

Testimony of the Westerleigh Improvement Society regarding the proposed City Council redistricting, in response to the 2020 Census.

Borough Defined Districts

We hear talk of new Staten Island City Council Districts, needing to obtain additional population from adjacent boroughs.

Staten Island is a unique borough in many ways, and many of the differences are related to density.

Staten Island has an area that comprises nearly 25% of the land in NYC, but has only 6% of the population, as you know Staten Island is the least dense borough.

Staten Island average population is 8k people per square mile, Brooklyn 37k per square mile (nearly 5x more dense) Manhattan 70k per square mile (nearly 9x more dense). This difference in density brings with it many differences of incompatibility of issues.

Unlike the other boroughs, a large percentage of Staten Islanders need to use cars to commute to work, school or shopping. Many rely on busses to get around, to work, via local bus to the Staten Island Ferry or Brooklyn. Many areas of the Island rely heavily on Express Busses to get to work in Manhattan, as the only viable option, unlike other boroughs that are interconnected through the subway system. Many Staten Islanders also drive to work in New Jersey.

Primarily zoned for one- and two-family housing. This brings with it many unique situations, including a larger proportion of home ownership, disproportionate taxes, water bills, etc. There are vastly different priorities on Staten Island, especially due to the difference in density.

Mixing Staten Island districts with Brooklyn or Manhattan would be a bad match for both Staten Island residents and the other incompatible boroughs.

Westerleigh

The Westerleigh Improvement Society is the civic group of Westerleigh, currently with a community membership of 600. We have been the civic group for Westerleigh since 1893, which predates consolidation. Our community is a well established one, one where people strongly identify as proud residents of Westerleigh. Fourth or fifth generation families are very common here.

Westerleigh is comprised of mostly one and two family houses. The political borders of our representation has been split in Westerleigh for decades, in relation to City and State, though we are an area smaller than 2 square miles. Most of our issues align with those of the 50th Council District. 1/5th of the Westerleigh area is located in the 49th, though that area has more special interests that align with the rest of Westerleigh. The areas to the north of our area, located in the 49th district, have vastly different needs to be addressed. The 49th District has major crime, social and housing, which Westerleigh does not. This takes away from the effectiveness of our interaction with our councilperson and their staff. Their interaction with us also depletes their effectiveness to address the heavier issues of the majority of the 49th District.

We ask the Commission to consolidate Westerleigh into one Council District, and remain in the Council District 50, as it most closely aligns with our issues.

Thank You,

Mark Anderson



Westerleigh Improvement Society – President

Westerleigh

Area Contained Between
Forest Ave, Willowbrook Rd,
Victory Blvd and Manor Rd

49 D

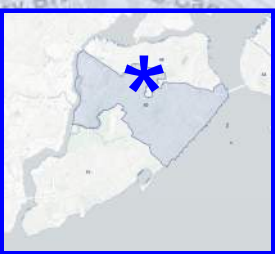
**Existing
Area Not Included In
50th District**

Current
District Line

Westerleigh

50 D

EXISTING



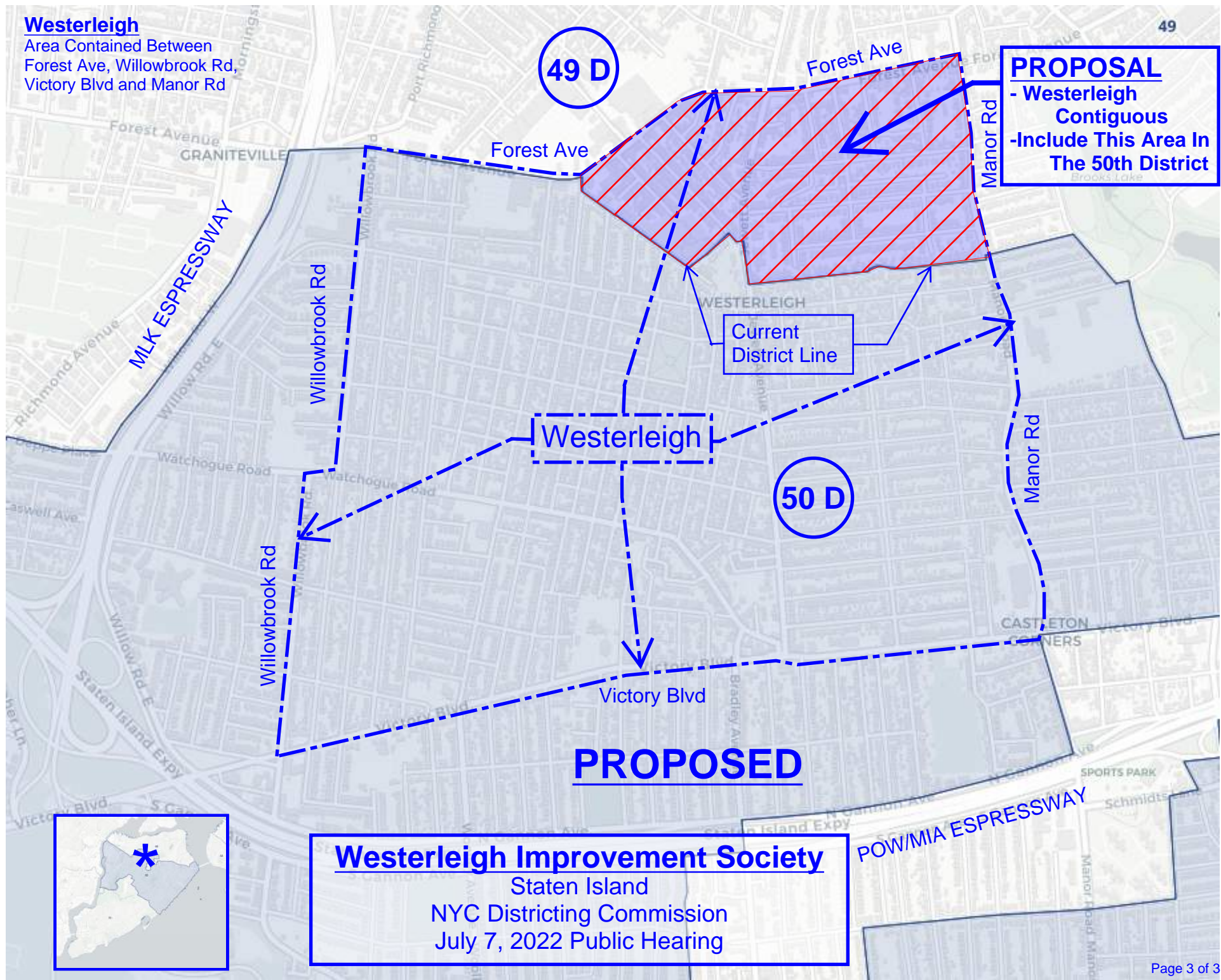
Westerleigh Improvement Society
Staten Island
NYC Districting Commission
July 7, 2022 Public Hearing

Westerleigh

Area Contained Between
Forest Ave, Willowbrook Rd,
Victory Blvd and Manor Rd

49 D

PROPOSAL
- Westerleigh
Contiguous
- Include This Area In
The 50th District

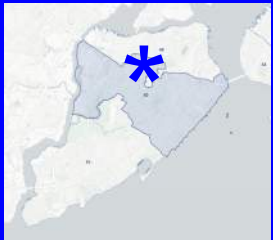


Current
District Line

Westerleigh

50 D

PROPOSED



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