



August 21, 2022

Dear Members of the NYC Districting Commission,

As a public safety expert who co-founded and now serves as Executive Director of [We Build the Block](#), I write to oppose the preliminary maps that the NYC Redistricting Commissioner has drafted for Council District 45,

This proposal would remove a large portion of the Flatlands and East Flatbush sections of the district, diluting the political representation of Black and immigrant communities that have historically shared interests and needs. Splitting the common ties, institutions, and networks between Flatbush and East Flatbush will cause long-term harm to the community by weakening its voice and representation, which in turn will certainly reduce resources where they are vitally needed.

We Build the Block is an organization that develops and advocates for community-led public safety solutions. Our group has mobilized youth organizers known as “Crew Count” to organize and register voters in the Flatbush community with our co-founder and Flatbush born and raised resident Michael K. Williams, where the need for representation is urgent. We have collaborated closely with the local NYPD precinct to prevent and intervene in violence. The work of We Build the Block is rooted in firsthand knowledge of how splitting up the Black electorate can lead to negative social, political, health, and safety outcomes for the community.

District 45 must be kept whole, and the Commission must understand the serious, long-term negative consequences it will cause for thousands of Black and immigrant New Yorkers if it fragments these communities under this flawed plan .

Sincerely,

Dana Rachlin  
Executive Director  
We Build The Block