



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

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NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center

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New York City Districting Commission
253 Broadway- 4th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Members of the New York City Districting Commission:

Founded in 1884, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) is an international leader in cancer care, research, and educational programs. With the support of our Elected Officials and community partners, we proudly serve thousands of patients each year through our medical and educational campus on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

We write to support the request in the Manhattan Community Board 8 Resolution passed on July 28, 2022, which asked that you reconsider the draft redistricting lines affecting the Upper East Side of Manhattan. MSK is among the medical institutions referenced as a community stakeholder in the resolution. Our main hospital on York Avenue and many of the research and outpatient facilities that make up our campus would be redrawn into a Council District located largely in another borough under these proposed lines.

Operating a medical campus in Manhattan comes with unique challenges that are often addressed in a borough-centric manner. For example, the Departments of Buildings, Transportation, and Environmental Protection all operate under a borough-centric structure with Borough Commissioners attuned to each Borough's needs. Additionally, NYPD, DSNY and FDNY all operate under Borough Commands. These agencies play a crucial role in addressing our daily operational needs. For more than two decades, MSK's inpatient hospital and outpatient facilities on the Upper East Side have been represented by Council District 5 in Manhattan. Our Council Member serves as a key liaison on our behalf with these important borough-based agencies.

The deep relationships we have with our neighborhood's local officials, residents, and community organizations have been essential to making our hospital a renowned destination for medical care for New Yorkers, and indeed for patients from around the region and the globe. The Charter-mandated redistricting goals to keep neighborhoods intact and reduce the number of districts that span across more than one borough prevent division of established communities of interest and recognize the City's existing borough-based administrative structure. We therefore ask that you consider redrawing the lines to keep our Upper East Side facilities within Council District 5.

Respectfully,

Craig B. Thompson, MD
President and CEO

cc: Council Member Julie Menin
Council Member Julie Won
Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine
Manhattan Community Board 8