



Preserving & Enriching Community

## *Federation of Italian American Organizations of Brooklyn, Ltd.*

F.I.A.O. of Brooklyn, Ltd. is a Non-Profit Charitable Community Service Organization  
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Dear Members of the Districting Commission:

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As President of the Federation of Italian American Organizations of Brooklyn Ltd.(FIAO), a 501C3 not-for-profit organization I find it necessary to write the following letter. FIAO has been operating in Southern Brooklyn since 1977 and has serviced tens of thousands of people every year. After reviewing the preliminary maps released by your Commission I am firmly opposed to the redistricting because it would negatively impact the residents of the 47<sup>th</sup> District.

During the past four decades, the FIAO has provided tens of thousands of people every year, both Italian Americans and others of various ethnic backgrounds. Our social services, after school programs and community improvement initiatives, have successfully built a vibrant strong community which is dedicated to the preservation of our rich and diverse community. Our state-of-the-art Community Center (IL CENTRO), which recently opened its door to all, has been embraced by the extraordinary community of Southern Brooklyn. It has worked as a catalyst toward achieving our goal for our neighborhoods' revitalization. Additionally, we have offered programs that allow participants to explore all areas of interest and opened up worlds of endless possibilities. These achievements are due to the stability and consistency of our long-standing neighborhoods and the exemplary elected public officials representing them.

The recently released preliminary maps would significantly change these districts such as the 47<sup>th</sup> as well as its representative(s). This would most significantly have a detrimental impact and impede the progress that Southern Brooklyn has attained to date. **Please reconsider changing the map of the 47<sup>th</sup> District by keeping it with the current configuration which reflects the rich diversity of the residents.** The past and current Council Members embraced the urban challenges of this community with exemplary representation that inspires us all. In the future we look forward to continually building and restoring our neighborhood for better tomorrow in New York City.

Best,

G. Jack Spatola  
President

