

SoHo Alliance

A Volunteer Community Organization

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NYC Districting Commission
253 Broadway – Suite 1749
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioners,

The SoHo Alliance is a volunteer, umbrella organization representing the various SoHo Block Associations. Founded in 1981, we are concerned with zoning, landmarking, traffic and quality-of-life issues and several of our members serve on Community Board #2.

We define SoHo as the area designated by the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission and by the M1-5a,b zoning district, a zoning district unique to only SoHo and our neighbors on the other side of Houston Street, an area some call NoHo.

In reality, NoHo IS SoHo, SoHo IS NoHo, the same neighborhood artificially divided by a wide boulevard: Houston Street.

Our two areas share so much in common: their history, their evolution, their struggles, their development, their demographics, their housing stock, their landmarks designation and their zoning uniqueness. NoHo and SoHo work together on so many of these issues that are unique to us and to us alone, sharing them with no other neighborhood.

That is why the SoHo Alliance is flabbergasted that the Commission is considering removing "NoHo" from CD1 to CD2, but keeping "SoHo" in CD1. It is wrong to divide a common neighborhood.

Such a change will split our Community of Interest. That is not what the Commission should be doing.

For example, there is an effort afoot to change the zoning in the M1-5a,b. If it progresses, we neighbors on either side of Houston Street need to be united and share the same council representative as we always have, if we are to have a common front and strength.

We in SoHo cannot urge the Commission strongly enough not to take the area north of Houston Street up to Astor Place, Broadway to Bowery, out of CD1 but maintain the current status, which has made everyone happy and effective.

Sincerely yours,

Sean Sweeney, Director
SoHo Alliance