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From: [REDACTED]
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To: Public Testimony
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To whom it may concern,

Saturday, July 24th, I had the pleasure of speaking with an intern named Milo about the issue of redistricting. Although City Council districts are different than and not associated with voting districts, I used a recent change in my voting district as an example in our discussion.

I discovered before the last NY primary that my voting district had been changed once again. I was greatly distressed by this as what was a 5 minute, one block walk up a short hill was turned into an almost 1 mile hike up the proverbial "7 hills of Rome" in to get to my new polling place! I spoke to Milo of the topography of the Bronx and the necessity of any agency considering redrawing lines across communities to do so not on a 2 dimensional flat map, but on a 3 dimensional scale model of the neighborhood in question.

A three-dimensional, computer generated scale model would display the incredible impact cliffs, step streets, wandering roads, the Cross Bronx Expressway that divides the borough, hills upon hills and the valleys they create have on the local residents. Add bus and train stops and it is easy to see how ordinary citizens have to struggle to find ways to access not only polling stations but their local councilperson's office as well!

To be honest, I am in fear that I will find my new representative on the City Council to be located 2 bus rides away and it will take up half my day to access his or her office. If government agencies want the citizens to participate in the political process, whether it be via voting, attending community planning board meetings or showing up at the office of a City Councilmember...consideration must be given to the hurdles and barriers we face.

Re-district if you must...but to coin a phrase, "make it make sense".

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa E. Wright
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Sent from AOL Mobile Mail