

**From:** amariysherrera15 [REDACTED]  
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Dear Members of NYC Districting!

I am President of Marlboro Houses Resident Association representing thousands of tenants in a large NYCHA housing development in Gravesend. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the newly released map of the 47th Council District. Currently this District includes the neighborhoods of Sea Gate, Coney Island, Gravesend, parts of Bensonhurst and Bath Beach. The map proposed by the Districting Commission suddenly included Fort Hamilton and Dyker Heights into the 47th District. This is completely unfair, unreasonable and even discriminatory towards residents of Marlboro Houses.

First of all, we have been traditionally associated with Coney Island where many of our relatives and friends live. We also have a substantial Asian American population that is very close to the neighboring Bensonhurst. Dyker Heights and Fort Hamilton are far away from us. These neighborhoods are significantly wealthier and populated mostly by private homeowners. For all my years of volunteering as an active community leader in Southern Brooklyn, I participated in many events in both Coney Island and Bensonhurst - but never in Dyker Heights! Marlboro Houses and Coney Island face similar issues and similar demographics. We are very close to the Bensonhurst community as well - especially parts near Gravesend.

So, there is no reason to include Fort Hamilton and Dyker Heights in the boundaries of the 47th District to create unnecessary tensions and competition for government resources between poorer and wealthier neighborhoods and drawing away attention of our Council Member from Marlboro Houses - Coney Island to the part of Brooklyn that is closer to Staten Island than to our areas.

I urge the Commission to reconsider proposed lines and to keep our historical ties and communities of interest in the 47th Council District. If anything should be changed, it is to include more territory of the CB 13 into new lines. Coney Island, Gravesend, and Brighton Beach areas were always together in the same 47th Council District - till the last redistricting in 2012. Please, include all of us together again for the common good. It would be much easier to serve communities that are closer geographically and have the same interests.

Thank you!



Amarilys Herrera,

President, Marlboro Houses Resident Association

Phone: [REDACTED]

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