July 10, 2022

Sent via E-Mail: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

District Commission
253 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

My name is _MICHAEL E STEWART_, and I am a resident of the Arverne by the Sea community. My neighborhood rests within the 31st Councilmanic district and shares representation with the communities of Arverne, Edgemere, Far Rockaway, Rosedale, Laurelton, and Springfield Gardens.
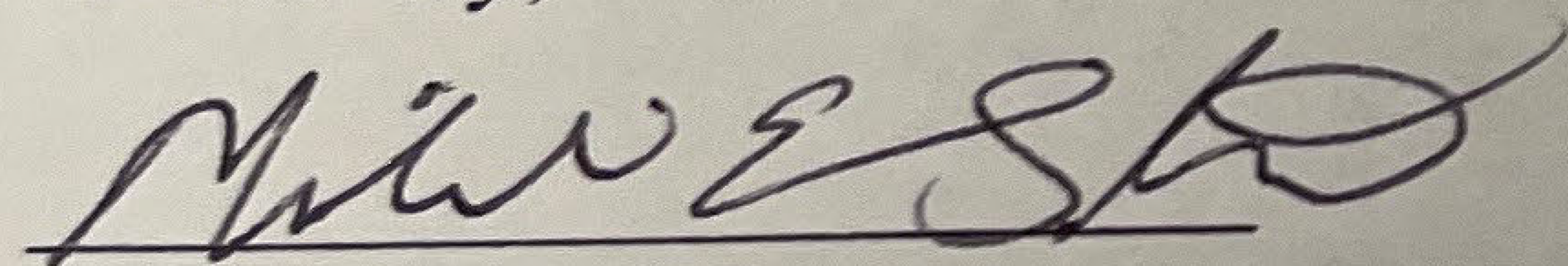
This district was created in the 1980s to give a voice to what has historically been marginalized communities. Our communities are comprised largely of homeowners and we share many of the same issues. When the Arverne by Sea community was developed the overall district benefited and continues to benefit from the economic investments. Whether it be around schools, property taxes, environmental justice, transportation and healthcare access, we have banded together on many occasions to win greater representation and by removing Arverne by the Sea from the 31st Council District would heavily diminish our voice in a time we are beginning to realize progress.

We are a coastal community that enjoy the beautiful Rockaway Beach and Jamaica Bay. When Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Ida devastated our communities we shared similar damage and impact. The same can be said for the Covid-19 pandemic. We were hit first and hardest. It was our collective voices that ensured we were connected to much needed PPE supplies, testing and vaccination sites.

Additionally, the JFK International Airport is a major regional economic engine for this district. It also impacts our quality of life most directly. It makes the most sense to restore the entire airport within the 31st district.

In summary, I implore the NYC Districing Commission to keep the 31st Council district lines the same, keeping Arverne by the Sea within this district. We should not disrupt communities that have historically been united.

Sincerely,

Mike E St
(Signature)

MICHAEL E. STEWART
(Name Printed)

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Rockaway Beach, NY 11693