



June 29, 2022, 4pm

New York City Districting Commission
Dennis M. Walcott, Chair
New York City Technical College
285 Jay Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

RE: Testimony of the Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership

Good afternoon,

My name is Chad Purkey and I live at and I am currently the Executive Director at the Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership. This organization serves businesses and residents within Fort Greene and Clinton Hill, two neighborhoods within the 35th Council District.

Thank you to Chair Walcott, Executive Director Flateau, and the New York City Districting Commission for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the Commission's upcoming work to draft a new districting plan for New York City Council districts.

The Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership has served our community since 1999, focusing on the stewardship of the Myrtle Avenue commercial corridor and ensuring it's an anchor for a vibrant and diverse community. The Partnership operates the Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Business Improvement District (BID), which falls solely within the 35th Council District.

The strength of our diverse community is what makes the 35th District home. This is evident in feedback we receive from neighbor's year after year, identifying "diversity," in all its forms, as our neighborhoods' greatest strength. Historically, the 35th District has included a myriad of residents from different backgrounds. We have more than 14,000 public housing residents, multi-generational Caribbean immigrant families, and the Lubavitch community all in this district.

We need to work to ensure the 35th District maintains its diversity. Over the past decade, our district lost one in five Black residents and is a plurality white for the first time in generations. The Commission should prioritize the needs of the very communities that have never been prioritized before and ensure Central Brooklyn retains its unique characteristic as home to a myriad of Brooklynites from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds as it has for generations. As such, though we may not be able to make this district majority Black again given the mass exodus and displacement we've seen over the past decade, we can ensure districts like the 35th retain their diversity.

Chad Purkey,
BID Executive Director

BID Board of Directors

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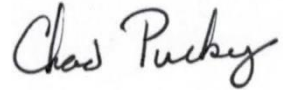
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As such, I urge you to keep the district lines as similar as possible to what they are currently. This district has a population deviation from the ideal population (172,631) of less than 5 percent under the current lines and should not need to see radical changes to its boundaries to fit the charter-required deviation.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chad Purkey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Thank you," text.

Chad Purkey