

*36 Sutton South Corporation  
36 Sutton Place South  
New York, NY 10022*

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, 36 Sutton South Corporation (the “Corporation”), a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, having its principal office at 36 Sutton Place South, New York, NY; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation owns the property at 36 Sutton Place South in the City and County of New York, Borough of Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation is currently located in Council District 5; and

WHEREAS, the resident shareholders of the Corporation reside at 36 Sutton Place South and avail themselves of the parks, schools, institutions, and other facilities and services within the current Council District 5; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 2-A of the New York City Charter (the “Charter”), the New York City Districting Commission (the “Commission”) is in the process of redrawing City Council district boundaries to reflect population and demographic changes reported in the 2020 decennial census; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is seeking public input into the redistricting process from various stakeholders, including members of the public; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Census revealed that NYC's population had grown to 8,804,190, meaning that the ideal district size is now 172,882; and

WHEREAS, districts should be roughly equal in population pursuant to the one person one vote doctrine of representation; and

WHEREAS, districts cannot vary from the ideal district size by more than 5%, or roughly 8,644; and

WHEREAS, the proposed map vastly over represents Staten Island compared to the 48 other districts and does not ensure fair representation of residents across the five boroughs, violating the one-person one vote doctrine; and

WHEREAS, the NYC Charter identifies five ranked districting requirements:

1. Keep neighborhoods and communities intact;
2. Keep districts compact;
3. Limit crossover districts;
4. Avoid splitting voters of the same political party for purposes of diminishing effective representation of such voters; and
5. Avoid oddly shaped districts; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Queens-based Council District 26 (“D26”) would truncate East Side neighborhoods and communities of interest in Manhattan from adjacent, similar Manhattan neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, the proposed D26 would establish a new crossover district between Queens and Manhattan for the first time since the Council was expanded to 51 members; and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s proposal to add a portion of Manhattan, including Roosevelt Island, to a Queens-based Council District, District 26, violates the City Charter Districting requirement by: (1) it fails to keep neighborhoods and communities of interest intact; (2) fails to keep the district compact; (3) it creates an oddly shaped crossover district; and

WHEREAS, the Commission proposes that 48,000 Manhattan/Roosevelt Island residents of the 173,000 – or 27.7% – be moved to D26, where these residents will not receive the representation, attention, and discretionary funding to which they are entitled due to their small percentage of the total D26 population; and

WHEREAS, the eastern portion of the Upper East Side, Sutton Place, and Roosevelt Island have major differences with D26 such that the proposed combination may result in a significant diminution of municipal services to, amongst others, senior citizens and people with disabilities which populate a large share of those areas; and

WHEREAS, the practical difficulties of having a two Borough Queens-Manhattan district cannot be ignored, specifically the connectivity between the two portions (Queens and Manhattan) is difficult as evidenced by

1. The Roosevelt Island Tram connects Manhattan to Roosevelt Island, but NOT to Queens;
2. The Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge connects Manhattan to Queens, but NOT to Roosevelt Island;
3. The F train connects Manhattan, Roosevelt Island, and Queens, but the last Manhattan stop is at Lexington Avenue, well outside the proposed D26, and the first stop in Queens is at 21<sup>st</sup> Street and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue (Queensbridge Houses) outside the proposed D26;
4. The Roosevelt Island Bridge connects Roosevelt Island and Queens at 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue, considerably outside the proposed D26; and

WHEREAS, the proposed lines would separate the representation of the following from similar areas and facilities:

1. Numerous academic medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses from the neighborhoods in which they reside and where most neighboring residents live; and
2. Numerous parks and green acres including, amongst others, Sutton Place Parks, John Jay Park, portions of the East River Esplanade, and Andrew Haswell Green Park, which are critical open spaces for these

neighborhoods and which would be separated from most of the neighborhood residents who use them; and

3. Numerous public schools including P.S. 183, P.S. 158, P.S. 217 and M177 are located in the area being proposed to be placed in D26 and would be adversely affected by being separated from the rest of the neighborhood; and
4. Hunter College, a major public educational institution, would have its main campus at 68th Street and Lexington Avenue separated into two council districts, with a skybridge connecting two buildings in two different council districts; and

WHEREAS, such separation of institutions and facilities would invariably lead to internecine struggles with respect to discretionary funding and oversight responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, by separating a small portion of Manhattan's east side and placing it in D26, the Commission has divided neighborhoods and communities of interest in direct violation of the Charter mandate; and

WHEREAS, two-borough districts (*e.g.*, D34) that have existed in the past have been comprised of neighborhoods that are contiguous, have similar demographics, share similar public transportation, public education and other services, while the Manhattan and Queens areas of the proposed D26 do not enjoy these similarities; and

WHEREAS, a reasonable alternative map has been proposed by Manhattan community Board 8 (copy attached) that

1. Creates a non-crossover district that eliminates the connectivity issues described above; and
2. Keeps communities of interest intact in both boroughs; and
3. Does not disrupt demographic balances; and
4. Creates a compact, shape-compliant district unlike the preliminary D26 that resembles the head and upraised arm of the Statue of Liberty.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that 36 Sutton South Corporation disapproves of the Commission's proposed Preliminary Plan #1 redistricting map that moves approximately 54 blocks of Manhattan's Sutton Place and East Side neighborhoods, as well as Roosevelt Island, to a Queens-based City Council District and strongly urges that these areas remain in a Manhattan-based City Council District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 36 Sutton South Corporation urges the Commission to keep long-established communities of interest intact in Manhattan and not establish any new crossover districts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 36 Sutton South Corporation requests that the Commission redraw its preliminary maps prior to its required submission to the New York City Council.



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Robert R. Kulikowski  
President  
36 Sutton South Corp.

Date: August 17, 2022

Vote: Yes	7
No	0
Abstentions	0
Absent	0
Not voting	0