



THE CITY OF NEW YORK 2022-2023 DISTRICTING COMMISSION

253 Broadway, 4th Floor

New York, NY 10007

PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC MEETING

Friday, July 15, 2022

11:10 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Spector Hall, 22 Reade Street, New York, NY 10007

Attendees:

Districting Commission Members:

Dennis M. Walcott, Chair	Hon. Marilyn D. Go	Michael Schnall (Remote)*
Kevin John Hanratty	Maria Mateo, Esq.*	Joshua Schneps*
Lisa Sorin	Msgr. Kevin Sullivan	Kai-Ki Wong
Maf Misbah Uddin (Remote)*	Kristen Johnson	Gregory W. Kirschenbaum
Marc Wurzel (Remote)*	Yovan Samuel Collado (Remote)*	

**Participated in Public Meeting portion only*

Staff:

John Flateau, PhD., Executive Director, New York City Districting Commission

Joseph Maligno, Deputy Executive Director, New York City Districting Commission

Grace Pyun, General Counsel, New York City Districting Commission

Minutes by:

A. Michael DeCillis, Esq.

Chair Dennis Walcott convened the public hearing regarding a resolution to using videoconferencing under the New York State Open Meetings Law. There was a quorum of eight in-person commissioners. The Chair then introduced a “Resolution pursuant to State Open Meetings Law of the NYC Districting Commission.” This resolution provides that pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, the NYC Districting Commission may use videoconferencing to conduct its meetings provided that a quorum is physically present in the same physical location where the public can attend.

The Chair called for a vote on the resolution and the resolution was passed with a unanimous vote of eight commissioners present.

The Chair then requested a motion to adjourn the public hearing portion of the meeting. Commissioner Msgr. Kevin Sullivan made the motion to adjourn, Commissioner Maf Misbah Uddin seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved. The public hearing portion of the meeting was adjourned.

The Chair then convened the public meeting regarding the preliminary plan. Joseph Maligno, Deputy Executive Director, New York City Districting Commission conducted the roll call for the public meeting and a quorum of Commissioners was present.

The first order of business was to discuss the vote to release the preliminary plan. The Chairman gave opening remarks regarding the vote and the preliminary plan. Then Dr. John Flateau, Executive Director, New York City Districting Commission, explained the population changes from the 2010 to 2020 census, and presented highlights of the preliminary plan.

The Commissioners were then asked whether they had any comments regarding the release of the preliminary draft plan. Commissioner Marilyn Go discussed how keeping three council districts contained within Staten Island affected the drawing of the rest of the council districts in the city. Commissioner Lisa Sorin discussed how past maps split many communities, and that a main goal of this commission was to reunite communities as best they could. Commissioner Michael Schnall requested that his remarks be deferred until after the vote to release the preliminary plan.

The Chair then called for a motion to release the preliminary plan to the public. Commissioner Lisa Sorin made the motion. Commissioner Maria Mateo, Esq. seconded the motion. Ten Commissioners voted aye, two commissioners voted nay, one commissioner abstained. The motion passed and the Preliminary Plan was released to the public for inspection and comment. Commissioner Marc Wurzel then joined the public meeting remotely, and indicated he votes aye for the motion to release the preliminary plan to the public. The total vote was eleven ayes, two nay, and one abstention to release the preliminary plan to the public.

Commissioner Schnall commented on his concerns of proposed districts that split communities located in Queens and Southern Brooklyn. Commissioner Uddin explained that his vote was only to start the process, and that he looks forward to public feedback and recommendations. Commissioner Kristen Johnson stated that the process in hearing from the public is important. Commissioner Gregory Kirschenbaum stated that he wanted more time to create a better map. Commissioner Joshua Schneps stated that he looks forward to public feedback.

The Chair then discussed the timeline of the Districting Commission pursuant to the City Charter and next steps for public hearings regarding the preliminary plan.

The Executive Director then provided a description of the preliminary plan, including a description of the preliminary plan for each borough.

Commissioners made additional closing comments. Commissioner Lisa Sorin stated that while the preliminary plan was not perfect, it still helped many communities in the Bronx become whole again. Commissioner Marc Wurzel stated that the preliminary plan is a start to the process, and that he looks forward to receiving the public's input.

With all business concluded, the Chair requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Uddin made the motion to adjourn, Commissioner Go seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.