



COUNCIL OF PEOPLES ORGANIZATION

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COMMUNITY TESTIMONY TEMPLATE

****PLEASE USE YOUR COMPANY OR INSTITUTION'S LETTERHEAD FOR SUBMISSION. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LETTERHEAD, PLEASE USE A TRADITIONAL BUSINESS LETTER FORMAT****

Dear Members of the NYC Districting Commission,

My name is Mohammad Razvi and I am the CEO for Council Of Peoples Organization and I am writing regarding my opposition with the recently released maps that the NYC Redistricting Commissioner drafted for Council District 45, in which will remove a large portion of our Flatbush, Flatlands and East Flatbush sections of our district. Over the past 30 years, I have lived and worked in Council District 45 as a community leader, and I have seen how important the presence of Utica to Flatbush Initiatives is in the area and how Council District 45 has been a major resource for our institution because we serve a large portion of predominantly Caribbean and South Asian constituents from the Flatlands and East Flatbush areas.

The map submitted by Councilmember Farah Louis, includes provisions for expanding her district further into the East Flatbush, Flatlands and Canarsie areas to meet the criteria of the charter and increase our population but also to include more healthcare institutions, parks and senior center options for the district, solidifying her commitment to bring increased access to our vulnerable population who rely on affordable healthcare for their families and quality services for youth and families. We service over 15,000 people weekly in 20,000 sqft office in the district.

Without these expansions, our area will not have the opportunity for the community members being represented by our leaders and with the areas that were cut by your commission, it compromises an common ties of a growing Caribbean and South Asian population in our district.

I hope you all take the time to reconsider the disparities represented on the preliminary map and restore *the East Flatbush and Remsen Village Neighborhoods back into Council District 45 and have them remain the new district lines and expand the district further northeast into East Flatbush, Flatlands and Canarsie.*

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,

Mohammad Razvi
CEO

