

INDEPENDENCE TOWERS TENANTS ASSOCIATION

85 TAYLOR ST. # 6E BROOKLYN NY 11211 (718) 486-5049

August 24, 2022

NYC Districting Commission
253 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

As the board of NYCHA's Independence Towers Tenant Association, we represent a very diverse development contains 6 buildings with hundreds of units. We are reaching out to express our very serious concerns with the draft council's district maps.

The draft redistricting plans proposes to remove our development from the 33rd district – where we were always an integral part of - into Council District 34. This will drastically change the district boundaries in the area. Our residents mimic the diversity in our section of district 33 and we're a part of that community of interest. For the proper representation for the unique needs of our diverse residents, it's important that we shall remain a part of district 33.

We are presently located in District 33 and stand with the three other public housing developments in the neighborhood representing a melting pot of families in our neighborhood. Our united front and sense of community is reflected in the walkway paths leading to and from our four housing developments and other housing developments in District 33. This unity is our strength and has allowed us to keep our neighborhoods intact and to present the many unified voices residing in this district to be heard when considering the distinct needs of our very diverse community. Some of our distinct needs include advocating for community preferences for the units and succession rights, so community members have a chance of public housing near the cultural and religious services they depend on.

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We shall also note that public housing is funded and directed by federal, state and city agencies, and it's important to have common representatives working together for our needs. Whereas in all the other newly drawn political maps, this entire area is included as a whole (Congress District 7, Senate District 18, Assembly District 50) together with the majority of South Williamsburg, this is not the case with the draft council's recently released district map. It will make it harder to bring together all officials to work in concert for our needs.

The draft maps leaves district 33 without any NYCHA developments, while district 34 is oversaturated with large NYCHA developments. Our development has an abundant of needs and we depend on elected officials to advocate consistently maintenance and proper management. The district 34 representative is and will be overextended with NYCHA issues. By bunching us in into that district it will hurt our interest and the interests of all district 34th NYCHA residents, by stretching ours and their representative even thinner and inadvertently weakening us all.

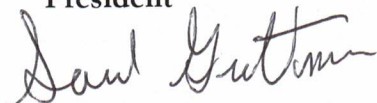
Of the most important responsibilities of a redistricting commission is to keep neighborhoods intact. The draft maps failed to do that by dividing us from our community of our interest, while it also divided the Northside of Williamsburg. We respectfully ask to change that, by re-uniting our communities. We support the map in the following link that will achieve that.
<https://districtr.org/plan/138019>

As such, we are appealing to you that our clear and distinct community should not be divided among several council districts, thus losing its voice and any hopes of representation of our needs. We request that the South Williamsburg public housing development representing this diverse community of interest should remain unified within our community of interest in district 33, and not be carved out to become a part of District 34.

Sincerely,

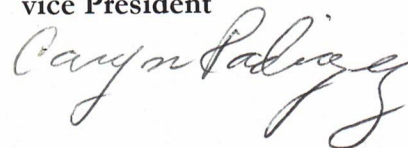
Samuel Guttman

President



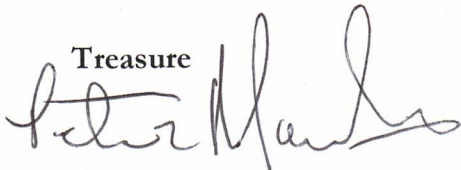
Caryn Rodriguez

vice President



Peter Morales

Treasure



Sonia Morales

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