

LeClair Glover

July 6, 2022

NYC Districting Commission

I am opposed to the proposed redrawing of Central Harlem district lines by moving the Polo Grounds Houses area into the Washington Heights district. Harlem is a culturally rich area that has had to fight to maintain our cultural identity.

The three stadiums that composed The Polo Grounds were used for professional baseball and football from 1880 until 1963. The stadium at 155th Street and Harlem River Drive was home to the NY Yankees, the NY Mets, the NY Giants (baseball and football) and the NY Titans (later known as the NY Jets). In 1964, a wrecking ball painted like a baseball demolished the ballpark to begin construction of the Polo Ground Houses. Additionally, the well-known basketball court "Holcombe Rucker Park" is directly across the street from the Polo Grounds and is an institution in our community. This change in district lines would do our Harlem Community a grave disservice, robbing us of its rich historical essence.

By moving these lines, you will be changing the priorities of our community by having non Harlemites in positions within our community's political structure. Moving those lines South, will result in further marginalization of the community with people who will be more concerned with allowing developers access to projects that may not be in the best interest of the community at large. I am by no means against progress nor am I against diversity, but I am against the possibility of the priorities of an already marginalized people being minimalized. Our economic, political representation, social and civil rights are being threatened with this proposed redrawing.

I sincerely ask that our community and boundaries be respected and protected. It's time for our elected officials to stop playing politics using our Harlem Community as pawns in a chess game. We are proud people who deserve to have our boundaries respected and protected. I implore you to leave Central Harlem district lines as they are.

Sincerely,



LeClair Glover
Shareholder, Esplanade Gardens

