



THE COUNCIL  
OF

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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August 22, 2022

## **August 22, 2022 - Council Member Gale A. Brewer Testimony before the NYC Districting Commission on Proposed City Council Districts**

My name is Gale A. Brewer and I am currently the Council Member representing the Upper West Side from 56<sup>th</sup> Street west of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue up to 109<sup>th</sup> Street West of Broadway, but in the southern portion of the 6<sup>th</sup> District there is a cut-out: Columbus Circle and many of the large residential buildings around Lincoln Center are now in the 4<sup>th</sup> Council District and residents would like to be in the UWS 6<sup>th</sup> District.

The proposal that I prefer is the map produced by the Unity Map Coalition. It keeps an “area of interest” together; the residents of the Upper West Side from West 96<sup>th</sup> Street south to West 54<sup>th</sup> Street west of Broadway and then jaggging up a few streets to Columbus Circle and including Harborview, a NYCHA development on West 55 Street which has the same management as Amsterdam Houses/Addition, located on West 64<sup>th</sup>-65<sup>th</sup> Streets. These developments should all be in the same Council District. The population included in this area is 175,509 people which is slightly more than what was recently announced as the largest possible number of residents allowed but is within the 177,000 number which was considered earlier.

I do not support the first map proposed by the NYC Redistricting Commission, because at the northern end it eliminated PS 75 which is on the southern side of West 96 Street. It includes generations of Upper West Siders who have attended this school and continue to do so; and the map cuts out the residents of buildings from Broadway over to Riverside Park – this area is all considered the Upper West Side. On the southern portion, this map includes part of Hell’s Kitchen/Clinton where residents would like to be in the 4<sup>th</sup> Council District so as to keep their community as one. I believe that the population for this map is 173,359 which is not much less than the number proposed for the Unity Map.

As former Manhattan borough President, I want to express my support for keeping Roosevelt Island and the area along the avenues closest to the East River in the Manhattan and not the Queens district. These communities would not be happy in Queens - and I dare say Queens would not be happy having them! Their “area of interest” is with Manhattan. Roosevelt Island residents travel to work to the UN and businesses in Manhattan; and the hospitals have been part of the fabric of Manhattan for hundreds of years.

I am unique in that I was a member of the City Council from 2002-2013 and then the Borough President. The map in 2002 for the 6<sup>th</sup> Council District was West 54<sup>th</sup> Street to West 96<sup>th</sup> Street

and although those living from West 96<sup>th</sup> Street to West 110<sup>th</sup> Street west of Broadway would probably like to be in the 6<sup>th</sup> Council District, this map worked well. I am urging the Districting Commission to consider the Unity Map which includes the same neighborhoods.

Thank you for your attention to these issues.

Link to Unity Map: [bit.ly/3QKGwgW](https://bit.ly/3QKGwgW)