

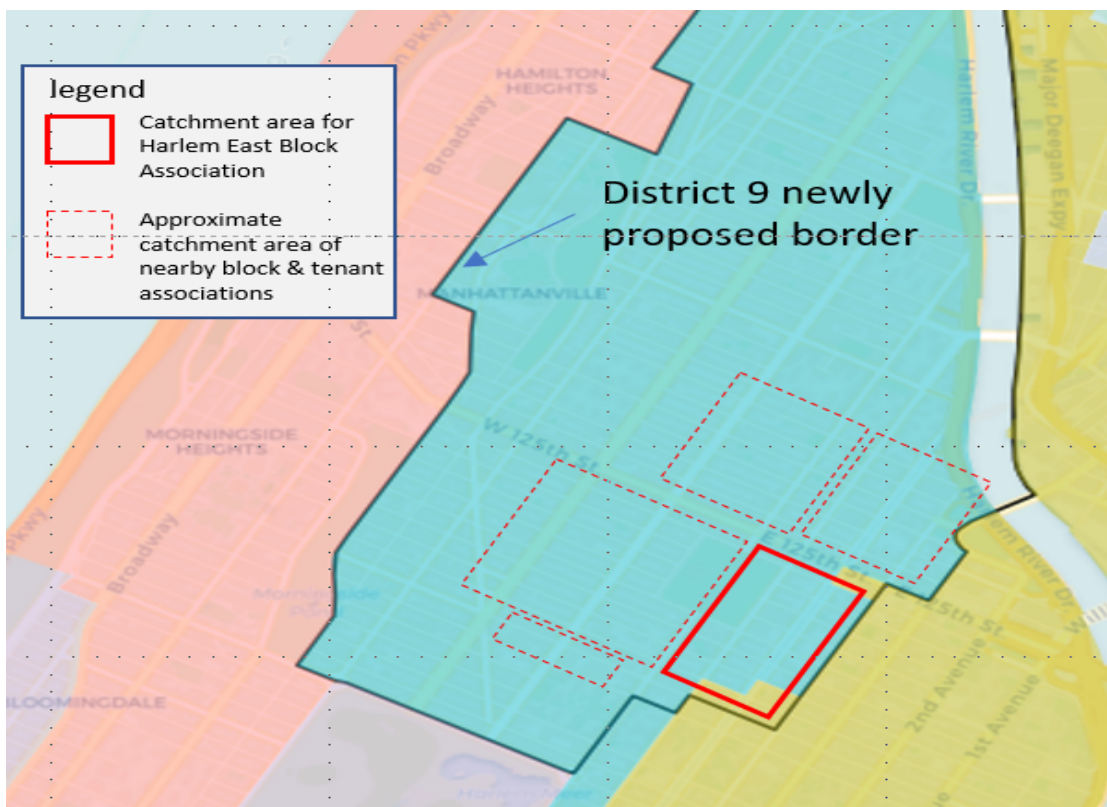
18 August, 2022

Commissioner,

On behalf of the Harlem East Block Association, I am writing to express our strong support for the [preliminary redistricting map you have newly released](#).

The block association has about 350 active members. Its catchment area encompasses 116th Street to 124th Street from the east side of Park Avenue to the east side of Fifth Avenue (see the bright red rectangle superimposed on the map below). Our utmost priority is to ensure that our complete catchment area falls within the same election district. We are delighted to see that the commission has included a few more blocks above 116th Street from Lexington Avenue to Park Avenue into district 9, which really helped to close the gap we had and mitigate the non-contiguous district line of the previous map.

We are writing to support this new map and to urge the commission to keep our catchment area intact in the future revision of the map. Furthermore, we ask to be included as part of district 9, Central Harlem, because we have traditionally maintained a close relationship with nearby blocks and tenant associations through ongoing collaborations with them and participation in each other's activities and advocacy. These organizations include: Mount Morris Park Community Improvement Association, Harlem Neighborhood Block Association, Marcus Meets Malcolm, UPACA House, AK House, MS House, and 1775 House.



■ ■ HARLEM EAST BLOCK ASSOCIATION INC.

It is incredibly important to our close knit community to keep our entire catchment area inside one city council district because we have developed over time a close and coherent community which is enriched by our diverse racial make up. It is also useful to note that numerous block associations in Harlem provide an important service to [help advocate and channel complaints and concerns to local officials and government agencies](#). We actively build a community together to support each other, pursuing activities such as beautifying our block, [holding block parties](#), [supporting the local small businesses](#) inside and around our catchment area. We communicate frequently with each other via email, chatroom and social media. When there is a need, we rally with support. For example, we have provided donations to the [veteran resident centers near our block](#) on 119th Street and Fifth Avenue, and meals for Asian seniors who live in NYCHA's UPACA House on Lexington Avenue between 118th to 120th Street.

Although residents living in our catchment area are diverse in race, many of us have a shared background of being homeowners in government subsidized buildings; many of us are shareholders in a few large HPD subsidized co-op buildings and also owners of ~100 HPD subsidized townhouses. Borne out of the necessity to support each other's home and building management problems over the last 15+ years, we gradually built a close community that tirelessly fights for a better environment for our children. We are driven by a shared belief that our children deserve the same opportunities to grow and thrive afforded by a safe, clean and wholesome environment as children from other districts.

In sum, we support this redistricting map. **In any future iterations of the map, we strongly urge you to keep our block association's catchment area intact inside district 9 to allow this close knit community to continue to have a voice to advocate for ourselves.** We would welcome a discussion with you to answer any questions to you might have.

Best regards,

Manager of Harlem East Block Association

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