

**NYC Districting Commission Public Hearing, Manhattan**  
**Monday, August 22, 2022**  
**Testimony**

My name is Gilbert C. Hoover, IV, and I am the Senior Vice President and General Counsel of The Shubert Organization, located in Times Square. The Shubert Organization respectfully submits this testimony requesting that the New York City Districting Commission reconsider the proposed redistricting action resulting in District 3 no longer being included in the Time Square district and residents of Hell's Kitchen losing an important voice in decision's affecting the Time Square area, many of whom work in the area.

The Shubert Organization is America's oldest professional theatre company and the largest theatre owner on Broadway. Shubert currently owns and operates 17 Broadway, six Off-Broadway theatres, and the Forrest Theatre in Philadelphia. The Shubert Foundation, sole shareholder of The Shubert Organization, is dedicated to sustaining and advancing live performing arts in the United States. The Foundation provides general operating support to not-for-profit theatres and dance companies. Foundation grants in 2022 totaled \$37.6 million. A significant portion of the grant recipients are New York City based not-for-profit theatre companies, cultural and academic institutions.

The Times Square area, the area from 40th Street to 53rd Street between 6th and 8th Avenues, and Restaurant Row on 46th Street between 8th and 9th Avenues, comprise one of the City's most vital economic engines. The eastern portion of Times Square is largely characterized by office use and hotels and serves as a transition point between the Midtown East commercial core and the entertainment district west of Broadway, which includes the theater district and more residential uses.

The western portion of the Times Square area has been historically associated with Hell's Kitchen for generations and, prior to the proposed redistricting, its interests were represented by District 3. However, in the current draft of the redistricting map, Times Square loses critical representation with constituencies west of Broadway, as District 3 is no longer a part of the Time Square area. A significant portion of actors, theatre employees, and other professionals, are long-time residents of the Hell's Kitchen community. In fact, residential developments such as Manhattan Plaza were created to house the artistic community vital to the growth of our industry. We believe a more equitable solution can be achieved by extending the boundary lines for Council Districts 3 and 4 from Broadway and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street to Columbus Circle.

Now more than ever, the Times Square community and the Broadway industry needs more robust council representation. The last two years of the pandemic required that our Broadway Theatres be closed. It is important to note the significant quality of life issues that have manifested in our area, inclusive of Hell's Kitchen. We have found that coordinated efforts between the two council members in Districts 3 and 4 can achieve positive results for the Theatre District.

I thank you on behalf of Shubert Organization and I would be happy to take any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gilbert C. Hoover, IV". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G" and a prominent flourish at the end.

Gilbert C. Hoover, IV

Senior Vice President and General Counsel

The Shubert Organization, Inc.