

From: Mary Bullock [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:24 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony - Port Richmond Strong Civic Association

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Forward suspect email to phish@oti.nyc.gov as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

**Testimony of Port Richmond Strong Civic Association
to the New York City Redistricting Commission of 2022-2023, Thursday, August 18, 2022 Session on Staten
Island**

Staten Island's unique character is on display in its many small businesses. The 2008 website postcardsfromtherails.com documents my journey along the entire length of the Staten Island Railway from Tottenville to St George. Photos taken from the train platforms, which are overwhelmingly surrounded by business districts, show only one business that is *not* a Staten Island local business: the McDonalds franchise sign at Stapleton.

"Small businesses strengthen New York City's economy, anchor communities, create jobs, and add to the vibrancy of the City's neighborhoods." --*NYC Small Business First*.

This is particularly manifest in Port Richmond. Due to the strong sense of community and perseverance of Port Richmond's white and black middle class, and hard working immigrant families, small businesses (including many legacy businesses) do, indeed, anchor our community. There are 77 restaurants registered with NYC in Port Richmond. They survived the pandemic due to their local nature. Our goal of a City Council District 49 that does not take from the rest of NYC, but rather gives to the rest of NYC - is bolstered by recent healthy small business development on Port Richmond Avenue.

Attendees of Port Richmond Strong Civic Association's Small Business Annual Summit include long time pillars of the community. These individuals are responsible for employment, contribute to the Tax Roll for Port Richmond and NYC, and provide goods and services for anyone living, or shopping, in Port Richmond. Port Richmond Avenue businesses are particularly local: many are woman and/or minority owned, or legacy businesses. They agree with the Daily News, that Mayor Adams' "Small Business Forward represents the most wide- ranging, comprehensive review of city regulations in recent memory."

This program's positive effect on this most vital segment of New York City life, particularly dominant on Staten Island, will be amplified by keeping all three Staten Island City Council districts exclusively on-island.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary L. Bullock
President
Port Richmond Strong Civic Association