



FLATLANDS FLATBUSH CIVIC GROUP

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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Dear Members of the Districting Commission,

My name is Sallie Bennett, and I am representing the Flatlands Flatbush Civic Group. I am writing in regards to the recently released maps for Council District 45, in which I work/live I have been connected to District 45 for over 35 years and have felt firsthand the importance of a tightly knit black, brown & Caribbean community in the heart of Central Brooklyn.

People who look like us face unique issues that leaders from other districts may not understand. The proposed expansion into West Midwood is detrimental to our community as it reduces the focus of our district away from our primarily Black and immigrant communities. By expanding to far-away areas, we will lose key resources afforded to people like us. We would like for District 45 to remain whole and not change.

Flatlands Flatbush Civic Group has worked extensively with Councilmember Farah Louis in many initiatives, including food distribution, PPE, and COVID test distributions during the pandemic. Expanding the district will undercut the people who lives in the district from the resources they've come to depend on over the last three years.

The East Flatbush communities that are in the current confines of District 45 boundaries are an artifact of historical ties in the district and common interests to the neighboring institutions such as Meyer Levin Junior High School, Brooklyn Science & Engineering Academy and Samuel J. Tilden High School—in which houses Kurt Hahn, It Takes a Village (ITAVA) and Cultural Academy for the Arts and Sciences (CAAS), which have been in the East Flatbush community for generations.

By cutting out areas of the district, we will also lose the networks we have developed over the years which could potentially impact the reach of our services. The proposed expansion into West Midwood is also a major detriment to us as it reduces the amount of Caribbean-based resources available. The people in our community have worked with Council Member Louis and request Council District 45 be kept whole and united.

I hope you take the time to reconsider the disparities represented on the map. Enclosed is a map by Council Member Louis that includes our communities' preferred proposed map and new areas that will expand schools, health care access and park space for in Council District 45.

Sincerely,

Sallie Bennett
President, Flatlands Flatbush Civic Group

