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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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I want to begin by thanking all the honorable members of this prestigious commission & Chairman Wolcott for this opportunity to express the redistricting of the 31st Councilmanic district, which covers the East end of Rockaway to Beach 90th Street & includes Laurelton, Rosedale, Springfield gardens and JFK airport.

My name is Moshe Lazar. I am a long time resident of Far Rockaway, New York - one of the most highly dense Orthodox Jewish communities within the Rockaways. Geographically speaking, it is located on the eastern tip of the Rockaway Peninsula and consists mainly of single & two family homes.

Under current district maps, the Orthodox Jewish communities of Far Rockaway & Bayswater are connected with the homeowners of Arverne by the Sea, Laurelton, Rosedale & Springfield gardens. As all these homeowners have the same needs, lowering property taxes, maintaining water rates, and the threat of rising flood waters. Keeping these homeowners together creates one community of interest.

The Jewish communities of Far Rockaway & Bayswater have always worked diligently to develop collaborative relations with their neighbors including the African American and Latino community. As the main Jewish social service agency, the Jewish Community Council of the Rockaway Peninsula services clients from throughout the Rockaways. I am respectfully requesting this commission to please take this into account. Communities are only as strong as their unified voice is with their neighbors. The Jewish communities Rabbis, stakeholders and lay leaders have worked for many years with all the different communities within the 31st Council district, and we ask the commission to take that into account and keep the current district lines.

To recap, the Orthodox Jewish communities of Far Rockaway & Bayswater share the same concerns as the homeowners in Arverne by the Sea, Laurelton, Rosedale & Springfield Gardens. Therefore, we ask of the commission when redrawing the 31st Councilmanic district to keep these communities of interest in mind and to maintain the Jewish communities voice with their Rockaway neighbors.

Please make every effort to keep the current 31st Councilmanic district lines. I want to thank the commission, in advance, for their time in considering my testimony.