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From: Kagan, Ari <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 10:55 AM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Fleteau, John
Subject: Re: Proposed Boundaries of the 47th Council District
Attachments: Map 47 CD.jpg

Dear members of the Districting Commission!

It has come to my attention through media reports that the proposed new map of the 47th District will disenfranchise many Southern Brooklyn communities: African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Russian Speaking Americans, Pakistani Americans, Italian Americans and others. It will create a very oddly shape of the district where Coney Island and Bay Ridge are connected - a distance of almost five and half miles - through a long thin two block stretch!

Under the new proposed map, the 47th Council District will lose all of Bensonhurst, all of Homecrest, the vast majority of Gravesend, and snake through Bath Beach and Dyker Heights in a "tunnel" that is just two blocks wide but over twenty blocks long, to connect Coney Island part to all of Bay Ridge.

This proposal completely ignored countless testimonies - in person, by Zoom and by e-mail - of many community leaders and organizations, representing tens of thousands of Southern Brooklyn residents. Everyone who testified before the Commission about the 47th District, asked to keep together communities of interest and to make sure the 47th Council District would stay intact and would be compact.

This is completely unacceptable injustice and a disservice to communities of Southern Brooklyn. I am urging you to reject this new proposed map and to bring similar neighborhoods together - instead of tearing them apart.

My proposed District map is attached. It includes communities of interests and neighborhoods located close to each other in the same Community Board, same Police Precinct, same Assembly District, same NYS Senate District and same Congressional District. I urge the Commission to include Coney Island, Sea Gate, Trump Village, Warbasse, Luna Park, Brightwater Towers, part of Brighton Beach (from Ocean Parkway to Coney Island Avenue), Beach Haven, as well as parts of Gravesend, Bensonhurst and Bath Beach. That would create a compact district that will unite communities of interest and neighborhoods that share similar demographics and socioeconomic status.

If you have any additional questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Ari Kagan
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