

COMMUNITY TESTIMONY TEMPLATE

****PLEASE USE YOUR COMPANY OR INSTITUTION'S LETTERHEAD FOR SUBMISSION.
IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LETTERHEAD, PLEASE USE A TRADITIONAL BUSINESS
LETTER FORMAT****

Dear Members of the NYC Districting Commission,

My name is Camara Jackson and the name of my Organization is *Elite Learners* located at 4517 Avenue D Brooklyn, NY 11203. I am writing in regards to our opposition of the recently released preliminary maps for Council District 45, in which my organization is a Crisis Management System operator providing effective public safety measures in the East Flatbush, Remsen Village and Brownsville areas.

Over the past 5+ years I have seen how important our presence in the district is as we provide a plethora of services within the 67 precincts confines which includes the neighborhoods of Flatbush and East Flatbush neighborhoods.

Organizations like mine face unique challenges that leaders from other districts may not understand. I have worked extremely hard to keep *Elite Learners* active during the pandemic through the resources provided by Council Member Farah Louis' office and networking with other local businesses, organizations, the 67th precinct, and civic associations.

By cutting out East Flatbush and Remain Village of the district, my organization will lose the networks and partnerships with schools like Meyer Levin JHS and Tilden High School and neighborhoods we've developed over the years, which could potentially impact the public safety services we provide within the 67 Precinct confines. The proposed expansion into West Midwood is also a major detriment to our district because we have a predominantly BIPOC community growing on the cusp of East Flatbush, Flatbush and parts of Flatlands that our organization has been working with on hate crimes and a growing gang violence issue within the Yemeni community that Council Member Louis has done her due diligence with our organization and groups to tackle issues and keep crime rates low.

The organizations providing services in Council District 45 prefer to remain in Council District 45 because our representative Farah Louis and we are the only service provider in Meyer Levin and the scholars know us because we all live in the community with them. This commission would be fragmenting the years of work we have invested into the neighborhoods to keep them safe and intact. Council Member Louis' efforts on this border of East Flatbush have been exceptional and we do not want to interrupt the services that we have provided to Meyer Levin JHS and other schools in the area that the preliminary map is proposing to be removed. These schools are the fabric of our East Flatbush neighborhood and help our children's futures, and will no longer guarantee that East Flatbush students will receive the same level of education as their parents and neighbors have previously been afforded decades prior. The burden on parents and caregivers will increase two-fold.

I hope you take the time to reconsider the disparities represented on the preliminary map and restore *Meyer Levin JHS, Tilden High School and the East Flatbush and Remsen Village Neighborhoods back into Council District 45 and the new district lines and expand the district further northeast into East Flatbush, Remsen Village and Canarsie*. Enclosed is the proposed map new additions that the community prefers. While the Center for Law and Social Justice was involved in drafting the maps for areas of Brooklyn, it appears their focus was on making Crown Heights and BedStuy whole, and the same intentions were not apparent for neighborhoods like East Flatbush, Flatbush, and Remsen Village, which is completely bias and possibly politically driven.

Sincerely

Camara Jackson