

# HELL'S KITCHEN NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION

## **BLOCK ASSOCIATIONS:**

29 STREET NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
WEST 36TH STREET BLOCK ASSOCIATION  
WEST 43RD STREET BLOCK ASSOCIATION  
WEST 44TH STREET BETTER BLOCK ASSOCIATION  
HK4546BA  
WEST 47TH /48TH STREETS BLOCK ASSOCIATION  
HK 49-54TH BLOCK ALLIANCE  
WEST 55TH STREET BLOCK ASSOCIATION

## **ORGANIZATIONS:**

CLINTON HOUSING DEVELOPMENT COMPANY  
GARMENT DISTRICT ALLIANCE  
HARTLEY HOUSE  
HUDSON YARDS HELL'S KITCHEN ALLIANCE  
MANHATTAN PLAZA TENANT ASSOCIATION  
PARC VENDOME COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

## **CO-OPS & CONDO ASSOCIATIONS:**

455-7-9 WEST 35TH STREET HDFC  
DYLAN HOUSE COOPERATIVE, W 36TH ST.  
315 WEST 36TH STREET CONDO ASSOCIATION  
348 WEST 36TH STREET CO-OP  
360 OWNERS CORP CO-OP  
CROSS ROADS OWNERS CO-OP, W 36TH ST.

## **BUSINESSES:**

ELLIS BARBERSHOP INC, W 36TH ST  
EJMB REALTY CO INC  
ESPOSITO MEAT MARKET, 9TH AVE.  
FALCON PROPERTIES INC.  
GOTHAM HALL  
HOUNDSTOOTH PUB, 8TH AVE.  
INTERNATIONAL GROCERY, 9TH AVE.  
HY-36 CROWNE PLAZA, W 36TH ST.  
LH CHARNEY ASSOCIATES  
LUCO INTERNATIONAL INC, W 39TH ST.  
MISS BLISS NAIL & SPA, W 36TH ST.  
SEA BREEZE FISH MARKET, 9TH AVE.  
STILE'S FARMERS MARKET, 9TH AVE.  
STITCH BAR & LOUNGE, W 37TH ST.  
TAVOLA, 9TH AVE.  
VITO'S SLICES & ICES, 9TH AVE.

August 22nd, 2022

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

## **Re: Redistricting Maps**

Dear Chair & Commissioners,

The Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Coalition (HKNC) is a community group formed by residents and small business owners to address the dramatic change to the community in the wake of COVID-19. As a historic neighborhood in the heart of Manhattan, we are proud to be a community that has long welcomed one of the City's greatest concentrations of permanent social service facilities and supportive housing. In order to ensure we continue to be a thriving community, HKNC advocates for social service provider accountability, street safety and partnering with local organizations, elected officials and city agencies to ensure the health and well-being of Hell's Kitchen's residents.

HKNC is extremely concerned about the City's plan to redistrict Hell's Kitchen, currently wholly in NYC Council District 3, and divide our cohesive neighborhood into three separate Council Districts (Districts 3, 4 and 6). At issue is the longstanding representation of our historic neighborhood by a single council member who knows the issues facing our district and can advocate on our behalf. HKNC is currently working with elected officials to review the siting of social service facilities in Hell's Kitchen; however, this is only one of myriad issues. When a unified neighborhood is divided into three separate election districts, the constituencies parceled into each new district will be diminished and broader area issues will not be given proper context or attended to with the same amount of familiarity.

HKNC is furthermore concerned that Hell's Kitchen's majority-minority status would be dispersed into three majority white districts, thereby disenfranchising the current Black, Hispanic and Asian voters in this area of Manhattan. HKNC believes the current redistricting plan as proposed would thus violate the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The solution to HKNC'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 addressed 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,

Mario G. Messina  
President, 29 Street Neighborhood Association

Brian Weber  
Co-Chair, West 36<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association

Cressida Connolly  
Co-Chair, West 36<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association

Travis Rodgers  
West 42<sup>nd</sup> St

Ryan Marcano,  
West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street Block Association

Susan Ameal,  
West 44<sup>th</sup> Street Better Block Association

Gordon Stanley  
West 44<sup>th</sup> Street Better Block Association

David Stuart  
West 45<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association

Elke Fears  
President, West 47th/48th Streets Block Association

Steve Herring  
Member, West 47th/48th Streets Block Association

Catherine Lafferty  
Member, West 47th/48th Streets Block Association

Jean-Daniel Noland  
Member, West 47th/48th Streets Block Association

James Bagues  
Member, West 47th/48th Streets Block Association

Jenny Troyer  
Member, West 47th/48th Streets Block Association

Stephen Belida  
Co-Chair, Hell's Kitchen West 50th and 51st Street Block Association

Maria Ortiz  
Member, West 55th Street Block Association

Christine Gorman  
President, West 55th Street Block Association

Barbara Knecht  
West 55th Street Block Association

Leslie Murphy  
Member, West 55th Street Block Association

Delores Rubin  
Member, West 55th Street Block Association

Joe Restuccia  
Executive Director, Clinton Housing Development Company

Mia Muratore  
Deputy Director, Hartley House

Robert Benfatto  
President, Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance

Kevin P. Singleton  
Chairman, Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance & Executive Vice President, TF Cornerstone Inc.

Patricia Maltezos  
Planning and Development Director, Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance

Barbara Blair  
President, Garment District Alliance

Jerry Scupp  
Vice President, Garment District Alliance

Aleta Lafargue  
President, Manhattan Plaza Tenant Association

Anita McDonagh  
Parc Vendome Community Affairs

Cc:

NY State Assembly Member Carl E. Heastie

NY State Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal

NY State Assembly Member Richard Gottfried

NY State Senator Brad Hoylman

NY State Senator Robert Jackson

Eric Adams, New York City Mayor

Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President

Erik Bottcher, New York City Council District 3 Councilmember

Jeffrey Lefrancois, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 4