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SENATOR
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August 24, 2022

Members of the NYC Districting Commission,

As the New York State Senator for the 21st Senatorial District, I am writing to oppose the preliminary maps drawn for New York City Council District 45. The New York State Senate District 21 overlaps largely with Council District 45 and we are deeply involved with the initiatives and development that exists in East Flatbush, and am in continual collaboration with Council Member Farah Louis on improving this alcove of Brooklyn.

Pursuant to *Chapter 2-A* of the New York City Charter, the Districting Commission is tasked with the development and drawing of the fifty-one City Council district lines per the 2020 Census and other criteria mandated by the New York City Charter. One such criteria is *Chapter 2-A, Section 52* of the *New York City Charter, subparagraph (c)*, “District lines shall keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, economical, or other.”

Altering the district from its historical coordinates compromises the growth and development of Black and Brown

communities that fought to keep this, and neighboring communities' whole over the years. The proposed map would mean Council District 45 loses vital economic resources, like Canarsie BJ's Shopping Mall, Wyckoff Farmhouse, organized homeowners and staple educational institutions like Meyer Levin Junior High School (I.S. 285K) and Samuel J. Tilden High School, which have been in the East Flatbush community for generations. Removing these neighborhoods and schools drastically distorts educational opportunities and is detrimental to the development and growth of our youth and families.

Much of the economic progress in the past decades has been made possible through a united East Flatbush area. Splitting the neighborhood into a separate Council district will harm faith-based institutions, homeowners, schools, and small businesses in the district, preventing them from thriving and building a strong foundation for their members and patrons, while undercutting the character, diversity, infrastructure, and social resources that are staples of our beloved district.

The proposed map drawn by Council Member Farah Louis (<https://districtr.org/plan/138863>), keeps the tightly knit communities together while expanding access to crucial resources. This area needs additional primary and secondary schools, quality healthcare to provide the best healthcare outcomes, and additional parks for increased recreation for seniors and youth in the district, which can all be achieved while meeting the criteria mandated by the New York City Charter to increase the population of Council District 45 by 5-10%. This map includes more areas of East Flatbush,

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Remsen Village and Flatlands alongside our predominately Black, Brown, and Caribbean neighbors.

I am hereby giving my support for an inclusive map that jointly accounts for the needs of our East Flatbush community, and I encourage the Commission to make additional consideration the needs of East Flatbush when revising the proposed maps.

Yours in Partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Parker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

KEVIN PARKER