neighborhood.

19 In 2003, my parents pulled all their
20 savings together to buy their first home on
21 Reeder Street in Elmhurst, right next to an
22 Asian supermarket where my dad would frequent
23 daily to get groceries.

24 Our home was walking distance from my
25 elementary school, where I learned English

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1 for the first time in a class at Elmhurst
2 library. This is where I played after school
3 with neighborhood kids and learned to read
4 for the first time.

5 With busy working class parents, I
6 relied on the neighborhood community and
7 resources to raise and shape me into the
8 person I am today. Along Broadway and
9 Whitney Avenue, I devoured my way through
10 some of the best Chinese Southeast Asian and
11 South Asian restaurants.

12 When I wasn't eating, I was attending
13 art prep and Chinese classes around Elmhurst
14 Avenue. And further down near 82nd Street, I
15 would go see our family pediatrician for
16 annual checkups. In the summer, we cooled
17 off by the sprinklers on Broadway Park and
18 ate ice cream from the street vendors.

19 Within this community of majority non-English
20 speaking Asian Pacific American immigrants,
21 we help each other translate letters, find
22 housing and jobs for one another, and these
23 exchanges often took place in the library or
24 in parks where elders gathered to play chess.

25 And we also celebrated together through

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1 annual barbecues that one of the neighborhood
2 churches would always host. Sorry. It is
3 these experiences with my community that
4 inspired me to attend UCLA and pursue a
5 degree in Asian American studies. Four years
6 later, I have returned and made my home in
7 Elmhurst once more. This time across Queens
8 Boulevard on 57th Road.

9 I cross Queens Boulevard daily to visit
10 the same restaurants, get my groceries and
11 visit my parents. In the time that I have
12 left and came back, Elmhurst has only grown
13 more diverse and resilient. The APA
14 community in Elmhurst is bound together by
15 more than just our necessity.

16 As a community, we continue to seek
17 access to greater language and immigrant
18 justice, as well as affordable housing and
19 resources for our schools. We ask that you
20 consider Elmhurst as one community of
21 interest, and please continue to keep our APA
22 community in the same council district. To
23 divide Elmhurst is to deny our APA community
24 a voice, a safe place to call home and
25 equitable access to resources.

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1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you very much
3 for your testimony.

4 (Applause).

5 Next, Virtual, Fay Hill.

6 Is Fay Hill there?

7 (No response.)

8 MODERATOR: Let's try Khedda
9 Hayden-Ryan.

10 CHAIR WALCOTT: Khedda Hayden-Ryan?

11 (No response.)

12 MODERATOR: Let's --

13 MS. FAY HILL: Hello, this is Fay Hill.
14 Did someone call me?

15 CHAIR WALCOTT: Okay. Fay Hill. Yes,
16 ma'am. We can hear you.

17 MS. FAY HILL: Okay. Did I put down to
18 testify? I am -- good evening, panel. My
19 name is Fay D. Hill. I'm the district leader
20 for 31B. My co-partner just spoke, Richard
21 Davis (sic). We cover Rockaway, Far
22 Rockaway, Rosedale, Springfield Gardens, and
23 part of South Ozone Park.

24 My concern is that the residents, with
25 this new redistricting, a lot of residents do

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1 not know where to vote, for one reason,
2 because the line has been drawn and they
3 don't know where to go. I've been living in
4 Springfield Gardens for 45 years, and I
5 raised two boys who are great producers of
6 the social -- of the career and they have
7 done very good in school, as I expected.

8 But I can see in my area in Springfield
9 Gardens, especially Springfield Gardens,
10 there is a lack of service, which our new
11 councilwoman has been able to start giving
12 fundings to our area. We don't have any
13 restaurants. We don't have social place that
14 people can go. And we have a lot of seniors
15 who occupy this area, people who have lived
16 here, like myself, for 40, 50 years.

17 And we have a lot of complaints about
18 our equality and there's a lot lacking, and,
19 you know, we are hoping that with the new
20 councilwoman at hand, we would get more
21 support both in the community and our areas
22 where it's lacking, especially the roads are
23 not painted. We don't have public
24 transportation, especially for our seniors.
25 We don't have supermarkets that's close by,

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1 and we don't have a senior -- or a senior
2 center for our seniors. We don't even have a
3 library that's close by Springfield Gardens.

4 So, there's a lot of things that we're
5 trying to improve, and improve the quality of
6 life in Springfield Gardens and the other
7 communities. We were able to do -- where
8 I -- we formed an organization volunteers for
9 Springfield Park because Springfield Park was
10 delapidated and deplorable and now with our
11 energy and our discretionary funds from our
12 public of -- elected officials, we were able
13 to improve the quality of life in
14 Springfield.

15 And we hope that it will be one of the
16 forefronts of our areas where we could have
17 people that come out and, you know, relax,
18 enjoy their basketball game, enjoy the park
19 and so forth. We're hoping that in the
20 future, that people will enjoy their
21 neighborhood as they're supposed to because
22 the quality of life has really gone down.

23 And I'm glad I was able to speak. I
24 didn't know I was going to testify. There's
25 a lot of things that I would like to say, but

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1 we only have a three-minute span. Thank you
2 very much for hearing my few complaints, but
3 there's a whole list that we need to address.

4 Thank you very much. Good evening.

5 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you very
6 much.

7 And again, just as a reminder, you will
8 definitely have an opportunity to submit
9 anything else that you would like to write in
10 testimony and always check our website as
11 well, so feel free to send it in.

12 Next is Reverend Thorbs.

13 MS. THORBS: Good evening. I'm
14 Reverend Carlene Thorbs. I'm here not just
15 as a resident. I've lived here all my life.
16 I'm the second generation for my family to be
17 a homeowner here, but I'm also the Community
18 Board 12 chair.

19 And what that entails is, my border is
20 the Van Wyck Expressway, the south side of
21 Hillside Avenue, Francis Lewis, Farmers
22 Boulevard running into Springfield and the
23 Conduit.

24 I've listened to a lot of testimony
25 here this evening, and I'm hearing what

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1 people are saying and what they want for
2 their community. But under the Community
3 Board 12, I have 400 souls that I'm over, as
4 well as a board of 52 members and 36 of our
5 languages is spoken in this community.

6 So, there is no -- we are mosaic and
7 the board is interracial and it crosses all
8 the way across the board for everyone.
9 Everyone has a voice. I'm concerned because
10 I'm hearing certain communities saying they
11 want to come together, and I don't begrudge
12 them that, but not at the expense of other
13 communities.

14 Rochdale is in my district as well.
15 The speaker is in my district as well. We
16 have to cater to and work with everyone. You
17 cannot come up and climb up on the backs of
18 someone else, on the backs of another
19 community; that's not acceptable. Yes, other
20 communities want to be heard, and we are
21 here. I am here, and from the office that
22 I'm in, to hear their concerns.

23 Quality of life in this district is for
24 everyone. It's for everyone. I'm beginning
25 to see in some parts of the district -- I

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1 also cover Districts 27, 28 and 29 school
2 districts, and I'm beginning to hear
3 murmurings from other communities about "keep
4 your kids on your side of town." We're not
5 going back to the 1960s and the '50s. They
6 may not know because maybe they weren't here,
7 but my parents know. My grandparents know.

8 This very law, 1965, that was my
9 community and that was their bloodshed --
10 Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, that's what
11 that was all about. And everyone here that
12 can walk these streets and be in the United
13 States and live and do and go to any
14 community that you want to, it's because of
15 the history that was already laid here.

16 (Applause).

17 MS. THORBS: And it should not be
18 forgotten, and it should not be overlooked.
19 And we can't be overlooked. We are a full
20 community. Everyone has to live together.
21 We have to work together. I have to -- I go
22 to mosques. I go to temples. I go to
23 itarsi, and I walk with this notebook and I
24 take down the concerns of anyone and everyone
25 that I'm talking to. Because across the

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1 board is quality of life.

2 You want your children to go to quality
3 schools, the same as I want your child to go
4 to a quality school, have clean water,
5 sanitation pickup the way it's supposed to
6 pick up, and all the other utilities.

7 Everyone that I am talking to, mostly if
8 they're homeowners -- our taxes are going up.
9 Our utilities are going up. This is
10 something that we have to fight and deal with
11 together, not separate.

12 We can't afford to separate. We have
13 to work together. Everyone has a right --
14 and I will end on this -- to uplift their
15 community, to uplift their people. I
16 understand that.

17 But again, not on the backs of anyone
18 else. These laws that people are standing on
19 and talking about, these laws were because of
20 the bloodshed that was shed before you even
21 got here, understand that. Respect it. This
22 is American history. Our history and others.
23 This is our history. Let's not forget that.

24 Thank you.

25 (Applause).

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1 CHAIR WALCOTT: Thank you for your
2 testimony.

3 Next, virtual.

4 MODERATOR: We have Aracelia Cook.

5 CHAIR WALCOTT: Aracelia Cook?

6 MS. COOK: Yes, good evening.

7 CHAIR WALCOTT: Good evening.

8 MS. COOK: I'm very grateful and
9 honored to have this opportunity to represent
10 my community. I have been in this community,
11 Southeast Queens, for over 60 years. I am
12 first time homeowner for my generation for my
13 family, and I have been representing this
14 community. I'm the president of 149th Street
15 Civic Association.

16 In November 2019, we suffered horribly
17 at the hands of the City when we had the
18 sewage backup. We had the collapse of a
19 42-inch sewer pipe. Many homeowners, over
20 250 homeowners, has raw sewage in their
21 homes. We have become so close-knit behind
22 that. Our district, Southeast Queens, along
23 with Rochdale, the speaker, Councilwoman
24 Adams, has worked with us tirelessly to write
25 the wrongs of the City.

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1 We need to stay connected. We need to
2 stay supported as we are. And without her
3 help, we wouldn't even be along where we are
4 with fighting this battle with the City, as
5 Mayor de Blasio promised to make us whole,
6 along with the comptroller, Scott Stringer,
7 who did not pay out these claims. We're
8 still fighting that. They're still helping
9 us with that.

10 We're still fighting the dumping, the
11 sanitation problems, all these issues. I'm
12 on the Council Task Force for Adams, for
13 Councilwoman Adams' office, as we address all
14 of these inequities. So, we need to stay
15 connected. We need to be -- we don't need to
16 go somewhere else. Look at the work that has
17 been done.

18 And I will submit in a written
19 testimony. I really wish I could have been
20 there, so that I could really stress my
21 passion for what needs to be done for
22 South Queens, and Southeast
23 Queens, South Ozone Park, Rochdale.

24 We are in this together, and we have
25 been representing each other, whether it's

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1 with Reverend Thorbs, the community board,
2 I'm there in all those meetings. I'm at the
3 113th Precinct Council Meeting. I am
4 everywhere that I feel that we're going to be
5 able to unite and address the inequities of
6 our communities.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
9 testimony. We're looking forward to getting
10 the written testimony as well. So, thank you
11 very much.

12 Next is -- is it Liz Ouyang? I may not
13 be pronouncing it correctly.

14 MS. OUYANG: Good afternoon. My name
15 is Liz Ouyang, coordinator of APA Voice
16 Redistricting Task Force.

17 As you know, Queens is home to the most
18 Asian Americans in the City. A documented
19 29 percent increase in APA since the last
20 census in Queens alone. Of the 16 APA
21 communities of interest, our coalition helped
22 AALDEF to identify 11 are in Queens. They
23 include the neighborhoods of Elmhurst,
24 Woodside, Jackson Heights, Flushing, Bayside
25 Auburndale, Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park,

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1 Flushing, Ozone Park, Auburndale Bayside,
2 Oakland Gardens, Jamaica Hills, Briarwood and
3 Queens Village, Floral Park.

4 They have many shared interests and
5 concerns in common, including immigrant
6 integration issues, language access, need for
7 culturally competent services, ethnic grocery
8 stores, restaurants and houses of worship,
9 shared transportation lines and concerns for
10 public safety amid growing anti-Asian
11 violence.

12 Each of these neighborhood community of
13 interest must remain whole in one City
14 Council district to the extent possible.
15 Current City Council maps actually do a
16 pretty good job of keeping APA communities of
17 interest intact, with a few important
18 exceptions.

19 Current City Council District 25,
20 Elmhurst; District 23, Oakland Gardens,
21 Queens Village, Floral Park; and 24, Jamaica
22 Hills, Briarwood -- do keep the APA community
23 of interest in one district. They should not
24 be retrogressed in any redrawing of City
25 Council district lines. The APA community of

1 interests are largely in one district in the
2 following districts:

3 In Woodside in District 26, in Jackson
4 Heights in District 25, and Ozone Park in
5 District 32. Asian Americans are a protected
6 racial group under the Voting Rights Act and
7 protected racial and language minorities are
8 a priority under federal law in the
9 New York City Charter.

10 However, there are two areas which
11 could be improved; one is Richmond Hill,
12 South Ozone Park, which is currently divided
13 into three City Council districts. I would
14 highlight the testimony of Task Force member
15 organization, South Queens Women's March,
16 earlier today and the litany of groups
17 testifying today and on May 26th in support
18 of keeping Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park
19 whole to the extent possible.

20 We recognize the contributions of
21 African-Americans and Latinos to United
22 States, and we are working in coalition with
23 the Unity Coalition to draw a map that is
24 fair for all groups to have equal access and
25 opportunity to have their voices heard and

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1 their concerns addressed.

2 In Flushing and Bayside, Auburndale,
3 there could also be important and reasonable
4 improvements to improve more of the community
5 of interests that would make both districts
6 more compact and cohesive. I refer you to
7 John Park of the Minkwon Center for Community
8 Action who testified virtually just minutes
9 earlier.

10 And namely, you could move the northern
11 border of District 20 to 24th Road on the
12 east, and the corner of 20th Avenue on the
13 west, and put the southern border of
14 Auburndale into District 19.

15 We hope the Commission will take into
16 consideration these two areas for improvement
17 that would make APA communities of interests
18 whole in Queens and give them an equal
19 opportunity to maximize their voice, so their
20 concerns can be addressed.

21 Thanks so much.

22 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you so much
23 as well.

24 Next, virtual.

25 MODERATOR: We have Fitzroy Searles.

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1 CHAIR WALCOTT: Fitzroy Searles?

2 MR. SEARLES: Hello, everyone. My name
3 is Fitzroy Searles. Thank you for this
4 opportunity to speak. I just would like to
5 piggyback on what Reverend Thorbs said
6 earlier. I'm a resident of Queens Community
7 District 12 and also a board member of
8 Community District 12.

9 One of the things that I've been
10 listening to throughout the testimony, which
11 is very disheartening, is the separation of
12 districts based on race. To me, it's taking
13 us back to a time when the City was divided
14 where people of color were not given an equal
15 opportunity or access to different services.
16 And it looks as though if we allow that to
17 continue, that's exactly what's going to
18 happen.

19 Living in this district the majority of
20 my life, except for this brief time I was
21 away at school, I noticed that it became more
22 and more inclusive and our community board
23 definitely reflect that. We have people from
24 all different walks of life, all different
25 backgrounds working together with the common

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1 interest of, you know, quality of life
2 issues. We work together on housing, parks,
3 public safety.

4 And so, that's a city that I would like
5 to see, you know, continue to happen.
6 Looking at the maps and segregating us
7 completely take that away to create
8 individual silos in which, if you're not a
9 member of that silo, you're now the other and
10 the other always gets displaced and always
11 gets marginalized.

12 We should not try to correct
13 marginalization by further marginalization.
14 We should actually correct it through the
15 electoral process by electing representatives
16 that encompass or represent the true interest
17 of those communities. And that's something
18 that's been done throughout the history of
19 this country, which has allowed us to move
20 forward.

21 Speaking to, like, older neighbors,
22 they talk about a time where Hillside Avenue
23 was a divide between black and white. And if
24 you were a black person living below Hillside
25 Avenue and you mistakenly walked across into

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1 the area now known as Jamaica Estate, you
2 were subject to attack. I desperately do not
3 want to see that happen. I would like to see
4 a commune -- you know, communities throughout
5 the City working together as a diverse group.

6 Thank you so much. I appreciate this
7 opportunity to speak.

8 (Applause).

9 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you for your
10 testimony.

11 Okay. Just to double-check, is
12 Arianne -- and unfortunately, I can't read
13 the last name.

14 There you are. Okay. Thank you.

15 MS. MALIWANAG: And apologies for the
16 handwriting.

17 CHAIR WALCOTT: No. No. No. My
18 handwriting is the same, so -- but I just
19 want to be fair, yeah.

20 MS. MALIWANAG: Hello, everyone. Thank
21 you so much for the New York Districting
22 Committee for hearing us today. My name is
23 Arianne Maliwanag, and I am testifying on
24 behalf of National Federation of Filipino
25 American Association, now, NAPA New York, a

1 nationwide organization dedicated towards the
2 promotion of civic engagement for the
3 Filipino American community and also a part
4 of the APA Redistricting Task Force, which
5 aims to protect APA communities of interests.
6 You've heard some of our speakers today.

7 In my previous testimony in our May
8 hearing, I shared about the impactful
9 connection that Woodside and Elmhurst shares
10 with the Filipino community and the overall
11 APA community. I highlighted that the
12 Woodside and Elmhurst has provided -- I
13 highlighted the home that Woodside and
14 Elmhurst has provided ever since our
15 healthcare workers immigrated to America in
16 the 1970s.

17 The overrepresentation of Filipinos
18 from the impact of COVID-19 and some of the
19 achievements in our community, including one
20 that led to the mural that greets all our
21 Little Manila neighborhood, Mabuhay. Last
22 month, I shared history and stories. And
23 today, I want to share data and recent
24 updates.

25 The Filipino population is the fourth

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1 largest AAPI population in the New York City
2 area and New York State. According to 2020
3 census data shared by our partners at the
4 Asian American Federation, the Filipino
5 population increased by 14.4 percent in
6 New York City between 2010 and 2020.

7 According to the same data, nearly half
8 of these Filipinos reside in Queens and
9 30 percent of those Queens Filipinos reside
10 in Elmhurst and Woodside. And please note
11 that this is Filipino only and not those of
12 mixed backgrounds.

13 In Woodside and Elmhurst lives the
14 highest concentration of Filipino small
15 businesses of New York State, which includes
16 your restaurants, remittance centers, your
17 bodegas and faith centers, that all serve its
18 local community.

19 In honor -- so, one other thing is that
20 in honor of Philippine Independence Day,
21 which was celebrated last month, hundreds of
22 Filipino Americans took to the streets to
23 celebrate the co-naming of Roosevelt Avenue's
24 70th Street to Little Manila Avenue. This
25 was a significant achievement for the

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1 community, which was featured on CBS News,
2 Pothemus (phonetic), Asian Journal and more.

3 In recent City Council elections, we
4 saw clear and consistent voting patterns
5 throughout the neighborhood of Elmhurst. In
6 Woodside, we also saw fewer voting patterns
7 as the majority voted for their APA
8 candidates. This election season, we're
9 seeing the campaign of possibly the first
10 Filipino American to be elected in the State
11 Assembly. He hails from the
12 Woodside/Elmhurst area.

13 This is a reflection of a community
14 that is eager to be involved and eager to
15 support its greater community. This evening,
16 I advocate for the Filipino American
17 community and the larger APA community of
18 Elmhurst, Jackson Heights and Woodside. We
19 recognize that these communities of interests
20 may be too big to form one City Council
21 district.

22 Therefore, we want to advocate that the
23 APA community in Woodside and Elmhurst,
24 Jackson Heights should be kept whole and two
25 separate City Council districts. There,

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1 keeping the APA neighborhoods in these two
2 areas whole recognizes the presence of the
3 rising, prevalent APA community in these
4 neighborhoods.

5 It is important that our families share
6 these -- in our families that share
7 immigration experiences our restaurants and
8 our grocery stores that cater to Asian
9 Americans and our APA community are visible,
10 heard and addressed.

11 I'll be submitting a written testimony
12 with additional materials showcasing our
13 community of interest and voting data.

14 Thank you so much for your time and
15 consideration.

16 (Applause).

17 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you very much
18 for your testimony.

19 Virtual.

20 MODERATOR: We have Smith Maryam.

21 CHAIR WALCOTT: Is it Smith Maryam, did
22 you say?

23 MODERATOR: Yes.

24 CHAIR WALCOTT: Smith Maryam?

25 (No response.)

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1 MODERATOR: Donna Downes.

2 CHAIR WALCOTT: Donna Downes? I saw
3 the name earlier.

4 MS. DOWNES: Yes, because when I first
5 got on -- well, first of all, good evening
6 and thank you for allowing me to testify.

7 CHAIR WALCOTT: Good evening.

8 MS. DOWNES: When I first got on, I
9 just wanted to listen in and get educated.
10 So, I got educated and now I have to say
11 something (laughter), so thank you.

12 I've been a resident of Southeast
13 Queens for the last 21 years. I have done
14 rounds roots work in Southeast Queens,
15 Northern Queens and Far Rockaway. I'm not
16 about skin color. I'm not about religion.
17 I'm about advocate. I'm a community
18 advocate. But in the last couple of years,
19 I've been working right here in Southeast
20 Queens where I'm really rooted and I've
21 learned about what's going on.

22 I don't understand this whole thing
23 about redistricting and all this. Listen, we
24 got grounds that need -- we got roads that
25 need to be fixed. Okay? We got kids who are

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1 hanging out in the street. They need safe
2 haven spots. They need after-school places
3 to go hang out, instead of being on the
4 street and getting in trouble. Okay?

5 There's so much more that needs to be
6 done. We need nutrition. We need
7 supermarkets that's giving out healthy food
8 to the community. Talking about
9 redistricting. This just seems like a waste
10 of time and money, where money could be going
11 to other things in the community, what the
12 communities need. Okay? Like I said, I've
13 been out here doing grounds work. I've been
14 doing it and I see the need. Why are we
15 splitting people up?

16 Okay. So, I'm a resident of Rochdale,
17 Rochdale Village. Why are you considering
18 splitting up Rochdale Village? That's
19 splitting up a family. That just sounds like
20 an ACS case to me.

21 Thank you so much for listening to me.
22 I appreciate it. Good night.

23 CHAIR WALCOTT: And thank you very much
24 for your testimony.

25 Next, virtual.

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1 MODERATOR: Maryam Smith.

2 CHAIR WALCOTT: You said Maryam Smith,
3 right?

4 MODERATOR: Yes.

5 CHAIR WALCOTT: Is Maryam Smith there?
6 No?

7 MS. SMITH: I'm here, but I don't have
8 a testimony at the moment.

9 CHAIR WALCOTT: Good evening.

10 MS. SMITH: Good evening.

11 CHAIR WALCOTT: Yes, you're on now.

12 MS. SMITH: No. I said I'm here
13 listening in, but I don't have a testimony at
14 the moment.

15 CHAIR WALCOTT: Okay.

16 MS. SMITH: I came late, so I'm just
17 trying to follow through on what's going on.

18 CHAIR WALCOTT: Not a problem.

19 So, just again, for you and others, you
20 have the ability at any point to submit
21 written testimony, or it's not relegated to
22 the borough that we're located in, there'll
23 be another hearing taking place the day after
24 tomorrow, starting at the same time, at
25 4 o'clock.

1 And you should just go to our website,
2 the New York City Districting Commission and
3 it will give you the detailed information.
4 So, you have the ability at any point to
5 submit testimony or to do virtual testimony
6 or to come in person as well.

7 That's it. So, let me take this
8 opportunity to thank all of you for being
9 here.

10 Once again, John, would you be kind
11 enough to just lay out some of the next steps
12 again, just to reinforce the information
13 where people could submit their testimony,
14 and also the hearing dates that are coming up
15 as well.

16 DR. FLATEAU: Yes. Thank you.

17 So, again, here is this e-mail. Please
18 take it down. A number of us receive some
19 type of e-mail notification as well. You can
20 always go to our website, but you could write
21 this e-mail down, submit maps, testimony at
22 any time.

23 The next hearing we have is Wednesday.

24 CHAIR WALCOTT: Wednesday, uh-huh.

25 DR. FLATEAU: In Brooklyn at New York

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1 Technical College, 4 to 7 p.m. We're also
2 live broadcasting on YouTube. And this
3 entire -- every single proceeding of our
4 Commissioners will be on our website.

5 So, if you missed a meeting, a hearing
6 and you want to catch up at some point later
7 or find out what the voice were coming out of
8 Brooklyn or the Bronx or Manhattan, all of
9 those hearings are up on our website.

10 We would also indicate that a number of
11 New Yorkers have already submitted maps to
12 the Commission and they will be uploaded
13 probably within the next 48/72 hours. We
14 will systematically upload those materials,
15 transparency.

16 And our Commissioners are here
17 finishing up round one of our five-borough
18 hearing process. And then they're about to
19 go to work. That's why we're here now to
20 hear from you, Queens. Brooklyn -- we're
21 going to the Bronx and Staten Island next
22 week.

23 And when they finish up with their
24 hearings, then they're going to get down to
25 work, taking in all of this information and

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1 going to work, putting out another set of
2 lines, so that you, the public, can comment,
3 critique, add to this work that needs to go
4 forward over the next few weeks.

5 Any other questions or comments?

6 CHAIR WALCOTT: I think you covered it.

7 DR. FLATEAU: Joe, our deputy executive
8 director.

9 MR. MALIGNO: So, I just wanted to be
10 clear. For Wednesday at City Tech, it's
11 285 Jay Street. It's in the auditorium
12 building. The auditorium is located straight
13 to the back. It's 285 Jay Street. Okay?

14 CHAIR WALCOTT: Thank you very much.

15 And to the public, thank you for coming
16 out. Thank you for being virtual, and thank
17 you for your written testimony as well.

18 Have a safe and good evening.

19 (TIME NOTED: 6:43 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 27, 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 6th day of July 2022.

Sabrina Brown Stewart
Sabrina Brown Stewart

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