

[REDACTED]

From: Abreu, Shaun [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 11:55 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Re: SAVE THE 160'S

Please note that there was an error in the testimony I submitted originally (specifically, an aspect of the map was incorrect). Below, please find my final testimony, which should supersede what I submitted on 8/19/2022. I will deliver the testimony in person as well.

Thank you,
Shaun Abreu

Testimony:

I am Council Member Shaun Abreu and I represent District 7 in Northern Manhattan. I am here tonight to express gratitude to the commission for their thoughtful work on the preliminary maps and to ask the board to make some modest but crucial adjustments to the District 7 borders.

I'm here to ask you to save the 160's.

I understand that District 7 must lose some ground to District 10 in order for District 10 to grow. But at a minimum, District 7's northern border should extend to 165th Street, West of Fort Washington Avenue and to 163rd Street, West of Broadway.

I grew up on 161st and Fort Washington, and nothing brings me more pride than representing the block where I grew up. And because I grew up there, I know that the lower 160's form their own distinct community that cannot be broken apart.

Sports were a big part of my life as a kid. And the most important team I ever played on was the 161st Street stickball team. Our beloved opponent was the 162nd street stickball team. We built our whole lives around that little rivalry. And as we got older, the bond we shared only grew stronger. My understanding of the needs in this area is what drives my work today.

As a council member, I have invested heavily in parts of the 160's that are at risk of being absorbed by District 10:

- I secured \$1.2 million dollars to upgrade and revitalize Lily Brown Playground, located between 162nd and 163rd and Riverside Drive.

- I secured nearly \$1 million for P.S. 4 on 160th and Amsterdam to upgrade the auditorium, gymnasium, and library.
- I allocated over \$50,000 to Riverstone Senior Life Services at 99 Fort Washington, where I have also advocated for senior traffic zones.
- Working with the Parks Department and Department of Transportation to make desperately needed repairs to the sidewalks and implement loading zones for deliveries from 160 to 165 and Riverside.
- And just this past weekend, my office hosted a massive block party on 161st Street between Riverside and Fort Washington Avenue that brought together the entire community. Among our many attendees was Mayor Adams, who tweeted about the event and specifically called out my ability to support this specific community: Leaders who have gone through a lot know how to help those who are going through a lot. Council Member @ShaunAbreu is one of those leaders. Proud to join him today in Washington Heights." See the mayor's video here: <https://twitter.com/NYCMayor/status/1561080183184031747?s=20&t=WrxqOzMkvXiNYzkyPzdUwQ>.

Washington Heights has always been represented by two council members. This not only protects the voice of a historically marginalized Latino community but also results in coordination and cooperation between the two districts—ultimately increasing funding for programs that serve constituents across district lines. If large portions of the 160's were to be cut entirely from District 7, the poverty and needs in District 10 would increase dramatically, all while the voice and influence of the people in the lower 160's would decline. **The ultimate effect would be the dilution of the Latino vote, denying this demographic a voice in their local representation. With the majority of Upper Manhattan's Latino population cracked and packed into District 10, Washington Heights and New York's Latino community would lose critical representation.**

To the extent that District 10 must pick up additional ground from District 7, it should grow down to 155th, east of Amsterdam.

Additionally, I would like to lend my support to the request from the people of District 6 that the northern part of their border form a straight line across 96th Street. This is a natural barrier and forms a clean, compact border between Districts 6 and 7. This is a one-street variation from the preliminary map.

Finally, it is crucial that the other borders proposed for District 7 in the preliminary map remain unchanged. Manhattan Valley must remain part of District 7. Manhattanville Houses and Grant Houses must remain part of District 7. I am very grateful to the commission for protecting the integrity of the district by maintaining these boundaries in the preliminary map.

I will note that all of the proposed changes keep District 7 and District 10 within the acceptable population deviation using the software provided by the commission, as shown in the attached map and linked here: <https://districtr.org/plan/138688>.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and service to our city.

Shaun Abreu | Council Member

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From: Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov>

Sent: Friday, August 19, 2022 6:20:05 PM

To: Abreu, Shaun

Subject: Automatic reply: SAVE THE 160'S

Thank you for sending your thoughts about the New York City Districting Commission for 2022-2023. Your ideas are an important and vital part of the process for ensuring the people of New York City are represented fairly, and that we all have a meaningful voice in our government.

Make sure to check out the NYC Districting Commission Website (nyc.gov/districting) for updates about public hearings, meetings, and proposed maps.

Thank you again for reaching out to us.

NYC Districting Commission

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