

KYLE ATHAYDE
CHAIR

MARK THOMPSON, FIRST VICE CHAIR
SANDRO SHERROD, SECOND VICE CHAIR



JESÚS PÉREZ
DISTRICT MANAGER

VACANT, TREASURER
MATT BONDY, SECRETARY

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX
211 EAST 43RD STREET, SUITE 1404
NEW YORK, NY 10017

VIA E-MAIL

August 11, 2022

Dennis M. Walcott
Chair, NYC Districting Commission
253 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Opposing proposed City Council district boundaries redrawn by the New York City Districting Commission

At the August 10, 2022 Full Board meeting of Manhattan Community Board Six, the Board adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the New York City Districting Commission (the “Commission”) is in the process of redrawing City Council district boundaries to reflect population and demographic changes based on the 2020 U.S. Census;

WHEREAS, the Commission is seeking public input into the redistricting process from different stakeholders, which includes Community Boards;

WHEREAS, City Council District 2 (“CD2”), City Council District 4 (“CD4”) and City Council District 5 (“CD5”) overlap with the boundaries of Manhattan Community Board 6 (“CB6”);

WHEREAS, CB6 and community-based organizations in CB6 have concluded that the proposed CD5 does not comport with the Commission’s own redistricting criteria;

WHEREAS, the NYC Charter identifies five ranked districting requirements:

1. Keep neighborhoods and communities intact.
2. Keep districts compact.
3. Limit crossover districts.
4. Avoid splitting voters of the same political party for purposes of diminishing effective representation of such voters.
5. Avoid oddly shaped districts;

WHEREAS, the preliminary draft released on July 15, 2022 proposes removing neighborhoods on the Upper East Side of Manhattan from CD5 and adding them to the Queens-based Council District 26 (“CD26”);

WHEREAS, the Commission’s proposal to add a portion of Manhattan and all of Roosevelt Island to a Queens-based Council District, CD26, violates the City Charter Districting requirement

in the following ways: (1) it fails to keep neighborhoods and communities intact; (2) fails to keep the district compact; (3) it creates an oddly-shaped crossover district;

WHEREAS, the proposed CD26 would establish a new crossover district between Queens and Manhattan for the first time since the Council was expanded to 51 members;

WHEREAS, the Commission proposes that 36,000 Manhattan Island residents and 12,000 Roosevelt Island residents – which equates to 48,000 of the 173,000 people or 27.7% – be moved to CD26, where these residents will not receive the representation, attention, and discretionary funding to which they are entitled due to their small percentage of the total CD26 population;

WHEREAS, the eastern portion of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island have major differences with CD26 such that the proposed combination may result in a significant diminution of municipal services to, amongst others, senior citizens and people with disabilities which populate a large share of those areas;

WHEREAS, the areas from the Upper East Side that would be moved to CD26 in Queens under this proposal includes several green spaces (Sutton Place Parks, Clara Coffey Park, John Jay Park, Andrew Haswell Park, and East River Esplanade) that are part of major long-term strategic initiatives connecting the East Side of Manhattan that are already underway;

WHEREAS, the current proposal would split Sutton Place Parks and its financial support from Sutton Place residents;

WHEREAS, the East Midtown Greenway (East 53rd - 61st Streets) is a major construction project already underway, and is part of the City's grand vision to "close the loop" of the Manhattan Waterfront Greenway;

WHEREAS, the areas being proposed to be moved to the CD26 district contain numerous parks and green acres including, amongst others, John Jay Park, portions of the East River Esplanade and Andrew Haswell Green Park, which are critical open spaces for the neighborhood and which would be separated from most of the neighborhood residents who use them;

WHEREAS, there will be practical difficulties of having a two-Borough Queens-Manhattan district;

WHEREAS, a two Borough Queens-Manhattan council district will require the CD26 Council Member to have two district offices so that residents of both boroughs have adequate access to services and can partake in Participatory Budgeting effectively;

WHEREAS, the proposed lines would separate the representation of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses from the neighborhood in which they reside and where most neighboring residents live;

WHEREAS, numerous public schools, including P.S. 183, P.S. 158, P.S. 217 and M177, would be adversely affected by being relocated to a Queens-based CD;

WHEREAS, Hunter College, a major educational institution, would have its main campus at 68th Street and Lexington Avenue separated into two council districts, with a skybridge connecting two buildings in two separate council districts;

WHEREAS, the Upper East Side contains numerous historic districts and zoning features that are common to it and distinct from the Queens portions of the proposed CD26;

WHEREAS, by separating part of the Upper East Side and placing it in CD26, the Commission has divided a neighborhood and communities of interest in direct violation of the Charter mandate;

WHEREAS, two-borough districts that have existed in the past have been comprised of neighborhoods that are contiguous, have similar demographics, share similar public transportation, public education and other services, while the Manhattan and Queens areas of the proposed CD26 do not have these similarities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CB6 disapproves of the Commission's proposed Preliminary Plan #1 redistricting map which moves approximately 54 blocks of the easterly side of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island to a Queens-based City Council District and strongly urges that these areas remain in a Manhattan-based City Council District;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CB6 proposes the following redistricting boundary lines which would result in CD4 having a population of 177,446 and CD5 a population of 177,176 (see proposed map below):

- Give CD4 back the area between Stuyvesant Town and 34th Street east of 1st Avenue
- Give CD2 (from CD4) the blocks between Broadway and 5th Avenue south of 39th Street.
- Incorporate the proposed westward expansion of CD4 out to 8th Avenue to cover the Broadway core instead of leaving it divided between two districts.
 - Trace that up 8th Avenue to Columbus Circle, where CD4 currently ends.
- Give CD5 back Roosevelt Island, Sutton Area, and the parts in the East 60's and 70s, with minor modification of the area just south of 79th so the new line would be 78th (Lexington to 3rd) and 77th (3rd-2nd).
- Keep the previous district lines for CD4 and CD5 along Lexington from 79th up to 96th.
- Give Council District 8 all of the area north of 96th Street from CD4 and CD5.

VOTE: 32 In Favor 4 Opposed 1 Abstention 1 Not Entitled

Best regards,



Jesús Pérez
District Manager

Cc: Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Reshma Patel, Chair, CB6 Budget & Governmental Affairs Committee

