



August 21, 2022

Via Email: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

Dear Chair Walcott and NYC Redistricting Commission Members,

I submit this testimony to you as President of Treadwell Farm Historic District Association (“TFHDA”) on behalf of its executive committee and more than 80 neighbors regarding the proposed redistricting plan. Our NYC landmarked district is located on East 61st and East 62nd street between 2nd and 3rd avenues and was the first district on the Upper East Side to be granted landmark status, just one year after NYC Landmarks Law was enacted in 1966. Although we are not in an area that you are proposing to redistrict, we do work closely with our immediate neighbors on the Upper East Side and find the proposal perplexing and ill-fated plan. For more than 100 years our association has worked to improve quality of life, improve area safety, preserve and promote residential character and architectural integrity and keep our streets clean and safe for all. These efforts are often in partnership with other area associations and groups that have similar issues and concerns and we jointly work to find remedies and work with council members and elected officials as well as city agencies on a regular basis.

We strongly suggest you reconsider the potential harm you will cause by breaking up established partnerships and mature relationships that have a proven track record to make our city a better place. The Commission’s plan to unnecessarily divide a small section of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island from the rest of the Upper East Side represents a true hardship for constituents by diluting the community’s resources and potentially taking away engaged and focused local political representation for this area. We urge you to focus on the well-being and cohesiveness of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island communities and their noteworthy history of success.

We believe that the proposed lines violate the City Charter requirements Section 52 (1)(c)(d) and (e) and 52 (2) to keep communities and neighborhoods compact and intact. Practically and logistically these lines do not take a common-sense approach to addressing the area’s needs in an effective manner. Breaking up the Upper East Side and including a small sliver of the community in a district across the East River is disruptive, unnecessary, and confusing. It is very likely that the far east section of the Upper East Side and neighborhoods in Queens will not share common goals for resource distribution and municipal funding allocations and positions on issues of greatest concern will most likely differ (take congestion pricing as a prime example of differing issues, needs, and concerns on a topic). While other districts may have physical

boundaries in more than one borough, they are directly adjacent to one another and do not have a river separating them as in this proposed plan.

We strongly urge the New York City Districting Commission to not adopt the redistricting plan that will illogically carve up our communities. We thank the Commissioners for your time and careful review of all letters submitted and testimony presented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julianne M. Bertagna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julianne Bertagna
President Treadwell Farm Historic District Association

Executive Committee:

Eric Altman

Ann Chao

Ranika Cohen

Maria Gottdiener

Elizabeth Granville-Smith

Sam Lek

John Manice

Gavin Michael

Arnold Moss

Elizabeth Seherr-Thoss

Vanita Solomon