



Founded 1973

Old bricks

Faith in people

Preserving community

Clinton Housing Development Company

August 22nd, 2022

NYC Districting Commission
253 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: City Council Redistricting Maps in Hell's Kitchen

Dear Chair Walcott and Districting Commission,

Clinton Housing Development Company (CHDC) is a not-for-profit community-based organization founded in 1973, dedicated to preserving and creating high quality, permanently affordable housing in Clinton/Hell's Kitchen and in Chelsea. We integrate community, cultural, and green spaces into developments and collaborate with neighborhood and citywide stakeholders in both the public and private sectors. CHDC developments promote diversity and economic integration by respecting and valuing the people, history, and physical character of the community.

CHDC is concerned about the City's plan to divide Hell's Kitchen, currently wholly in NYC Council District 3, into three separate Council Districts (Districts 3, 4 and 6). CHDC has a long history of working with District 3's Councilmember on a wide range of affordable housing initiatives, including highly technical development and tenant harassment issues that fall within the Clinton Special Zoning District in the heart of Hell's Kitchen. The residential area west of Times Square faces some of the strongest economic pressure in the city to convert or demolish affordable housing units, and it is imperative that the local Councilmember be knowledgeable and focused on this important issue.

Preserving affordable housing is not the only complex policy issue facing Hell's Kitchen, CHDC also works with elected officials to represent the community on the provision of social services, land use planning and when evaluating large developments and infrastructure projects. When a unified neighborhood is separated into distinct election districts, the divided constituencies are forced into the edges of each resulting district, and broader neighborhood issues cannot be understood within their proper context or with the same amount of familiarity.

403 West 40th Street New York, New York 10018

Phone: 212. 967. 1644 Fax: 212. 967. 1649

The solution to CHDC's concerns lies in keeping Hell's Kitchen whole; the Unity Map for NYC Council proposed by a coalition of civil and voting rights organizations would allow historic Hell's Kitchen to remain in a single Council District, and constituent issues would be attended to by a dedicated and knowledgeable staff. We strongly request that the NYC Council Districting Commission adopt the Unity Map instead of the current proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelley", written in a cursive style.

Bill Kelley
Director of Programs & Planning
Clinton Housing Development Company