

Dear Members of the NYC Districting Commission,

My name is Pauline Robinson and I am part of the Flatbush Gardens Tenant Association. I am writing regarding my opposition with the recently released maps that the NYC Redistricting Commissioner drafted for Council District 45, which will remove a large portion of our Flatbush, Flatlands and East Flatbush sections of our district. Over the past 23 years, I have lived in Council District 45 and have seen how important the unity of our neighborhoods have shaped our ability to represent ourselves in our community. Council District 45 has been a major resource for our institution.

The map submitted by Councilmember Farah Louis includes provisions for expanding her district further into the East Flatbush, Flatlands and Canarsie areas to meet the criteria of the charter and increase our population but also to include more healthcare institutions, parks and senior center options for the district. This would solidify her commitment to bring increased access to our vulnerable population who rely on affordable healthcare for their families while also raising quality of life for youth and families.

Without these expansions, our area will not have the opportunity to handle the large influx of people coming into this community and cutting the areas suggested by commission will compromise the common ties of a growing Caribbean and South Asian population in our district. Taking away staple educational institutions like Meyer Levin Junior High School, Brooklyn Science & Engineering Academy and Samuel J. Tilden High School—in which houses Kurt Hahn, It Takes a Village (ITAVA) and Cultural Academy for the Arts and Sciences (CAAS) will be disservice to our families. These schools have been in the East Flatbush for generations, and their removal will drastically distort educational opportunities and will be detrimental to the development and growth of our youth and families because it affects our community's options for feeder schools in East Flatbush.

I hope you all take the time to reconsider the disparities represented on the preliminary map and restore the East Flatbush and Remsen Village Neighborhoods back into Council District 45 and have them remain the new district lines and expand the district further northeast into East Flatbush, Flatlands and Canarsie.

Enclosed is a map by Council Member Louis that includes our communities' preferred proposed map and new areas that will expand schools, health care access and park space in Council District 45.

Sincerely,

Pauline Robinson

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