

**DeCillis, Michael**

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**From:** Jeffrey Karliner [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 8:44 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cc4056a5d0c6c41200e4008da8117596a%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637964234560541113%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6YRIVl%2BP2DnbcySflbtHcihbxfKuXpEpTqavQulzBGA%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Karliner>  
400 west 55th st ny ny 10019

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

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**From:** arlene blatt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 3:10 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Districts 26 and 5 - OPPOSED!!!

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Dear Commissioner Mennin,

I am writing in strong opposition to the redistricting of Districts 26 and 5. Such a change would remove all representative governing from District 5. It demonstrates a total lack of concern and consideration of constituents living in District 5 who have different issues and needs than those in District 26. In addition, District 5 would now be in the minority..

Relevant to this, the timing is particularly detrimental to residents in District 5 with the current issue and battle over congestion pricing looming over our heads. This is where the current Council member representing District 5 should be focusing - and not on re-districting.

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following additional reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?



A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Arlene Blatt

■ Sutton Place South

NY, NY 10022

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**Sutton Place South, New York, N.Y. 10022**

Dear Chair Walcott,

As a resident of Sutton Place South, I write to ask that you **DO NOT ADOPT** the preliminary district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, notably splitting the Sutton Place community of interest between multiple districts and combining representation for a portion of our Manhattan community with Queens. Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to represent and serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two or more additional Manhattan Community Boards or hold full membership on multiple Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting, creating significant disparities among neighbors who share the parks and access to the new Greenway from Sutton Place? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Will the interests of Manhattan residents be served by a Council Member who serves a majority of constituents in Queens?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. Keep the Sutton Area neighborhood intact and with representation in Manhattan! Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 2:42 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Planned Redistricting for NYC District 5

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Dear Chair Walcott and the NYC Districting Commission,

I write to you in reference to my address in District 5 being proposed to join District 26. I live at 425 E 63<sup>rd</sup> Street and I have lived within a few blocks of my current address since 2007.

I understand the proposed redistricting is to address the growth in NYC during the last decade, and I appreciate how difficult this task must be.

My request is that our neighborhood within the UES remain in a Manhattan District. While I believe all boroughs have good representation, I do think each borough and each neighborhood faces unique issues. I feel that moving us to a Queens District will minimize the impact of our voices, as the majority of District 26 would have priorities that may differ from the UES of Manhattan.

I urge the Commission to consider amending the proposed districts such that my neighborhood and those around me remain in a Manhattan majority district. I understand that in deciding district changes, "district lines shall keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other." The proposed district lines separate communities with shared interests, including Roosevelt Island, which is linked to education institutions on the UES. Our neighborhoods share unique issues related to healthcare, education, transportation, and recreational/park, all of which are critical and need prioritization for the health of our community.

I make a (sometimes difficult) choice to live in Manhattan for the unique opportunities and access it offers. I want my voice to be heard in matters of neighborhood needs. Please reconsider the redistricting such that my neighborhood representation remains within my borough of Manhattan.

Thank you for your work for our city. I appreciate your consideration for amending the proposed redistricting for District 5.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Keros  
[REDACTED]



*A Not-for-Profit Corporation*

east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

P.O Box 1855

New York, NY 10021-0048

Tel 212-713-5826 • [info@esna-nyc.com](mailto:info@esna-nyc.com) • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)

August 5, 2022

To: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

**VIA EMAIL TO:** [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

**MAIL TO:** Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria outlined in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8 and Roosevelt Island? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park, most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,



Christina Conway

E 65<sup>th</sup> Apt 12B NY NY 10065

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*

August 15, 2022

Dear Chair Walcott,

As a resident of [REDACTED] East 57<sup>th</sup> Street, NY 10022, I write to ask that you **DO NOT ADOPT the preliminary district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5** which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
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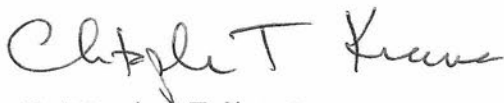
Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, notably splitting the Sutton Place community of interest between multiple districts and combining representation for a portion of our Manhattan community with Queens. Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to represent and serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two or more additional Manhattan Community Boards or hold full membership on multiple Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting, creating significant disparities among neighbors who share the parks and access to the new Greenway from Sutton Place? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Will the interests of Manhattan residents be served by a Council Member who serves a majority of constituents in Queens?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. Keep the Sutton Area neighborhood intact and with representation in Manhattan Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Christopher T. Kraus". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Christopher T. Kraus

Date: August 15, 2022



August 15, 2022

Dear Chair Walcott,

As a resident of [REDACTED] East 57<sup>th</sup> Street, NY 10022, I write to ask that you **DO NOT ADOPT the preliminary district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5** which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

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In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. Keep the Sutton Area neighborhood intact and with representation in Manhattan Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Darcy A. Stacom". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Darcy A. Stacom

Date: August 15, 2022

[REDACTED]

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**From:** David Lieberman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 3:44 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NYC Districting Commission Public Hearing, Manhattan

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Good Afternoon

My name is David Lieberman, and I am a representative of Paramount Group, in Times Square. I respectfully submit this testimony to urge the New York City Districting Commission to modify the redistricting map by extending the boundary lines for Council Districts 3 and 4 from Broadway and 42nd Street to Columbus Circle. This will create a more equitable representation for our commercial and cultural district.

The Times Square district, 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 the district 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.

Times Square's western portion has been culturally and politically aligned with the Hell's Kitchen community for decades. However, in the current draft of the redistricting map, Times Square loses critical representation with constituencies west of Broadway. We believe a more equitable solution can be achieved by continuing the boundary lines along Broadway from 42nd Street to Columbus Circle.

This will ensure the Times Square area can continue to work in partnership with and would establish an alignment of interests between residents, businesses, and the theater community, and be more representative of the diversity of these constituencies at the City Council, which has been vital to the success of Times Square for nearly a decade.

The partnership between Times Square and its surrounding communities has led to the successful passage of legislation that has eased pedestrian congestion, expanded public plazas, and improved the quality of life for people who live, work, and visit the Times Square area.

It is critical that the City Council boundary lines be redrawn in a way that includes the diversity of commercial and residential interests that have helped make Times Square the economic engine it is today. It will also help ensure a more equitable recovery for the area in the years ahead.

Thank you for considering this recommendation to modify the district lines for the Times Square district.

Sincerely,

David Lieberman

## David Lieberman

Property Manager



Paramount Group

1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019

Direct: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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A Not-for-Profit Corporation  
east sixties neighborhood association, inc.  
**P.O Box 1855**  
**New York, NY 10021**  
**Tel 212-713-5826 • www.esna-nyc.com**

TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission  
FROM: **Francisco Negrete** East 63rd st. W1E.NY.NY. 10065  
DATE: July 27, 2022  
RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26  
VIA EMAIL TO: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov  
MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

Good day Chair Walcott,

The plan presented for 54 blocks of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island is not acceptable to the residents of the East Sixties. We believe it violates the charter requirements of keeping neighborhoods compact and in tack This plan would make CD26 an oddly shaped district with practical difficulties: they are - would the Council Member have a district office in Manhattan as well as on Roosevelt Island; would the Council Member cover Community Board meetings in Board 8 & 6 and have full membership on both Borough Boards, and finally we believe this part of Community District 8 would have a diminution of representation. While other Districts have physical boundaries in more than one borough, they are directly adjacent to one another. They do not have a river separating them as in this proposed plan. The issues in CD26 are not the same as in CD5. There are several well-established neighborhood associations whose membership would be torn asunder.

The issues that involve City Agencies such as Transportation, Sanitation, Parks etc. are different in the two council districts. Then there are two other major issues that would tear our community apart. The **first** is the hospital corridor with their buildings for the major institutions many of which would be in CD26 under the new plan. But many of their offices and allied buildings and staff and doctors would be located in/or live in CD5 making it difficult for discussing issues constantly arising. The **second** is Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 51 Districts for the least amount of park space in the city. This plan would remove: 24 Sycamores Park; ¾ of Honey Locust Park—with ¼ remaining in D5; most of our East River Esplanade and Andrew Haswell Green Park Phase 1 & 2A—2B is under construction at this time. Phase 3 has not yet started and will likely cost \$25 Million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the voters in her/his District? Most of the funding will probably be spent in the Queens part of the district. **This would result in CD 5 having the least amount of Park space in NYC.**

We strongly recommend that you study and implement Community Board 8's resolution and plan, as it takes into account the number of residents in all the adjourning districts.

Our Neighborhood Association depends greatly on our Council Member and her office staff, which is easy to reach by a short bus ride. I strongly urge the New York City Districting Commission to reconsider this ill-conceived plan and not divide an indivisible and cohesive neighborhood.

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*



A Not-for-Profit Corporation  
east sixties neighborhood association, inc.  
**P.O Box 1855**  
**New York, NY 10021**  
**Tel 212-713-5826 • www.esna-nyc.com**

TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

FROM: (name) (address)

DATE: July 27, 2022

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

VIA EMAIL TO: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

Good day Chair Walcott,

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The issues that involve City Agencies such as Transportation, Sanitation, Parks etc. are different in the two council districts. Then there are two other major issues that would tear our community apart. The **first** is the hospital corridor with their buildings for the major institutions many of which would be in CD26 under the new plan. But many of their offices and allied buildings and staff and doctors would be located in/or live in CD5 making it difficult for discussing issues constantly arising. The **second** is Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 51 Districts for the least amount of park space in the city. This plan would remove: 24 Sycamores Park; ¾ of Honey Locust Park—with ¼ remaining in D5; most of our East River Esplanade and Andrew Haswell Green Park Phase 1 & 2A—2B is under construction at this time. Phase 3 has not yet started and will likely cost \$25 Million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the voters in her/his District? Most of the funding will probably be spent in the Queens part of the district. **This would result in CD 5 having the least amount of Park space in NYC.**

We strongly recommend that you study and implement Community Board 8's resolution and plan, as it takes into account the number of residents in all the adjourning districts.

Our Neighborhood Association depends greatly on our Council Member and her office staff, which is easy to reach by a short bus ride. I strongly urge the New York City Districting Commission to reconsider this ill-conceived plan and not divide an indivisible and cohesive neighborhood.

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*

August 16, 2022

Dennis M. Walcott, Chair  
New York City Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10007  
NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov

Dear Chair Walcott,

**As a resident of Sutton Place South for nearly a quarter of a century (20 years in 2024), I write to ask that you PLEASE NOT ADOPT the preliminary district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the reasons noted below.**

My initial objection is that the draft proposal would appear to violate two of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 22-100 and Section 22-20. The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extremely crooked district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed district will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, notably splitting the Sutton Place community of interest between multiple districts and compromising representation for a portion of our Manhattan community with Queens. Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to represent and serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Council District 6? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two or more additional Manhattan Council boards or hold full membership on multiple borough boards?

The proposal does not adequately address or recognize the fact that our property taxes are calculated differently. We are a community of primarily co-op, condo and rental. District 26 is predominantly represented by 1, 2 and 3 family homes.

Additionally, Council District 4 has a large senior population which is reliant upon the easily accessible pocket parks we have maintained in our area through a local park conservancy which has developed close working relationships with our Council Member. They have been part of the fabric of our neighborhood and understanding the needs of the constituent.

And, while I'm on the subject of "pocket parks", there is also the issue of participatory budgeting, which is fairly new to our community and with which we are finally seeing a greater understanding of the process and expanded community involvement for our residents. How likely is the Manhattan portion of the proposed district to secure it needed and requisite funding for community projects in the related geographic land area in which we reside through the Participatory Budgeting process following this proposed change when one of our new districts lies in a different borough? The commission would likely be creating significant disparities among neighborhoods who share the parks and access to the new Greenway for Sutton Place.

Manhattan and its residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing, etc. Will the interests of Manhattan residents be adequately and appropriately served by a Council Member who exercises a majority of constituent time in Queens?

A significant and defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of a fair number of medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience in addressing a complexity of needs in conjunction with ensuring the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Finally, this quirky, oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voice of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

I emphatically urge the Commission NOT to adopt the proposed district referenced above and continue to work on a more acceptable alternative with a better knowledge and deeper understanding of the issues and/or conditions. I exhort the commission to **keep the Sutton Area neighborhood intact AND** supported by representation based in Manhattan where the community is physically located.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention. I rely upon the Commission's apt understanding of the proposal's elucidated shortcomings and its clearer grasp of the challenges or worse, hardship, by fellow East Side and Sutton Area neighbors would have to endure, should the proposal be adopted.

Sincerely,

*Heather L. Bain*

■ Sutton Place South  
New York, NY 10022





*A Not-for-Profit Corporation*  
east sixties neighborhood association, inc.  
**P.O Box 1855**  
**New York, NY 10021**  
**Tel 212-713-5826 • www.esna-nyc.com**

TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission  
FROM: Hillary Zilz, East 64<sup>th</sup> Street #E11C, New York, NY 10065  
DATE: July 27, 2022  
RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26  
VIA EMAIL TO: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov  
MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

Good day Chair Walcott,

The plan presented for 54 blocks of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island is not acceptable to the residents of the East Sixties. We believe it violates the charter requirements of keeping neighborhoods compact and in tack. This plan would make CD26 an oddly shaped district with practical difficulties: they are - would the Council Member have a district office in Manhattan as well as on Roosevelt Island; would the Council Member cover Community Board meetings in Board 8 & 6 and have full membership on both Borough Boards, and finally we believe this part of Community District 8 would have a diminution of representation. While other Districts have physical boundaries in more than one borough, they are directly adjacent to one another. They do not have a river separating them as in this proposed plan. The issues in CD26 are not the same as in CD5. There are several well-established neighborhood associations whose membership would be torn asunder.

The issues that involve City Agencies such as Transportation, Sanitation, Parks etc. are different in the two council districts. Then there are two other major issues that would tear our community apart. The **first** is the hospital corridor with their buildings for the major institutions many of which would be in CD26 under the new plan. But many of their offices and allied buildings and staff and doctors would be located in/or live in CD5 making it difficult for discussing issues constantly arising. The **second** is Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 51 Districts for the least amount of park space in the city. This plan would remove: 24 Sycamores Park; ¾ of Honey Locust Park—with ¼ remaining in D5; most of our East River Esplanade and Andrew Haswell Green Park Phase 1 & 2A—2B is under construction at this time. Phase 3 has not yet started and will likely cost \$25 Million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the voters in her/his District? Most of the funding will probably be spent in the Queens part of the district. **This would result in CD 5 having the least amount of Park space in NYC.**

We strongly recommend that you study and implement Community Board 8's resolution and plan, as it takes into account the number of residents in all the adjoining districts.

Our Neighborhood Association depends greatly on our Council Member and her office staff, which is easy to reach by a short bus ride. I strongly urge the New York City Districting Commission to reconsider this ill-conceived plan and not divide an indivisible and cohesive neighborhood.

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*



[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jane Margaretten-Ohring [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 4:26 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] redistricting

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I am very concerned about the proposal to make Roosevelt Island part of Queens. Where is the logic in this? Right now, both termini of the tram are in Manhattan. Under redistricting, 1 stop will be in Queens, the other in Manhattan. And to make the whole 12-14,000 people have to change from 212 numbers and 10044 zip codes to 112 zip codes seems like a huge amount of bureaucratic red tape. As the saying goes- If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Jane Margaretten  
Roosevelt Island resident

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jeannine Ross [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 11:54 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] District Reassignment

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I live on East 64th in an area threatened by district redrawing. The needs of the UES are completely disregarded. It impacts transportation, education and public space. If I wanted to live in a Queens district, I would have made that decision, not had the decision determined for me.

What mismanagement.

Sent from my iPhone

**■ Sutton Place South, New York, N.Y. 10022**

Dear Chair Walcott,

As a resident of ■ Sutton Place South, I write to ask that you **DO NOT ADOPT** the preliminary district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, notably splitting the Sutton Place community of interest between multiple districts and combining representation for a portion of our Manhattan community with Queens. Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to represent and serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two or more additional Manhattan Community Boards or hold full membership on multiple Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting, creating significant disparities among neighbors who share the parks and access to the new Greenway from Sutton Place? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Will the interests of Manhattan residents be served by a Council Member who serves a majority of constituents in Queens?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. Keep the Sutton Area neighborhood intact and with representation in Manhattan! Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Phone:*

*Will either of these items be given the same amount of attention from a Queens Council Member?*

*On a personal level, I have lived on Sutton Place South for 48 years. I have lived in Manhattan my entire adult life. I shop locally, all my activities take place in Manhattan - restaurants, theaters, concert halls, schools, doctors, parks ,etc. I don't remember the last time I was in Queens. My interests in what needs to be done in this city is compatible with others on the East side of Manhattan.*

*It is for these reasons I urge the Commission to not adopt the proposed redistricting.*

*My fellow neighbors and I stand ready to testify in person on August 22<sup>nd</sup> to make sure our voices are heard.*

*Respectfully yours,*

[REDACTED]

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**From:** judith petrone [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 9:48 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re-districting City Council

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Dear Commissioner Dennis M. Walcott, Chair,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

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- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8?

Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards?

Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards?

What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for

Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly

Judith Petrone

■ Sutton Place South Apt 2K

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Judy Belle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 1:41 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: redistricting

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Terrible idea. Don't let it happen.

Judith Gronich  
[REDACTED] E 72nd St



**Kenneth Sprague**  
 **Sutton Place South**  
**2L**  
**New York, NY 10022**

**August 16, 2022**

Dear Commissioner;

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

*Ken Sprague*

Kenneth Sprague

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Lazaro Fuentes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 6:35 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Upper East Side Redistricting makes no sense

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To whom it may concern,

The Upper East Side redistricting being proposed disenfranchises so many and frankly makes no sense.

The only reason to do something so onerous is to divide communities of interest that have over many years organized themselves into these communities.

It is as if there is either something nefarious afoot or this redistricting is the result of extreme levels of incompetence. Which is it?

Just because you are part of a commission it does not mean that you must make drastic changes.

As someone who sat on multiple authorities appointed by council, I can tell you from experience that if something is not broken then much of your job is to maintain the good status quo and to not break things. If something not broken don't fix it. And if it needs fixing, you don't need to be radical about it.

Incremental is better than radical change. I strongly urge more evolution than revolution in your decision making.

Kind regards,  
Lazaro Fuentes  
[REDACTED] Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10128  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Linda Becker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 2:31 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** Assemblymember Rebecca Seawright; Governor.Hochul@exec.ny.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] My Opposition to Proposed Redistricting: Roosevelt Island / Manhattan

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I am a resident on Roosevelt Island --- I want my home to stay in District 5 as part of Manhattan. I support City Councilmember Julie Menin's letter stating objections to the proposed redistricting plan.

My views:

1. Roosevelt Island was conceived and built as a "Manhattan Utopian Community". We are a Manhattan Island under New York City's City Charter.
2. Three elementary schools — P.S. 158, 183 and 217 — would be absorbed by the majority-Queens Council District 26, despite remaining a part of the Upper East Side's school district --- CRAZY!!!
3. **"The Roosevelt Island Tramway** is an aerial **tramway** in **New York City** that spans the East River and connects Roosevelt Island to the Upper East Side of Manhattan" (description from Wikipedia)  
How can the Roosevelt Island Tramway be split between two districts--  
The East Tramway Depot on Roosevelt Island, moved into District 26 and the West Tramway Depot on Manhattan remaining in District 5 --- CRAZY!!
4. The proposal effects significant parkland: Sutton Place Park, John Jay Park and a chunk of the East River Esplanade would be shifted to District 26. --- VERY BAD!!!

**DUMP THE REDISTRICTING PLAN!!!**

Sincerely, Linda A. Becker  
Resident -- [REDACTED] Main Street, Apt 207



[Garnetnyc@gmail.com](mailto:Garnetnyc@gmail.com)

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Lori Goodman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 10:07 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] KEEP HELL'S KITCHEN WHOLE

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To whom it may concern:

I have been a resident of Hell's Kitchen for over 33 years. I first moved here because it was the only place I could afford to live. I have stayed because of the sense of community. I raised two children here in part because of the help and support from my neighbors and because I wanted to raise my children in a diverse community where exposure to different cultures was embedded in their everyday experience. The current move to divide Hell's Kitchen into three separate districts is in direct conflict with who we are as a neighborhood. The preliminary map that divides our neighborhood would take our majority minority neighborhood and slice it into three white majority districts. This will not only dilute the minority voice and vote in three separate districts but is also in violation of the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In addition, Hell's Kitchen needs one elected official on the city council to fight for our parks, our schools, our small businesses, LGBTQ+ rights, and our Clinton Special District.

Hell's Kitchen runs from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, 34th Street to 59th Street. We are a west side neighborhood and it would hurt us greatly to have part of Hell's Kitchen represented by the same city council person who represents Stuyvesant Town on the lower east side.

I've included links for the proposed Unity Map that I wholeheartedly support.

Please KEEP HELL'S KITCHEN WHOLE.

Thank you for your time,  
Lori Goodman

Unity map for CD-3 <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Unity map for the entire city.

[https://nyc.redistrictingandyou.org/?districtType=cc&propA=current\\_2013&propB=council\\_plan\\_unitymapjuly18#%26map=9.85/40.72/-73.96](https://nyc.redistrictingandyou.org/?districtType=cc&propA=current_2013&propB=council_plan_unitymapjuly18#%26map=9.85/40.72/-73.96)

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<https://newplayexchange.org/users/8464/lori-goodman>



*A Not-for-Profit Corporation*

east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

**P.O Box 1855**

**New York, NY 10021-0048**

**Tel 212-713-5826 • [info@esna-nyc.com](mailto:info@esna-nyc.com) • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)**

August 5, 2022

To: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria outlined in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8 and Roosevelt Island? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park , most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

Meredith Murphy

■ E 64<sup>th</sup> St, Apt 6C

10065

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*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*

August 15, 2022

Dear Chair Walcott,

As a resident of [REDACTED] East 57<sup>th</sup> Street, NY 10022, I write to ask that you **DO NOT ADOPT the preliminary district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5** which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

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Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, notably splitting the Sutton Place community of interest between multiple districts and combining representation for a portion of our Manhattan community with Queens. Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to represent and serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two or more additional Manhattan Community Boards or hold full membership on multiple Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting, creating significant disparities among neighbors who share the parks and access to the new Greenway from Sutton Place? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Will the interests of Manhattan residents be served by a Council Member who serves a majority of constituents in Queens?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?



Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. Keep the Sutton Area neighborhood intact and with representation in Manhattan Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele F. Kraus". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent "M" and "K".

Michele F. Kraus

Date: August 15, 2022

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 11:27 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Natalia Collazo Fernandez  
[REDACTED] E 79th St New York, NY 10075-1037  
[REDACTED]





*A Not-for-Profit Corporation*

east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

P.O Box 1855

New York, NY 10021-0048

Tel 212-713-5826 • [info@esna-nyc.com](mailto:info@esna-nyc.com) • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)

August 5, 2022

To: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

VIA EMAIL TO: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park, most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

<u>PABLO KAUFMAN</u>	<u>[REDACTED] EAST 63<sup>RD</sup> ST, APT 110</u>	<u>10065</u>
NAME	ADDRESS	Zip Code

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Patricia Agostino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 10:12 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Districts

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Commissioners,

I'm writing to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 & Manhattan Council District 5 which includes portions of Sutton Place, the UES & Roosevelt Island NOT BE ADOPTED for the following reasons:

FIRST, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1), (c), (d), & (e) & Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria would result in districts where:

\*neighborhoods & communities of interest are not kept intact \*the proposed district is not compact \*the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district \*proposed district is very oddly shaped SECOND, proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of Manhattan Community Districts? Manhattan & Queens residents may hold extremely different positions on important matters of public policy.

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical & research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience & expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas.

THIRD, proposed district will significantly & adversely impact municipal services & diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

I urge the Commission not to adopt the proposed districts.

Sincerely,  
Patricia R Agostino  
[REDACTED] East 72nd St.  
Apartment 11A  
NY, NY 10021

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** paulette [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 11:42 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] This redistricting proposal for the Upper East Side

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....and Queens is unfair to everyone, the Queens community and the East Side of Manhattan community. We live on 69th Street and 2nd Avenue. We are more connected to 1st avenue and York, sutton place, Carl Schutz park, ps 158 (my daughter went there); St Catherine's Park and playground (my children and grandchildren), than we are say, to 5th and Madison Avenues, so it really makes no sense at all. But for sure the entire upper east side community issues are more aligned than with the areas in Queens, or in fact Roosevelt Island (although the tram will now be in 2 districts according to this redistricting?).

The traffic patterns and dangers are completely different in crowded ues than Queens. The bike path necessities are different. The school populations and needs are different and diverse. Does the redistricting 'committee' take into account that we have large white populations in our elementary schools, as well as large black populations in our high schools, maybe not so large new immigrant populations? Does this proposed Queens area have this? Honestly, this plan is even more stupid than the gerrymandered Congressional district that the 'independent' upstate authority forced on us, so we have to choose between 2 terrific powerful, effective Congress people (and a good upstart as well). Now you're asking us to choose someone for our council seat that represents mostly an area of the city that we don't know very well?

Let us continue to choose representatives from the 'hood', who know the area they advocate for, not spread our representation so thin that no one can make an intelligent argument to the council for managing the entire City according to local needs.

Thank you,

Paulette Kellner  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] East 69th Street  
NY NY 10021

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 12:55 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I have lived on East 72nd Street between 1st and York Avenues for 30 years (I'm 68 now). My children were born here and went to school at PS 158 and then Wagner. I used to commute to work on the 6 train, now I regularly use the Q train, which is one block away from me. The idea that these places are to be split into different districts is absurd. I can count the number of times I've been to any part of Queens Council District 26 in those 30 years on my fingers and not even need them all.

I believe that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island should not be adopted.

Additionally, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Furthermore, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mr. Phil Collis

█ E 72nd St Apt 8B New York, NY 10021-4646 █



[REDACTED]

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**From:** Robert Norell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 11:43 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Plans

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

Attention:  
Dennis M. Walcott, Chair  
Hon. Marilyn D. Go Maria Mateo, Esq.  
Joshua Schneps  
Lisa Sorin  
Msgr. Kevin Sullivan  
Kai-Ki Wong  
Maf Misbah Uddin  
Michael Schnall  
Kristen A. Johnson  
Yovan Samuel Collado  
Gregory W. Kirschenbaum  
Marc Wurzel  
Kevin John Hanratty  
Dr. Darrin K. Porcher

Dear Commissioners:

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island NOT be adopted. I can see no rational reason for combining these two distinctly different parts of New York City. Manhattan and Queens residents hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy and you would be doing a tremendous disservice to residents of both areas by combining them. On every issue, one group would be silenced over the other once a decision would be made.

I ask that you reconsider combining these two drastically different parts of the city.

Sincerely,  
Robert E. Norell  
[REDACTED] Sutton Place South #11A  
New York, NY 10022  
[REDACTED]

ROBERT E. WANKEL  
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer

August 16, 2022

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

New York City Districting Commission:

I respectfully submit this testimony to urge the New York City Districting Commission to modify the redistricting map by extending the boundary lines for Council Districts 3 and 4 from Broadway and 42nd Street to Columbus Circle. This will create a more equitable representation for our commercial and cultural district.

The Times Square district, 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 the district 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.

Times Square's western portion has been culturally and politically aligned with the Hell's Kitchen community for decades. However, in the current draft of the redistricting map, Times Square loses critical representation with constituencies west of Broadway. We believe a more equitable solution can be achieved by continuing the boundary lines along Broadway from 42nd Street to Columbus Circle.

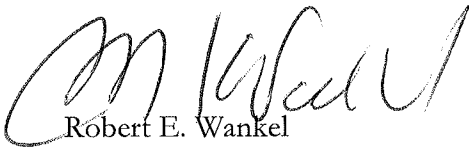
This will ensure the Times Square area can continue to work in partnership with and would establish an alignment of interests between residents, businesses, and the theater community, and be more representative of the diversity of these constituencies at the City Council, which has been vital to the success of Times Square for nearly a decade.

The partnership between Times Square and its surrounding communities has led to the successful passage of legislation that has eased pedestrian congestion, expanded public plazas, and improved the quality of life for people who live, work and visit the Times Square area.

It is critical that the City Council boundary lines be redrawn in a way that includes the diversity of commercial and residential interests that have helped make Times Square the economic engine it is today. It will also help ensure a more equitable recovery for the area in the years ahead.

Thank you for considering this recommendation to modify the district lines for the Times Square district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Wankel", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name "Robert E. Wankel".

Robert E. Wankel

August 5, 2022

To: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission  
253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria outlined in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8 and Roosevelt Island? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park, most of the East River

Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by **Community Board 8's resolution**, which would result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

Sam Vero	■ E34th St, 4A	New York, NY	10016
NAME	ADDRESS		Zip Code

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Tracy Elstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 10:31 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY FROM RESIDENTS AT 422 EAST 72nd STREET - 163 Letters were collected OPPOSING THE MERGER!

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Dear Mr. Walcott,  
I am president of The Oxford on 72<sup>nd</sup> Street (422 East 72<sup>nd</sup> Street) and am opposed to the merger of Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5. We have collected **163 letters** from Oxford residents who also oppose the proposed merger.

Here is a link to those letters which I am also FedExing to your offices today:  
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:77224d7f-bfda-440a-a484-56f47b339ff4>

We strongly encourage the Redistricting Commission to return to the drawing board and vote to **reject the proposed merger.**

Sincerely,

Tracy Elstein  
President, Oxford on 72<sup>nd</sup> Street [REDACTED] East 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10021)

Tracy Elstein  
[REDACTED]

■ Sutton Place South  
New York, Ny 10022

August 16, 2022

Dennis M. Walcott, Chair  
New York City Districting Commission 253 Broadway,  
3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Walcott,

As a long-time resident (since 1991) of ■ Sutton Place South, **I write to ask that you DO NOT ADOPT the preliminary district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5** which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, notably splitting the Sutton Place community of interest between multiple districts and combining representation for a portion of our Manhattan community with Queens. Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to represent and serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two or more additional Manhattan Community Boards or hold full membership on multiple Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting, creating significant disparities among neighbors who share the parks and access to the new Greenway from Sutton Place? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Will the interests of Manhattan residents be served by a Council Member who serves a majority of constituents in Queens?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

I will be out-of-town on August 22 so I cannot come with my neighbors to testify in person. Instead I am sending this testimony in writing and hope that it will be heard. In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. Keep the Sutton Area neighborhood intact and with representation in Manhattan! Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

*Vivette Ancona*

Signature: A. Vivette Ancona

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 8:46 AM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Dr. Alan Minkoff

[REDACTED] E 72nd St New York, NY 10021-4650  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Alexander Yesikov [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 10:14 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C93ce53a2e4324c26db2508da80bf52ad%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad%7C0%7C0%7C637963857953137553%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=v3W98TME7dY0kTqEZU77Zwmn74esQqm6XcmbXsSh0Q0%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Alexander Yesikov  
[REDACTED] w 47th Str apt 4E  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Alexandra Elson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:30 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Alexandra Elson  
[REDACTED] E Broadway  
New York, NY 10002

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Amy Stoller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:39 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Amy Stoller  
[REDACTED] W 89th St  
New York, NY 10024

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ana Marton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:32 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Ana Marton  
[REDACTED] E 7th St  
New York, NY 10009

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Andrew Der [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 10:08 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Der  
[REDACTED] W 57th ST, #10S  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Angela Daniela Bernedo Pantigozo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 10:45 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** jm\_short@ymail.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Redistricting Roosevelt Island

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To Members of the Redistricting Commission:

I strongly oppose the redistricting lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5, which includes Roosevelt Island, for the following reason(s):

The proposed change is a direct violation of City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2), resulting in:

1. Neighborhoods and communities of interest not being kept intact.
2. The proposed district is very oddly shaped.

In addition, the Queens member would need to send representatives to 2 Manhattan Community Boards and hold membership in 2 Borough Boards. Queens and Manhattan residents may differ on public policy issues such as congestion pricing. Manhattan residents in the Queens district would be at a disadvantage in participatory budgeting.

Loss of representation in District 5, where the tramway is rooted, puts operation of this vital link in jeopardy.

A. Daniela Bernedo P., DDS  
[REDACTED] main st apt 3E  
New York, NY 10044

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Anne Mitcheltree [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:32 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

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The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Anne Mitcheltree  
[REDACTED] E 5th St  
New York, NY 10003

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ann Natyzak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:33 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cfe8eeddd0984425ac38f08da80769a7e%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637963545326561903%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=EKNeg6f8vWdL4TtGHMR%2FuRYV08mkfg3qfrATtWwByWY%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Ann Natyzak  
[REDACTED] W. 55th St.

Sent from my iPhone



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Bryan Grandison [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:55 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Sincerely,  
Bryan Grandison  
[REDACTED] W 55th St, #2F  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** genata carol [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:49 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
genata carol  
[REDACTED] E 10th St  
New York, NY 10009

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Carol Kino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:30 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
Carol Kino  
[REDACTED] Horatio St  
New York, NY 10014

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Carol Yost [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:12 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
Carol Yost  
[REDACTED] W 16th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Coco Paladino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 5:25 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Sincerely,  
Constance Paladino  
[REDACTED] West 55th Street  
Apt 3F  
New York, NYS 10019

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** c s [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:23 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,

c s

[REDACTED] W 104th St  
New York, NY 10025

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Dana Dumbroff [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 3:05 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Dana Dumbroff  
[REDACTED] West 55th Street

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Debra Alberts [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:19 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Sincerely,  
Debra Alberts  
[REDACTED] West 55th Street Apt 3D  
New York, NY 10019  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Diana Daimwood [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 5:58 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
Diana Daimwood  
[REDACTED] Lexington Ave  
New York, NY 10075

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Elaine Skirka [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 11:17 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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I am writing to say I am very opposed for District 5 to be swallowed up into a Queens district. This district in Queens has a lot of problems that we should not be involved in. Leave us alone doing good things for our neighbors. 50 upper east side blocks will suffer. Let the Queens district solve their own problems.

Elaine Skirka

Sent from my iPad



A Not-for-Profit Corporation  
east sixties neighborhood association, inc.  
P.O. Box 1855  
New York, NY 10021  
Tel 212-713-5826 • www.esna-nyc.com

TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

FROM: (name) Farhad Fetrati

(address)

E 66th St, Apt 6D New York NY 10005

DATE: July 27, 2022

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

VIA EMAIL TO: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4th Fl, NYC 10007

Good day Chair Walcott,

The plan presented for 54 blocks of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island is not acceptable to the residents of the East Sixties. We believe it violates the charter requirements of keeping neighborhoods compact and intact. This plan would make CD26 an oddly shaped district with practical difficulties: they are - would the Council Member have a district office in Manhattan as well as on Roosevelt Island; would the Council Member cover Community Board meetings in Board 8 & 6 and have full membership on both Borough Boards, and finally we believe this part of Community District 8 would have a diminution of representation. While other Districts have physical boundaries in more than one borough, they are directly adjacent to one another. They do not have a river separating them as in this proposed plan. The issues in CD26 are not the same as in CD5. And there are several well-established neighborhood associations whose membership would be torn asunder.

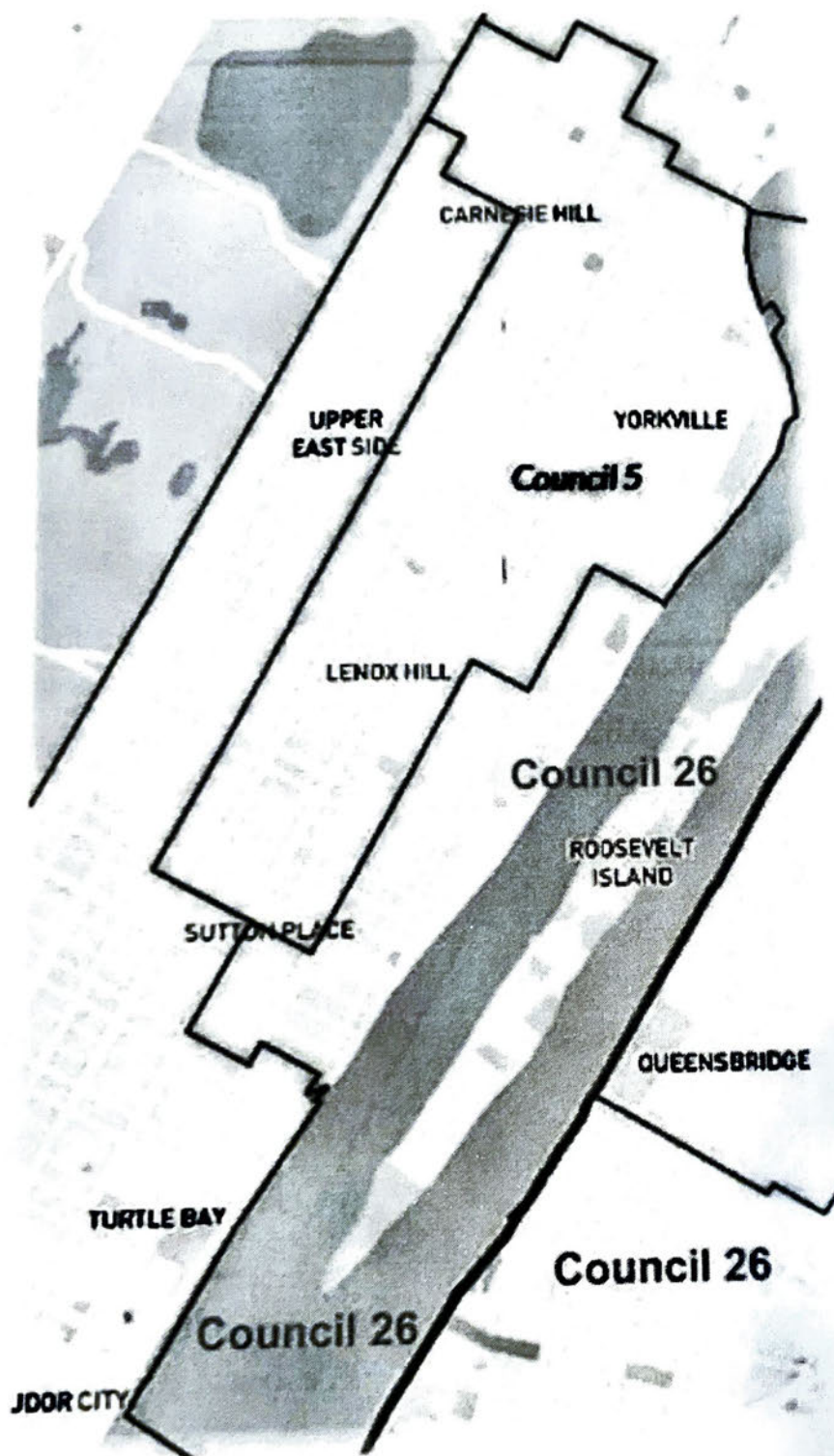
The issues that involve City Agencies such as Transportation, Sanitation, Parks etc. are different in the two council districts. Then there are two other major issues that would tear our community apart. The first is the hospital corridor with their buildings for the major institutions many of which would be in CD26 under the new plan. But many of their offices and allied buildings and staff and doctors would be located in/or live in CD5 making it difficult for discussing issues constantly arising. Not to mention the effect on "bench to bed" translational medicine research. The second is Community District 8 ranks 47th out of 59 Districts for the least amount of park space in the city. This plan would remove: from CD 5 24 Sycamores Park; 1/4 of Honey Locust Park—with 1/4 remaining in D5; most of our East River Esplanade and Andrew Haswell Green Park Phase 1 & 2A—2B is under construction at this time. Phase 3 has not yet started and will likely cost \$25 Million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the voters in her/his District? Most of the funding will probably be spent in the Queens part of the district.

We strongly recommend that you study and implement Community Board 8's resolution and plan, as it takes into account the number of residents in all the adjoining districts.

Our Neighborhood Association depends greatly on our Council Member and her office staff, which is easy to reach by a short bus ride. I strongly urge the New York City Districting Commission to reconsider this ill-conceived plan and not divide an indivisible and cohesive neighborhood.

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*





[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Gail Cancelino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:24 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
Gail Cancelino  
[REDACTED]  
New York, NY 10014

Gail Tavelman

██████ East 66<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt 10A

New York, NY 10065

████████████████████

Dennis M. Walcott, Chair  
Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 3rd Floor  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioner Walcott:

We write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Gail Tavelman





[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Gemma Pesceovich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 8:02 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting-

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Opposing this plan, bad plan for the UES community.

Gemma Pesceovich

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** George Dorris [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:24 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
George Dorris  
[REDACTED] E 10th St  
New York, NY 10003

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Greg Koch [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 10:20 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C3af2372035df45e1a95808da80c03d04%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637963860470117425%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=3rRkbt6Nen2eRrY3ZPawu6ukm9mWnTavq2D12lhWW5k%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Gregory Koch  
[REDACTED] W 57th St, 3B  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Gregory Bishop [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 6:59 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Sincerely,  
Gregory Bishop  
[REDACTED] W 47th Street Apt 4E  
NY, NY 10036

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Gregory Juedes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:02 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
Gregory Juedes  
[REDACTED] Warrington Pl  
Bluffton, SC 29910

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Harriet Bachmann [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:59 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
Harriet Bachmann  
[REDACTED] 5th Ave  
New York, NY 10003

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Harriet Botwinick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:09 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C794997fe34cb47bd91c108da807b9b29%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637963566809592473%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Yj1QS%2B9U5tMmBwYfHuGr62lsQ%2BNcD6upbe6nlJdxslw%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Harriet Botwinick  
[REDACTED] West 55th Street  
4D  
NYC, NY 10019

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 3:36 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Helen Hooke

[REDACTED] E 79th St Apt 14Y New York, NY 10075-0959 [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** henry johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 10:59 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Henry L. Johnson  
[REDACTED] W 55th St, 19D  
NY, NY 10019

[h](#) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** HOWARD LEVITSKY [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 1:20 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Sincerely,  
Howard Levitsky  
[REDACTED] W 43rd St., #29P  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Janet shea [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 10:05 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Re-districting Roosevelt Island, NY from New York County, NY to Parts of Queens/LIC

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To Whom It May Concern:

This is regarding the proposal to re-district my home (have lived here for 40 years) of Roosevelt Island, New York from New York County (Manhattan) to parts of Queens LIC/ to more closely meet "one man/woman/one vote".

I'm including and agreeing with all these reasons below another long-time fellow-resident cites as important reasons to Not re-district Roosevelt Island New York from New York County ("Manhattan") to parts of Queens/LIC

Though Roosevelt Island, New York may appear to have a certain "thousand number of residents", many residents here are transient-they work for the UN, have residences in other countries, now that all buildings are out of Mitchell-Lama and some residents can buy, they are no longer living on Roosevelt Island as their primary residence.

Others who appear as "permanent residents" on Roosevelt Island are also not permanent-such as Cornell Technion University students and staff, New York Presbyterian Weill Cornell and Memorial Sloan Kettering staff.

If my home county is changed from New York County ("Manhattan") to parts of Queens/LIC, it will require me to put in a lot of time-consuming work changing many of my official documents such as:

Banking  
Other financial records such as Investments  
Power of Attorney  
Health Care Proxy  
Work  
Health, Life and other Insurance  
Health Providers including, hospitals, urgent care centers, diagnostic providers such as radiology, etc.  
Mailing information  
Retail delivery information  
Church records  
Other legal records  
Charge account information  
New York State driver's license  
USA Passport, etc.

\*After this, I may be required to spend a lot more time and work making calls and sending emails to correct mistakes made to some of these changes.

\*\*I went through this when my parents passed away. It did require a lot of time and work. It was also very stressful.

I'm the only breadwinner in my family and like many other New Yorkers and Americans, I'm very busy, am struggling and really can't afford to have my precious time used for this.

\*\*\*\*I'm also a York State Notary certified in New York County, as my county of residence.

Re-districting Roosevelt Island from New York County to parts of Queens/LIC would require more time and work to change it. I use my New York State Notary Public New York County certification for important legal documents at

work. Many of these documents require a New York County Notary Public. Changing my certification from New York County to Queens County/LIC would have a major impact on my job.

There is already a "Main Street" in Queens. Adding "Main Street" from Roosevelt Island to Queens will result in confusion, important documents not being mailed correctly, etc.

\*\*\*\*\*I will NOT Vote for anyone who is responsible for trying to do this!

Janet M. Shea  
[REDACTED] Main Street  
Roosevelt Island, NY 10044  
Janet M. Shea

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 6:55 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
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Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Miss Jennifer Schuppert  
[REDACTED] Main St New York, NY 10044-0105  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jesse Bilotta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 6:43 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cc22d79c4567644b3896308da80a1e14c%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637963731279426537%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEkaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=MSrm63DEcd4k9ew7frhcOn2QPdH9cwTXp9fPuNjEVyU%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
<<Jesse Bilotta>>  
<[REDACTED] W. 47th st. >>

Thank you for your time,  
Jesse Bilotta

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jesse Rosen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 3:40 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell%20's Kitchen Redistricting

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Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
<<NAME>>Jesse Rosen  
<<ADDRESS>>[REDACTED] West 55th Street 4B, NY NY 10019

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jonathan S. Cerullo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 9:48 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission, Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community. Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022> Sincerely, <<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>> <<BUILDING STREET ADDRESS>>

--

Jonathan Stuart Cerullo Sent from iPhone Somewhere in the world



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jonathan Cherr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 10:10 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Jonathan Cherr  
[REDACTED] E 5th St  
New York, NY 10003

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** JSCTheatricals - Cerullo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 9:47 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022> Sincerely, <<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>> <<BUILDING STREET ADDRESS>>

--

Sent from somewhere Hopefully in a theater

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Karin Schall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 12:28 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hells Kitchen Whole!

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To Whom It May Concern:

As a proud resident of Hell's Kitchen for over 27 years, I am appalled that our beloved neighborhood is being divided for political purposes.

Just Google Hell's Kitchen and you too will read that HK is a neighborhood bordered by 34th street to the south, 59th street to the north, Eighth Avenue to the East, and the Hudson River to the west.

The physical boundaries shape our neighborhood. We are a diverse community that shares concerns about safety, LGBTQ issues, fair housing, community involvement and so much more.

Young Theater folks caring for elderly neighbors.

Bodega owners who know a locals' daily coffee order.

We come together to plant gardens and help rid our streets of rats.

Young families, immigrants, small business owners, drag queens, union workers — We all chose to move to HK to build and strengthen this neighborhood we love.

We should NOT be arbitrarily sliced into districts which don't make sense.

We demand that politicians #KeepHell'sKitchenWhole

Thank you,  
Karin Schall  
[REDACTED] West 48th Street 5R  
NY, NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Kathleen Steed [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 8:41 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Next: Albany County, WY in the same district with Albany, NY?

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Perhaps the Federal Government could hire the same redistricting firm. They then could decide that Albany County, Wyoming should be in the same district as the city of Albany, New York. That makes as much sense as adding a Manhattan District to Queens.

Kathleen Steed  
[REDACTED] 3rd Ave., Apt. 2A  
New York, NY 10128-3651

Resident in Council District 5 for 45 years.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Katie Devlin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:02 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
Katie Devlin  
[REDACTED] E 36th St  
New York, NY 10016

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Keith David [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 9:41 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C616ccd5c68564fac663808da80bac3c9%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637963838106941881%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMjC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dlc0PRZj7a47%2BBD%2FmCgW%2FipbQAhTAU0LLdjm5AaydBQ%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Keith David  
[REDACTED] W 55th Street, New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Laraine Kravitz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:54 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
Laraine Kravitz  
[REDACTED] E 10th St  
New York, NY 10003

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Leslie Kriesel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:58 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

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Regards,  
Leslie Kriesel  
[REDACTED] W 11th St  
New York, NY 10014



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Liz Keefe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:54 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Liz Giletto  
[REDACTED] W. 43 Street #18N, NY, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Matt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 12:15 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Matt Green  
[REDACTED] West 53rd Street  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Margaret Schwarz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 9:44 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] keep the upper east side in manhattan

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I am a life long New Yorker born and raised in Astoria N.Y.. I love Astoria, but, NYC, namely the upper east side is now my home. Having lived in both boroughs, I know from experience that they are very different and require representation that will fairly reflect their needs and wants. Please keep the districts as they are.

Thank you,  
Margaret Schwarz

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Margot Jacqz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 11:15 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments on redistricting: Manhattan 6 to 7. Please don't.

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I am unable to attend the hearing on City Council redistricting, but wish to say I object to changes at the north corner of District 6. I understand the current configuration looks odd on a map, but in neighborhood terms, to the end of West End Avenue, we are much more strongly connected to the Upper West Side south of us than to Manhattan Valley, Manhattanville, Morningside and West Harlem to the north.

Thank you.

--

Margot Jacqz  
[REDACTED] West 103 st #12d  
New York NY 10025

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Marilyn Sachar [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:15 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

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As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Marilyn Sachar  
[REDACTED] E 9th St  
New York, NY 10003

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Marydene Davis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:08 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
Marydene Davis  
[REDACTED] E 15th St  
New York, NY 10003

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Mary Loftus [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:18 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
Mary Loftus  
[REDACTED] E 9th St  
New York, NY 10003



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Mary Robertson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 4:05 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting comment

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To the committee,  
It would be ideal to have Jerrold Nadler and Caroline Maloney not running against each other. They both sit on important committees. Please redraw the districts to allow them both to serve.

Thank you,

Mary Robertson

[REDACTED] West 16th St #8D  
New York, Ny 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Mary Steinbauer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:58 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
Mary Steinbauer  
[REDACTED] W 10th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** matt cheng [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:16 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Matt cheng

[REDACTED] west 42nd street, New York, NY 10036

Matthew Dennis | Elizabeth Reis

█ E. 72 Street, Apt. 38A

New York, NY 10021

█  
█

August 16, 2022

Dennis M. Walcott, Chair  
Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Walcott,

We are writing to comment on the redistricting plan proposed, as required by the City Charter, by the commission you chair. We currently reside in a part of District 5 on the Upper East Side that, under the new map, would be severed from the rest of Manhattan and joined to Queens (in District 26). We understand the difficulty of the commission's task, including the need to rebalance populations throughout New York, but we believe the current plan to be unsuitable.

We urge the commission to rethink and adjust the proposed map because it seems to violate some basic objectives of the redistricting process and because it would likely have negative effects both to the people and neighborhoods moved from Manhattan into District 26 and to those in Queens required to incorporate the Manhattan residents in question.

The commission's mandate was to give each district a roughly equivalent population. But the process was supposed to keep existing communities and neighborhoods intact. To quote the City Charter: "District lines shall keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other."

The commission was also instructed to avoid diluting the voting power of racial and linguistic minorities. We are not concerned about potential dilution for ourselves. But the proposed map seems to undermine this goal for District 26, where new constituents from the Upper East Side could weaken the voting power of the racial and linguistic minorities currently living in Queens. We can imagine the residents of Yorkville (where we live) successfully lobbying for increased services here, for example, perhaps at the expense of residents of Queens with different concerns and perhaps more pressing needs for basic services, maintenance, and improvements.

Many of our neighbors are worried that the social and economic needs in Queens would be a burden or a distraction to Upper East Siders. We worry, instead, about the potential ways in which the needs of Queens' residents might be subsumed by the impact of vocal, (mostly) wealthier fellow New Yorkers living outside of Queens, here across the river.

In addition, the current map severs our neighborhood—about 50,000 people and their environs, about 50 blocks—from its natural and long-term community on the Upper East Side. We share joint interests with others who would remain in District 5, embrace mutual commitments to local parks (John Jay Park, for example, and the East River Esplanade) and local schools (PS 158, for example), and imbibe a common history. Our historic and natural place is with our neighbors in District 5.



The proposed redistricting plan degrades both District 5 and 26. The new configuration does not keep communities of interest together; it produces an oddly shaped and distended District 26, not a compact district as mandated in the Charter; and it is likely not to serve the interests of constituents on either side of the East River.

We therefore respectfully request that the Commission set aside the proposed redistricting plan and redraw the map in a way that better realizes the goals of the City Charter. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew Dennis and Elizabeth Reis

■ E. 72 St., Apt. 38A

New York, NY 10021



[REDACTED]

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**From:** M.E. Monti [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:42 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
M.E. Monti  
[REDACTED] 5th Ave  
New York, NY 10011

**From:** Michael Nassar [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 7:00 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments

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Dear Sirs:

The 2020 Census revealed that NYC's population had grown to 8,804,190, meaning that the ideal district size is now 172,882; and WHEREAS, districts should be roughly equal in population pursuant to the one person one vote doctrine of representation; and WHEREAS, districts cannot vary from the ideal district size by more than 5%, or roughly 8,644; and WHEREAS, the draft map identifies three districts in Staten Island, with no crossover into other boroughs; and WHEREAS, the three proposed Staten Island districts would represent between 165,470 and 165,491 individuals, or all approximately 7,400 below the ideal district size; and WHEREAS, the proposed map vastly overrepresents Staten Island compared to the 48 other districts and does not ensure fair representation of residents across the five boroughs, violating the one-person one-vote doctrine; and WHEREAS, the NYC Charter identifies five ranked districting requirements: 1. Keep neighborhoods and communities intact.

2. Keep districts compact.

3. Limit crossover districts.

4. Avoid splitting voters of the same political party for purposes of diminishing effective representation of such voters 5. Avoid oddly shaped districts WHEREAS, the proposed Queens-based Council District 26 ("D26") would divide the Upper East Side neighborhood and the communities of interest in Community District 8 Manhattan; WHEREAS, the proposed D26 would establish a new crossover district between Queens and Manhattan for the first time since the Council was expanded to 51 members; and WHEREAS, the Commission's proposal to add a portion of Manhattan and all of Roosevelt Island to a Queens-based Council District, District 26, violates the City Charter Districting requirement in the following ways: (1) it fails to keep neighborhoods and communities intact; (2) fails to keep the district compact; (3) it creates an oddly shaped crossover district; and WHEREAS, the Commission proposes that 36,000 Manhattan Island residents and 12,000 Roosevelt Island residents – which equates to 48,000 of the 173,000 people in the proposed D26, or 27.7% – be moved to D26, where these residents will not receive the representation, attention, and discretionary funding to which they are entitled due to their small percentage of the total D26 population; and WHEREAS, the eastern portion of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island have major differences with D26 such that the proposed combination may result in a significant diminution of municipal services to, amongst others, senior citizens and people with disabilities which populate a large share of those areas; and WHEREAS, the practical difficulties of having a two Borough Queens-Manhattan district cannot be ignored; and WHEREAS, the proposed lines would separate the representation of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses from the neighborhood in which they reside and where most neighboring residents live; and WHEREAS, the areas being proposed to be moved to the D26 district contain numerous parks and green acres including, amongst others, John Jay Park, portions of the East River Esplanade and Andrew Haswell Green Park, which are critical open spaces for the neighborhood and which would be separated from most of the neighborhood residents who use them; and WHEREAS, numerous public schools including P.S. 183, P.S. 158, P.S. 217 and M177 are located in the area being proposed to be placed in D26 and would be adversely affected by being separated from the rest of the neighborhood; and WHEREAS, Hunter College, a major educational institution, would have its main campus at 68th Street and Lexington Avenue separated into two council districts, with a skybridge connecting two buildings in two separate council districts; and WHEREAS, the Upper East Side contains numerous historic districts and zoning features that are common to it and distinct from the Queens portions of the proposed D26; and WHEREAS, by separating part of the Upper East Side and placing it in D26, the Commission has

divided a neighborhood and communities of interest in direct violation of the Charter Mandate; BE IT KNOWN I DISAPPROVE of the Commission's proposed Preliminary Plan #1 redistricting map which moves approximately 54 blocks of the easterly side of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island to a Queens-based City Council District and strongly urge that these areas remain in a Manhattan-based City Council District.

Respectfully,  
Michael Nassar  
[REDACTED] 3rd Avenue  
NY NY 10021  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



[REDACTED]

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**From:** Mike Garcia [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 3:47 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ceeb38c2b5ada416c649908da80894bd8%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637963624449990561%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEkaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8zC5QkCljOHLhcOBmuTa5fIX8WyEnRlFDlRVGRkl4s%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Michael Garcia  
[REDACTED] West 55th Street  
Apt. 2F  
New York, NY

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Myrna Payne [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 4:44 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C45610e3810614004712808da809135de%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637963659600195331%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QZEeJi6TydW3OIR6YJdyU9R35UIK9Fe3G%2FWSL9SYuW4%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Myrna Payne  
[REDACTED] W. 55th St., Apt. 7E  
NY, NY 10019

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Nancy Billmann [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 11:59 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I have been a Hell's Kitchen resident for 31 years and do not wish to see my community split among three different districts. Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is growing, diverse, and vibrant.

The district lines proposed by the Commission chop up this community between districts 3, 4 & 6. This greatly reduces the opportunity for our neighborhood to be fairly represented; I would be part of district 4, which includes a number of communities with which Hells Kitchen has little in common. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cf67eb6250352430d384408da80cdf5e5%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637963920668001598%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dBKk6gOjJB%2BzZYBtPyZ5DNHNHzeImUG1gGSBcjKDKa8%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Nancy Billmann  
[REDACTED] West 57th Street, 4J  
NYC 10019

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Nancy Sheran [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 1:28 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Nancy Sheran  
[REDACTED] E 36th St  
New York, NY 10016

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Nicole Peck [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 6:52 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Do not redistrict upper east side

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Hello,  
Upper east side and the queens should not be the same district. Makes zero sense. Community issues are unique as is population represented.

Nicole Peck  
Resident, upper east side  
Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Paul Haug [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 9:47 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
Paul Haug  
[REDACTED] Horatio St  
New York, NY 10014

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Penelope Bareau [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:50 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
Penelope Bareau  
[REDACTED] E 10th St  
New York, NY 10003

**■ Sutton Place South, New York, N.Y. 10022**

Dear Chair Walcott,

As a resident of ■ Sutton Place South, I write to ask that you **DO NOT ADOPT the preliminary district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5** which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, notably splitting the Sutton Place community of interest between multiple districts and combining representation for a portion of our Manhattan community with Queens. Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to represent and serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two or more additional Manhattan Community Boards or hold full membership on multiple Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting, creating significant disparities among neighbors who share the parks and access to the new Greenway from Sutton Place? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Will the interests of Manhattan residents be served by a Council Member who serves a majority of constituents in Queens?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. Keep the Sutton Area neighborhood intact and with representation in Manhattan! Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



PETER TAFURI

APT 12 N 5



**■ Sutton Place South, New York, N.Y. 10022**

Dear Chair Walcott,

As a resident of 60 Sutton Place South, I write to ask that you **DO NOT ADOPT** the preliminary district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, notably splitting the Sutton Place community of interest between multiple districts and combining representation for a portion of our Manhattan community with Queens. Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to represent and serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two or more additional Manhattan Community Boards or hold full membership on multiple Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting, creating significant disparities among neighbors who share the parks and access to the new Greenway from Sutton Place? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Will the interests of Manhattan residents be served by a Council Member who serves a majority of constituents in Queens?

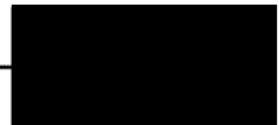
A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

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In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. Keep the Sutton Area neighborhood intact and with representation in Manhattan! Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Rosanne Sharp*  
ROSANNE SHARP



[REDACTED]

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**From:** RACHEL DEMAS [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 7:22 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole!

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Hell's Kitchen is a SINGLE and united neighborhood. Please keep it that way by stopping this redistricting into three parts.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Demas  
[REDACTED] W. 43rd St.



A Not-for-Profit Corporation  
east sixties neighborhood association, inc.  
P.O Box 1855  
New York, NY 10021  
Tel 212-713-5826 • www.esna-nyc.com

TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission  
FROM: (name) *Rachelle Lynch* (address) *66 St, Apt 6D New York NY 10065*  
DATE: July 27, 2022  
RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26  
VIA EMAIL TO: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov  
MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

Good day Chair Walcott,

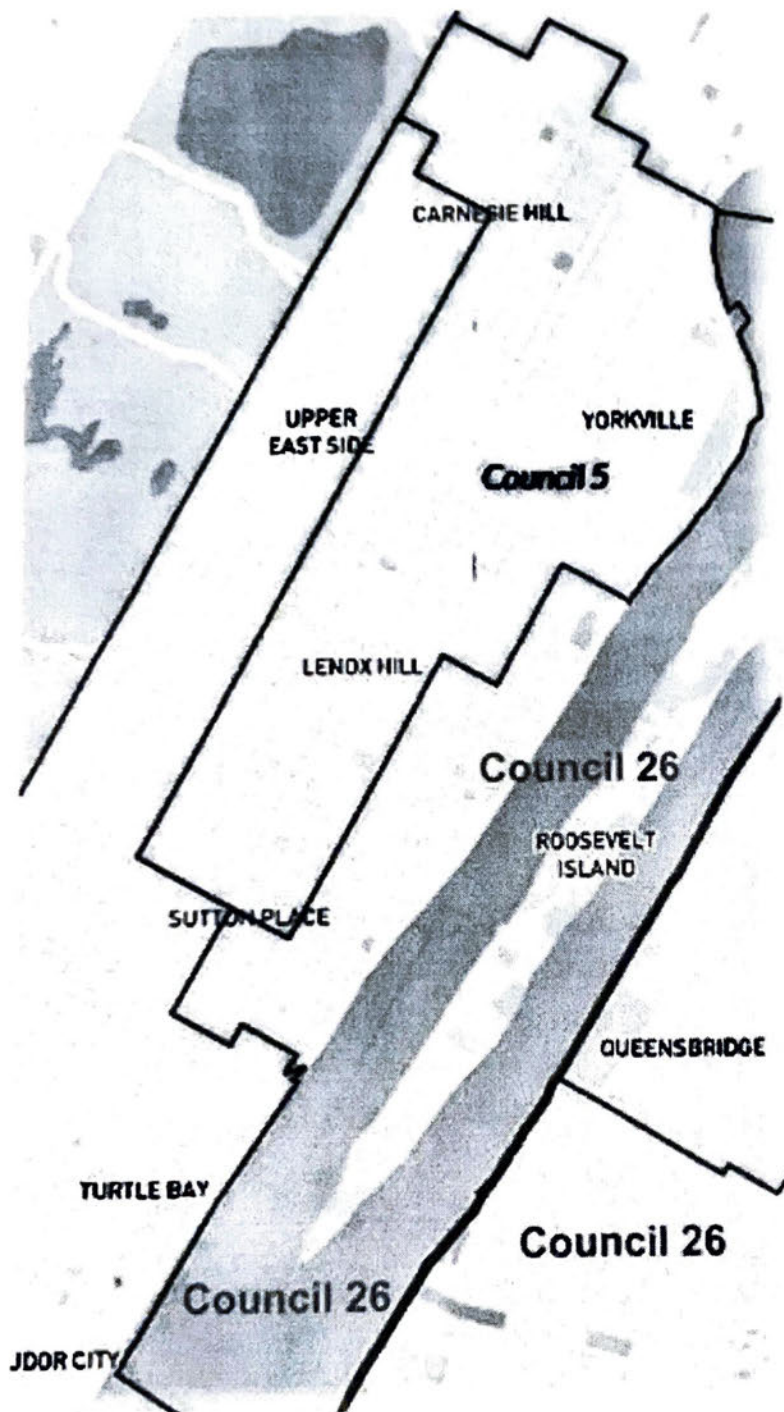
The plan presented for 54 blocks of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island is not acceptable to the residents of the East Sixties. We believe it violates the charter requirements of keeping neighborhoods compact and intact. This plan would make CD26 an oddly shaped district with practical difficulties: they are - would the Council Member have a district office in Manhattan as well as on Roosevelt Island; would the Council Member cover Community Board meetings in Board 8 & 6 and have full membership on both Borough Boards, and finally we believe this part of Community District 8 would have a diminution of representation. While other Districts have physical boundaries in more than one borough, they are directly adjacent to one another. They do not have a river separating them as in this proposed plan. The issues in CD26 are not the same as in CD5. And there are several well-established neighborhood associations whose membership would be torn asunder.

The issues that involve City Agencies such as Transportation, Sanitation, Parks etc. are different in the two council districts. Then there are two other major issues that would tear our community apart. The first is the hospital corridor with their buildings for the major institutions many of which would be in CD26 under the new plan. But many of their offices and allied buildings and staff and doctors would be located in/or live in CD5 making it difficult for discussing issues constantly arising. Not to mention the effect on "bench to bed" translational medicine research. The second is Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts for the least amount of park space in the city. This plan would remove: from CD 5 24 Sycamores Park; ¼ of Honey Locust Park—with ¼ remaining in D5; most of our East River Esplanade and Andrew Haswell Green Park Phase 1 & 2A—2B is under construction at this time. Phase 3 has not yet started and will likely cost \$25 Million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the voters in her/his District? Most of the funding will probably be spent in the Queens part of the district.

We strongly recommend that you study and implement Community Board 8's resolution and plan, as it takes into account the number of residents in all the adjoining districts.

Our Neighborhood Association depends greatly on our Council Member and her office staff, which is easy to reach by a short bus ride. I strongly urge the New York City Districting Commission to reconsider this ill-conceived plan and not divide an indivisible and cohesive neighborhood.

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*





[REDACTED]

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**From:** Ray Pesceovich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 7:10 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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To Whom it Made Concern:

I oppose the rezoning and redistricting of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright. Do not do it.

Ramon Pesceovich

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Regina Cherry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 7:02 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Regina Cherry  
[REDACTED] Mercer St  
New York, NY 10012

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Regina Joseph [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:06 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Regina Joseph  
[REDACTED] Barrow St  
New York, NY 10014

**DeCillis, Michael**

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**From:** Ricky Milburn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 10:16 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C3d5010be45344c49fb6608da80bf9fe6%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637963858042934848%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YZInOpFqYsxXHuv6VdJlbeM4iPgyNSUuXvg7RmdwgNRc%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Richard Milburn  
[REDACTED] West 57th Street

Sent from my iPhone



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Robert Silin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 7:39 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Robert H. Silin  
[REDACTED] W 55th St, unit 8b  
N.Y. N.Y. 10019  
<<ADDRESS>>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Samantha Furlong [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 9:40 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Samantha Furlong  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sheila Feeney [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 9:20 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

Also, the proposed redistricting imperils our "special district" status which preserves the historic aspects of our neighborhood. I want a council person representing my neighborhood and do not wish to see my vote weakened by having my neighborhood chopped into various parts, diluting my neighborhood's representation.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For these reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Thank you for hearing me out. Please help us to save Hell's Kitchen!

Sincerely,  
Sheila Anne Feeney  
[REDACTED] West 55th St.  
Apartment 73  
New York, NY 10019

Sutton Place South, New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Chair Walcott,

As a resident of 60 Sutton Place South, I write to ask that you **DO NOT ADOPT** the preliminary district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, notably splitting the Sutton Place community of interest between multiple districts and combining representation for a portion of our Manhattan community with Queens. Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to represent and serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two or more additional Manhattan Community Boards or hold full membership on multiple Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting, creating significant disparities among neighbors who share the parks and access to the new Greenway from Sutton Place? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Will the interests of Manhattan residents be served by a Council Member who serves a majority of constituents in Queens?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. Keep the Sutton Area neighborhood intact and with representation in Manhattan! Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Signature:

*Patrose*

*Patrose*

SHEILA + BABU PATROSE

#6BN

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Shirley Secunda [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:42 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Shirley Secunda  
[REDACTED] 5th Ave  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** S P [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:54 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Sonia Parada  
[REDACTED] west 55th #2b  
new york ny 10019



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:03 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Stephanie Reckler  
[REDACTED] Park Ave New York, NY 10075-0325  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Stephen Mango [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:38 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Stephen Mango  
[REDACTED] Bleecker St  
New York, NY 10012



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ms Teriananda [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:10 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

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Regards,  
Ms Teriananda  
[REDACTED] E 5th St  
New York, NY 10003



*A Not-for-Profit Corporation*

east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

P.O Box 1855

New York, NY 10021-0048

Tel 212-713-5826 • [info@esna-nyc.com](mailto:info@esna-nyc.com) • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)

August 5, 2022

To: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

VIA EMAIL TO: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria outlined in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8 and Roosevelt Island? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park, most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

Timothy Biel [REDACTED] E 63<sup>rd</sup> St. #12D NY NY 10065  
NAME ADDRESS Zip Code  
TIMOTHY BIEL

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Tullie Helene [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 5:00 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Tullie Helene  
[REDACTED] W 45th st  
New York, NY  
10036

**DeCillis, Michael**

---

**From:** x o [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022 5:52 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,

x o

[REDACTED] W 104th St  
New York, NY 10025

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Alexander Ross [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 9:04 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments on the new district maps

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My family and I live on the corner of E 62nd St. and York Ave. and while the real estate agents can argue over whether we live on the Upper East Side or in Sutton or even in Lenox Hill, we do NOT live in Queens. It is unacceptable that a few blocks of Manhattan would be represented by someone whose primary responsibilities are to represent people in an entirely different borough. The concerns of my neighborhood and my family will be swallowed up by those of people in Long Island City.

I loudly demand that the district maps reflect reality; I live in Manhattan and I have shared concerns with my neighbors and they should be represented with a single voice.

—  
Alexander Ross



[REDACTED]



E. 62nd St. #16DE, NY, NY 10065

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Alice Cassel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 10:50 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Inappropriate district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5

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Hello,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5, which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island, not be adopted for the following reasons.

The draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in:

- Division between districts of neighborhoods and communities of established shared interests and backgrounds
- The proposed district 26 is not compact
- The proposed district 26 results in an extreme crossover district across boroughs
- The proposed district 26 is oddly shaped and arguably not contiguous

The proposed redistricting would significantly change the ethnicity demographics of District 26: it would go from 31% Asian, 29% non-Hispanic white, 29% Hispanic, and 6% Black to 44% non-Hispanic white, 25% Asian, 22% Hispanic, and 4% Black (2020 census data tabulated by the website Redistricting & You). The proposed District 26 lines split up communities of color in Long Island City and Woodside, while at the same time adding predominately white neighborhoods in Manhattan to the district. While I acknowledge that some changes to the shape of District 26 are inevitable due to population growth, the draft proposal results in the loss of a plurality minority district, and if this draft proposal passes, the NYC Districting Commission is failing to meet its mandate to keep communities of interest together.

The proposed districts will also create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing.

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with large, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University, and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. Some friends and colleagues I've



spoken to about the proposed district lines were confused and thought that the proposed district lines would mean that our neighborhood (near Rockefeller University) would now be a part of the borough of Queens (if it would mean we vote for Queens borough president, what it means practically for people living here, etc.). While I explained that's not technically the case, it does show how confusing, odd, and inappropriate the proposed districts are. From talking to my friends in my neighborhood, reading articles and statements from city Council Members, and even seeing signs posted on Roosevelt Island, it's clear that no one affected by the proposed changes to districts 26 and 5 are remotely satisfied with the draft proposal.

I urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to reject the proposed districts referenced above and instead develop a plan that does not violate the City Charter. Thank you!

Best,  
Alice Cassel

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Allan Sperling [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 11:41 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Allan Sperling  
[REDACTED] 5th Ave  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Anika James [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 9:33 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the New Map in District 9!

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I am writing to ask that you protect the Black vote in my city council district, Harlem district 9, by keeping the preliminary new City Council District 9 map which restores our Black plurality and protects our voting rights. The commission created a new map with respect to our community. Hold the line and thank you for your work!

Thank you,  
Anika Wistar-Jones

[REDACTED]

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**From:** anne davis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 3:11 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Anne davis  
[REDACTED] W. 43<sup>rd</sup> St. #13-O  
NYC 10036  
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 9:25 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms Barbara Lane  
[REDACTED] E 69th St New York, NY 10021-5414  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Blake Kurisu [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 8:22 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our neighborhood split among three different districts. As a longtime Hell's Kitchen resident, it is clear that the neighborhood- which is distinctive in character- stretches west from around Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets.

The currently proposed map makes no sense and would highly disenfranchise the diverse neighborhood of Hell's Kitchen. I support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Blake Kurisu  
[REDACTED] west 52nd Street, Apt 7A  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Bonnie Cohen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 12:24 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony; district5council@nyc.gov; district26council@nyc.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Council redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission, Council member Menin and Council member Won,

One of the paramount purposes behind Council redistricting is to insure that racial and ethnic communities will not be divided and their political voices not be diluted. I am writing to express my concern regarding Districts 5 and 26. I am unable to appear in person and therefore I am submitting these written remarks. By way of background, I have lived on the Upper East Side (UES) of Manhattan since 1978, but I would not be subject to the proposed redistricting. I live one block west of the proposed new border. I am writing solely as a concerned resident of this great city.

I am an attorney. For more than 20 years I practiced law in Queens as an Assistant District Attorney, in private practice and an employee for OCA. Additionally I was on the staff for a former Queens County member of the City Council. I feel that as a result of my long term involvement in Queens and my residence on the UES, I am uniquely qualified to comment on the proposal to merge the eastern sliver of the UES with the western portion of Queens.

Queens is well known for its great diversity, and it should have a Council member that represents that diversity so that the City Council can properly reflect the diversity that exists in this city.

The eastern sliver of the UES is home to some of the most expensive residential real estate in this city and is home to many prominent citizens. These residents have little in common with the

residents of Queens, other than the fact that they can see the Queens buildings when they look east, out of their high rise luxury buildings, or when they drive to Costco in LIC! By including this eastern sliver with Queens, both the voice of Queens residents and the Manhattan residents will not be properly represented.

When it comes to providing city services such as schools, parks, sanitation, police and fire department, the issues facing the residents of Queens are quite disparate from their Manhattan counterparts. Simply put, each of these communities should have their own representative.

I am unable to attend any of the public hearings in person. I therefore genuinely hope that you will listen to these written remarks.

Sincerely,  
Bonnie Cohen-Gallet



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 12:41 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C3520c9f731a244432ae308da813873c0%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637964377729728399%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HvTL%2BXLyDZ1H4LsnSkK3gzfLR%2BvkWxaSa6jV3MqrX%2BY%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Burns  
[REDACTED] W 44th st  
NY NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** dale carlton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 9:36 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C27511caa790b410816a308da811e9f86%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637964266784024949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VMV191Y6uTCt%2B959257XUCmlqirJombNLla655r6ay0%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Carl Schmehl  
[REDACTED] west 43rd Street  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Chaim Steinmetz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 4:11 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] support for the redistricting map

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Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I am submitting this testimony to the NYC Redistricting Commission in response to the draft lines released last month. My name is Chaim Steinmetz, and I live on East 85th street. Under the new draft lines, my Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun synagogue community and my Ramaz School community will be more unified in District 5 than it was in the original district map from 2021. I write in support of these draft maps as they enhance representation for my community and bring together communities of interest that were severed.

In the current 4th Council District, less than 40% of the residents are part of Community Board 8. The Council District is one of the least compact in the entire city as it goes as far west as Columbus Circle (8th Avenue) and as far east as Avenue D yet it is quite narrow in most parts. The District also stretches over 4 miles north-south, longer than any other Manhattan Council District. In this, the voices of Community Board 8 are diluted and the Council Member must allocate funding and support across a wide range of neighborhoods. The Council Member representing my synagogue's District has not resided in Community Board 8 since 2005.

In the new Council District 5, over 95% of the residents are from Community Board 8. This would unite Community Board 8 for the first time in decades as we no longer would be as fractured and spread apart amongst Council Districts. I appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

Thanks,

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz  
Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun  
[REDACTED] E 85th St,  
New York, NY 10028  
tel [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Chris | CHRISREZA.COM [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 8:59 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map.

I am a Hispanic, Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,

Chris Reza  
[REDACTED] W 43rd St Apt 10Q  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Christopher Conkling [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 3:39 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Christopher Conkling  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street  
Apt 28E  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Cody Lindquist [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 7:54 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Do not break up Hells Kitchen

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As a resident who lives on 54th street and has been a proud resident of Hells Kitchen for almost 10 years, I implore you to please keep our neighborhood intact. We are a vibrant, economically and culturally diverse, active neighborhood- one of the few places in NYC where the NYC dream to live and work among people with different backgrounds still exists. I have been raising my 2 sons here and it's not right that their public school, playgrounds, and our home will all be represented by different council members. That will seriously dilute our say in what happens in our neighborhood and it's not fair. Our voices deserve to be heard!

Cody Lindquist  
PS 212 parent (not speaking on behalf of the school) Homeowner on 54th and 9th Avenue

Sent from my iPhone

August 17th, 2022

Dear Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

Danielle Lahmani

**MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK CITY**  
**DISTRICTING COMMISSION**

Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007

212-676-3090

[NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov)

Dennis M. Walcott, Chair

Hon. Marilyn D. Go

Maria Mateo, Esq.

Joshua Schneps

Lisa Sorin

Msgr. Kevin Sullivan

Kai-Ki Wong

Maf Misbah Uddin

Michael Schnall

Kristen A. Johnson

Yovan Samuel Collado

Gregory W. Kirschenbaum

Marc Wurzel

Kevin John Hanratty

Dr. Darrin K. Porcher



**Daniel and June Walden**  
[REDACTED] Sutton Place  
New York, New York 10022  
M: (914) 450-7092

August 18, 2022

**Via Email**

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

Attn: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair

**Re: Opposing proposed redrawn City Council district moving the Sutton Place neighborhood from District 5 to District 26**

We are Dan and June Walden, residents at [REDACTED] Sutton Place, New York, NY. In 2016 we moved back to Manhattan after 25 years in Westchester, first renting on the 500 block of East 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and then purchasing our apartment on Sutton Place. We are retired, and our intention is to live in Manhattan, and hopefully in our apartment in the Sutton Place neighborhood, for the balance of our lives. We are particularly happy to have access to the world-leading hospitals and iconic parks within easy walking distance from our home.

While acknowledging the difficult task facing the NYC Districting Commission in establishing new City Council districts following the 2020 census, we do not believe that the Sutton Place neighborhood, often referred to as a unique Manhattan residential enclave, should be stuffed into a District primarily made up of very different communities across the East River in Queens.

The proposal to move Sutton Place, along with the eastern blocks of the upper east side and Roosevelt Island from District 5 into Queens based District 26 raises a number of concerns including:

- The likelihood that a predominantly Queens based population physically separated from our neighborhood and our issues would elect the Council Member responsible for representing the far east side.
- The likelihood that the Council member would have a primary office in Queens, distant from the significant population of aging folk like us on Sutton Place. At best the Council member would have a second district office on the Manhattan side and be there sporadically.

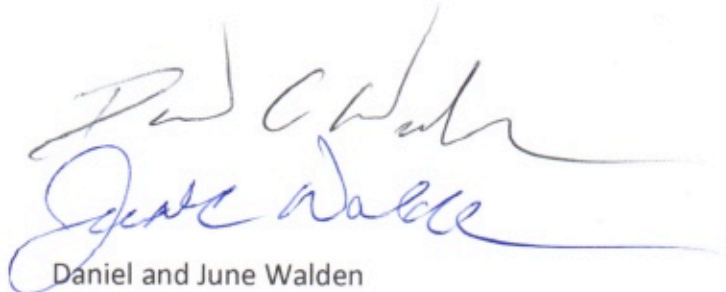
- The affected area includes some beautiful and unique parks and open spaces, including the Esplanade which is part of the Manhattan Waterfront Greenway planned to circumnavigate the island of Manhattan. We worry that our Council member's attention would be focused on the needs of the population in Queens and not maintaining these parks and finishing the Esplanade.
- The annual participating budgeting allocated to each Council Member and determined by constituent vote likely would end up in Queens.
- Whether based in Queens or Manhattan, the Council member would be representing **two distinct areas that each face significant community issues**, such as zoning protection for neighborhoods, building height and density, bike lanes, congestion and congestion pricing, location of services. But these issues have different implications in Manhattan and Queens, and will be addressed in different Community Boards, City agencies and community. The single Council member will have great difficulty attending all the critical City meetings required, much less the community forums. At best they will need to double their staff and they will almost certainly have to argue opposite sides of many issues.

The new District 26 proposed by the Commission does not meet many of the criteria for districts set forth in the City Charter. The proposed District:

- Splits neighborhoods and communities of interest
- Is not compact
- Is an extreme crossover between boroughs
- Is so oddly shaped that our first assumption was that it represented gerrymandering

Manhattan Community Board Six has adopted a resolution entitled *Opposing proposed City Council district boundaries redrawn by the New York City Districting Commission* that lists many additional concerns. We endorse that resolution and the proposed alternative redistricting boundary lines keeping Sutton Place, the far East Side and Roosevelt Island in Manhattan based City Council Districts.

Thank you for your consideration.



Daniel and June Walden

[REDACTED]

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**From:** David Soles [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 10:15 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Opposition to Redistricting Sutton to District 26

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Greetings -

> Sutton sits in a vortex of activity with significant complexities - the UN, the Hospital Corridor, the 59th Street Bridge and East Midtown - creating co-dependencies and the need for constant coordination with the neighboring Manhattan areas - and agencies including NYPD, DOE, DOT, Parks, the Community Boards, and more.

>

> To this we're adding the East River Greenway which - the \$100M public works project which will transform the Sutton area more than anything has in 65 years. The new park will present significant new operational challenges particularly impacting the NYPD, Parks, DOE and DOT.

>

> We cannot afford representation that literally turns its back on the Sutton area at this time; and that lacks the experience and commitment to ongoing close coordination with all of the stakeholders in the area and adjacent Manhattan neighborhoods and the agencies that serve them.

>

> District 26 presents distinct challenges largely unrelated to our area. Just as they deserve representation that puts their needs first, we too need and deserve representation that provides daily added value navigating our challenges.

>

> Please apply good judgment respecting the unique nature of our area, and acknowledging that maintaining the balance here calls for representation committed to close ongoing coordination with the adjoining Manhattan areas and agencies.

>

> We contribute significantly to the City. We respectfully request that you take our needs seriously.

> Respectfully,

> David S. Soles

> [REDACTED] Sutton Place South

>

>



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 7:45 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Diane Paoletta  
[REDACTED] E 79th St New York, NY 10075-0956  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Donna Hooker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 7:55 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole!

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Hell's Kitchen has a history. It is one community. You cannot continue to break up neighborhoods. Community is so important and you are destroying these communities in a number of places. Keep Hell's Kitchen whole so we can address the issues that are important to us through voting and advocating for the issues and people to represent us.  
Donna Hooker

[REDACTED] West 52nd St #E 10019  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Dorothy Caesar [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 9:50 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Dorothy Caesar  
[REDACTED] W 12th St  
New York, NY 10014

[REDACTED]

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**From:** EILEEN NORTH [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 8:26 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell%20's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Eileen M. North  
[REDACTED] West 57th Street 14 L

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Elizabeth Carfioli [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 9:10 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth  
[REDACTED] W 46th St



[REDACTED]

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**From:** Ellen Pearre Cason [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 8:55 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Ellen Pearre Cason  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street #40-N  
NYC 10036

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Erick Neher [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 11:51 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Sincerely,

*Erick Neher*  
[REDACTED] West 55th Street, APT 10B  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Faye Ellman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 8:57 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

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The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Faye Ellman  
[REDACTED] W 25th St  
New York, NY 10001

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Frank Scheck [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 4:23 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell%20's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Frank Scheck  
[REDACTED] W. 45th St. #5A

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Hanit Gyani [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 8:04 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

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Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Hanit Gyani  
[REDACTED] West 42nd Street apt 6M, New York NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jack Barth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 11:01 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

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As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Jack Barth  
[REDACTED] Broome St  
New York, NY 10012

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jacqueline Lowry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 1:36 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole!

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I am writing to protest the division of Hell's Kitchen in the new district maps. I moved to Hell's Kitchen in 1977 when it was a bit rundown and hellish and we have worked hard to raise it to the level that it is today. We are the bedroom community to the theatre district and that relationship means a lot to us. We are a cohesive neighborhood and do not want our needs and wants diluted on the City Council. We are not a wealthy neighborhood and we need all our neighbors together in order to do what is best for our community. Thank you!

Jacqueline Lowry  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jean Fitzgerald [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 5:07 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** district5@council.nyc.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Combining Manhattan and Queens Districts

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Dear Districting Commission,

This email expresses my opposition to combining districts from 2 different boroughs. The upper East Side of Manhattan covered by District 5 has distinct characteristics including population density, with a large number of seniors, major medical facilities and a number of schools. Combining a portion of District 5 with District 26 in Queens makes no sense.

The proposed (re)district will be too large to be practically managed; the neighborhoods do not share common interests and have different needs which will likely impact Participatory Budgeting. In addition, with funding for these two Districts combined, there is the possibility that funding for my UES neighborhood will be reduced with District 26 being allocated additional financial support.

I am a second generation New Yorker who has lived in Manhattan my entire life, including 40 years in my neighborhood. I have experienced some very bad zoning decisions and the negative impact of special interests driving critical community and habitation decisions. I strongly object to this redistricting proposal and hope my voice will be heard in the hearing next week. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend in person.

Thank you for considering my response to this proposal.

Cordially,

Jean Fitzgerald

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jeffrey Karliner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 8:44 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cc4056a5d0c6c41200e4008da8117596a%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637964234560541113%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6YRIVl%2BP2DnbcySflbtHcihbxfKuXpEpTqavQulzBGA%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Karliner>  
[REDACTED] west 55th st ny ny 10019

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jennifer Farrar [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 10:26 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Sincerely,

Jennifer Farrar  
[REDACTED] West 51st Street  
NYC NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jessica Davis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 10:55 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Jessica Davis  
[REDACTED] FDR Dr  
New York, NY 10002

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Joanne Kornelli Hofmann <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 3:49 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

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Good day Chair Walcott,

The plan presented for 54 blocks of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island is not acceptable to the residents of the East

Sixties. We believe it violates the charter requirements of keeping neighborhoods compact and in tack This plan would

make CD26 an oddly shaped district with practical difficulties:

they are - would the Council Member have a district office

in Manhattan as well as on Roosevelt Island; would the Council Member cover Community Board meetings in Board 8 &

6 and have full membership on both Borough Boards, and finally we believe this part of Community District 8 would

have a diminution of representation.

While other Districts have physical boundaries in more than one borough, they are directly adjacent to one another. They do not have a river separating them as in this proposed plan. The issues in CD26 are not the same as in CD5. There are several well-established neighborhood associations whose membership would be torn asunder.

The issues that involve City Agencies such as Transportation, Sanitation, Parks etc. are different in the two council districts. Then there are two other major issues that would tear our community apart. The first is the hospital corridor with their buildings for the major institutions many of which would be in CD26 under the new plan. But many of their offices and allied buildings and staff and doctors would be located in/or live in CD5 making it difficult for discussing issues constantly arising.

The second is Community District 8 ranks 47th out of 51 Districts for the least amount of park space in the city. This plan would remove: 24 Sycamores Park; 3/4 of Honey Locust Park—with 1/4 remaining in D5; most of our East River Esplanade and Andrew Haswell Green Park Phase 1 & 2A—2B is under construction at this time. Phase 3 has

not yet started and will likely cost \$25 Million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the voters in her/his District? Most of the funding will

probably be spent in the Queens part of the district. This would result in CD 5 having the least amount of Park space in NYC.

We strongly recommend that you study and implement Community Board 8's resolution and plan, as it takes into account

the number of residents in all the adjoining districts.

Our Neighborhood Association depends greatly on our Council Member and her office staff, which is easy to reach by a

short bus ride. I strongly urge the New York City Districting Commission to reconsider this ill-conceived plan and not

divide an indivisible and cohesive neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Joanne and Michael Hofmann

Residents of The Royal York at [REDACTED] East 63rd Street, NY, NY 10065

\*\*\*\*\*

Joanne Kornelli Hofmann

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 6:17 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission, Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community. Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>. Sincerely, <

Joanne Moore  
[REDACTED] West 46 St. New York,, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** John L [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 10:19 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
John D. Lupiano  
[REDACTED] W. 43rd St.  
New York, NY 10036  
<<ADDRESS>>



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Justine Leguizamo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 10:46 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Justine Leguizamo  
[REDACTED] W 9th St  
New York, NY 10011

Submitted electronically via email ([PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov))

August 18, 2022

Dennis M. Walcott, Chair  
Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 3rd Floor  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Chair Walcott and Commission Members:

I strongly object to the proposed city council redistricting plan, specifically as it relates to the section of the Upper East Side that would become part of District 26 in Queens. This section is a vital part of the Upper East Side neighborhood. It makes no logical sense to separate it from the rest of the Upper East Side, and even less sense to combine it with a district in a different borough. As you are aware, this section includes several schools, parks, hospitals, a library, and the East River Esplanade, all of which are essential components of the Upper East Side community. These institutions could be significantly disadvantaged by a lack of funding and advocacy if the proposal is approved.

The proposed plan, as it impacts this area, will be confusing and frustrating for residents who deserve to have local representation from a city council member in their own community. Currently, when safety issues have arisen at our local playground in John Jay Park, I have reached out to our District 5 Council Member and her staff to request that they coordinate with their Parks Department or other city agency liaisons to address the issue. Their familiarity with the immediate neighborhood, as well as their connections to the individuals responsible for maintaining the safety of this park, is crucial to effectively addressing potential issues. Despite their good intentions, I do not believe that the District 26 council member or her staff would be able to address these on-the-ground issues in this section of the Upper East Side nearly as effectively or with the necessary responsiveness.

The plan will also be disruptive to ongoing major infrastructure projects in the area, including much-needed construction along the East River Esplanade. The Esplanade has historically been under-resourced and under-funded and is literally falling apart in sections. To provide local residents with safe access to the waterfront, it is crucial that advocacy groups and local elected officials who have in depth knowledge of the area be able to continue to effectively collaborate to ensure that these projects are properly funded and completed.

Lastly, I am concerned about the impact the redistricting would have on participatory budget funding, which is voted on by community members in a district. Given that the segment of the Upper East Side that would be combined into the Queens district would represent only about twenty percent of the combined district, it seems unlikely that any funding projects in this area of the Upper East Side would be approved. In the past, several schools, libraries, and parks in this area have received participatory budget funds from District 5.

I stand with my neighbors, Community Board 8, and elected officials in opposing the plan and respectfully request that the proposed district lines not be adopted. I am hopeful that the Districting Commission will take the community's concerns into account and create an effective and logical proposal that better addresses the needs of the community and the city as a whole.

Yours truly,

Karen Spiegel

■ East 77<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10162

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Kathryn Feldman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 8:07 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Kathryn Feldman  
[REDACTED] E 5th St  
New York, NY 10003

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Kim Jackson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 3:06 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C13207d88dec94c2482c508da814ca841%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637964464876144113%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ooFMcXukjYoR4uSWOtIlSuiVbmUxvf6tyHGhVz5h%2FQ%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
<<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>  
<<BUILDING STREET ADDRESS>>

Sent from somewhere awesome! 🚀

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** KD Shepard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 3:50 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident for the past 42 years and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In addition, I do not believe that the redistricting will accurately or adequately address the needs of the current Hell's Kitchen. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Kura Shepard  
[REDACTED] West 48th Street #5FW  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Leatrice Gochberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 2:17 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] SERIOUS OBJECTION TO REDISTRICTING

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TO THE HON. MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK CITY DISTRICTING COMMISSION

I am appalled after reading your proposed plan redistricting the UES, Did you NOT LEARN SOMETHING FROM THE LAST REDISTRICTING MESS? Manhattan will lose one of the two most POWERFUL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS - BOTH WITH MORE THAN 30 YEARS IN CONGRESS as a result of the redistricting that was done so badly that the Courts had to step in and take over the process and the Courts also caused major damage with their solution.

Your Plan makes it clear to the Residents of the UES that NONE OF US MATTER!!! We will respond by moving out of New York City and New York State and reducing our Taxes. We will be happy to pay taxes at a far less rate and have the further benefit of having our tax payments over \$10,000 off set against our Federal Income Taxes - something New York can not provide. Our elected representatives in Albany have done damage by giving us NO BAIL, THE HIGHEST RATE OF TAXATION IN THE US, OUT OF SIGHT HOUSING COSTS, AND INCREDIBLE LEVEL OF CRIME. Your Plan is another nail in NY's Coffin!

You plan to take a viable and functional community and play political games. The UES pays the highest level of Taxes, supports medical and cultural institutions, employs thousands of people and spends money in New York City and State. You have just told those of us living in the UES we are expendable and that Gerrymandering is more important than the UES Residents - who by the way pay a fortune to live in the UES and support the Real Estate Industry, Finance, Restaurants, Theatres, and Businesses. Do not forget that the residents in the UES also are racially and economically diverse and depend upon the many social and financially supportive private and public facilities within the UES.

Reconsider what you are planning. Think about the damage. Think about how Medical facilities in these areas of the UES will deal with being split into different districts which may impact them negatively.

There is no benefit to UES residents built into your Plan!!! The Plan is a one way road to destroying one very cohesive community.

Sincerely,

Leatrice E. Gochberg

■ East 68th Street  
NYC, NY 10065



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Lee Shepherd [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 7:33 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Lee Shepherd  
[REDACTED] West 43rd St.  
Apt. 32-O  
NYYN 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** LEONARD I WEINSTOCK [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 10:14 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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It would seem to me and should be apparent to all that the proposed redistricting as it applies to District 5 violates the guidelines as to contiguity and community of interests.  
I urge that you return to the drawing boards to realign in accordance with the guidelines.

Leonard Weinstock  
[REDACTED] Sutton Place South  
NY,NY 10022

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Leslie Mason [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 1:18 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

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Regards,  
Leslie Mason  
[REDACTED] Charlton St  
New York, NY 10014

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Liz Mahon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 9:28 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cbb523fcbfd0c436623e308da81210605%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637964276109880575%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JpwzRq1NJjpjhTCJltGKy5BOWCCBn%2BpfxjdzUu9LmEA%3D&reserved=0>.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Mahon  
[REDACTED] West 48th Street  
Apt 2FW  
New York, NY 10036

Liz Mahon

[lizmahon@mac.com](mailto:lizmahon@mac.com)  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Lynda [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 3:54 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting of upper east side with Queens

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Who will this serve? We are 2 very distinct neighborhoods and it makes no sense to change what is already working well. Dumb idea!!! Fire the people who came up with mindless idea

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Lynn Lieberman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 9:25 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

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As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Lynn Lieberman  
[REDACTED] Madison Ave  
New York, NY 10035

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 7:48 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Marcia Lowe

[REDACTED] E 66th St Apt 9C New York, NY 10065-6216 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Maria E. Ortiz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 7:36 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting of Hell's Kitchen

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Dear Districting Commission,

Please do not split up Hell's Kitchen/ Clinton area!

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map.

I am a Hell's Kitchen resident (on and off 44 years) and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are.

Is this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965???. I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Maria Ortiz  
[REDACTED] West 55th Street #17a  
NYC 10019

M.O.

Sent from mobile device.



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Kathleen Treat [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 12:53 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting of Hell's Kitchen

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If it works (as it has for decades) don't fix it.

Regards from  
Martin and Kathleen Treat  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street #33N  
10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Mary Ann Schoudele [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 3:31 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Sincerely, <> <

>

*Thank you.*

*Mary Ann Schoudele*

[REDACTED] West 43 St, Apt #35-C  
NY, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** maureen marwick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 7:20 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: re-zoning of Upper East side

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Think this must have been done by someone who knew nothing about layout of New York city. Carolyn Maloney has been our devoted congressperson for years while Jerry Nadler, who I have great respect for, lives on th West side. Should not be a contest between them.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Nedra Biegel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 4:08 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting of the Upper East Side

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We oppose the redistricting plan for the Upper East Side as proposed .

Nedra BIEGEL. Paul BIEGEL

[REDACTED] East 64 St. Apt:28B

NY 10065

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Paige Parkhill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 9:46 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
PAIGE PARKHILL  
[REDACTED] W 48TH STREET  
NEW YORK, NY  
10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Patty [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 8:39 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** SeawrightR@nyassembly.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistrcitng

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The Upper East Side is represented with Roosevelt Island and Queen's has different goals and objectives. They all DO NOT belong as part of the same district. In addition, we elected Julie Menin not a leader from Queens who has no legal jurisdiction over the East Side if we didn't vote for that person. An edict from a group of bureaucrats cannot change a democratically elected official.

Patty Saffran  
[REDACTED] e 65th st  
nyc 10065

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Raymond Chalme' [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 5:23 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for NYC Council July Redistricting Commission's Draft Maps – District 5

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Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I am submitting this testimony to the NYC Redistricting Commission in response to the draft lines released last month. My name is Raymond Chalme and I live on 3rd avenue on the upper east side.

Under the new draft lines, my Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun synagogue community and my Ramaz School community will be more unified in District 5 than it was in the original district map from 2021.

I write in support of these draft maps as they enhance representation for my community and bring together communities of interest that were severed.

In the current 4th Council District, less than 40% of the residents are part of Community Board 8. The Council District is one of the least compact in the entire city as it goes as far west as Columbus Circle (8th Avenue) and as far east as Avenue D yet it is quite narrow in most parts. The District also stretches over 4 miles north-south, longer than any other Manhattan Council District. In this, the voices of Community Board 8 are diluted and the Council Member must allocate funding and support across a wide range of neighborhoods. The Council Member representing my synagogue's District has not resided in Community Board 8 since 2005.

In the new Council District 5, over 95% of the residents are from Community Board 8. This would unite Community Board 8 for the first time in decades as we no longer would be as fractured and spread apart amongst Council Districts. I appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely

Ray Chalme

Raymond Chalme  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Richard Blodgett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 10:42 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Richard Blodgett  
[REDACTED] Charlton St  
New York, NY 10014



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Robert Plutzker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 8:53 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
Robert Plutzker  
[REDACTED] 5th Ave  
New York, NY 10003

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Rochelle Gurstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 11:01 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
Rochelle Gurstein  
[REDACTED] Broome St  
New York, NY 10012

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sandra Booklan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 2:32 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
Sandra Booklan  
[REDACTED] E 10th St  
New York, NY 10003

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sarah Carranza [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 9:53 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Carranza  
[REDACTED] West 37th St.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Seamus McGuire [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 2:20 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Sincerely,

Séamus McGuire

[REDACTED] 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.

New York, NY 10019

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** Shane C. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 11:47 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Sincerely,  
Shane Correia  
[REDACTED] W 56th Street Apt 12J  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 4:46 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
<<NAME>>Sharon Burns  
<<ADDRESS>> [REDACTED] W 43 St. Apt. 16H NY, NY

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sharon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 8:00 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C3b140a9fa3424166726108da81115048%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637964209825587510%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gKsoTSg%2BQYoZ2QKIHafsH2DV9Up1gBu%2BdBysUFm%2FBd4%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Sharon Greenberg  
[REDACTED] W 44th St  
New York, NY 10036

Sharon Greenberg  
Sent from my iPhone  
Please excuse thumbos and typos



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sheila Weiss [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 8:51 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Sincerely,  
Sheila Weiss  
[REDACTED] W 46th Street  
NYC, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sophie Nadell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 10:28 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting upper east side

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Where did that idea come from ?? It is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard.

All of a sudden, people living east of First avenue -on Manhattan island- are part of Queens ?? This does not make sense and I hope this crazy idea will go back to where it belongs.... in total oblivion ! There are more important issues to be addressed.

A very concerned manhattanite,  
Sophie Nadell  
[REDACTED] East 72nd Street  
New York, NY 10021

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Stephanie Jones [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 12:41 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Jones

[REDACTED] West 49th Street, Apt 5E  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Stephen Lehw [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 4:25 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,

Stephen lehw  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street, Apt 8 Q  
New York NY, 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Steven Herring [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 5:33 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,

Steven Herring  
[REDACTED] W. 47th St.  
Apt. 4E.  
NYC, NY. 10036

Steven Herring  
[www.onthestoopwithsteve.com](http://www.onthestoopwithsteve.com)

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Tamora Rush-Kellett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 5:22 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Tamora Rush-Kellett  
[REDACTED] West 54<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Tracy sallows [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 3:29 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The proposed redistricting of Hell's Kitchen/Clinton

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Dear New York City District Council,

I am writing because I am very concerned with the proposal to split Hell's Kitchen (Clinton) into three council districts.

I have lived in Hell's Kitchen since 1986. My street is near the borderline of the proposed redistricting map.

I am concerned that this attempt to split Hell's Kitchen into three different council districts may be a guise to pretend that current and future Homeless Shelters are in "*other council districts*", when they are in fact, just across street in the same neighborhood.

While I understand every neighborhood must do it's part for the Homeless in our city, Hell's Kitchen has always had more than our fair share of Homeless Shelters, and since the pandemic we have been disproportionately inundated with even more Homeless in this community. During the time that the Skyline Hotel at 50th and 10th was converted to a men's shelter, the Police were continually responding to reports of violence there, nearly four times per day, according to the New York Post on 4/24/21. Obviously, the safety of Hell's Kitchen residents was compromised. It would be unfair and detrimental to Hell's Kitchen, which is already trying to cope with far more than it's share of displaced persons, to just blur the borderlines on the map to hide a concentration of Homeless Shelters. It doesn't matter if it is suddenly called "Lower Lincoln Center" and "Midtown North-West"; if the area of Clinton where they meet is glutted with Homeless Shelters, then Hell's Kitchen has a problem.

Having three council districts could camouflage the problems of the Hell's Kitchen community as a whole by artificially diluting all statistics (crime, schools, green spaces, homeless), into smaller numbers, and thereby denying Hell's Kitchen the assistance and resources it needs, as well as the clout to ask for and receive help and as a unified community.

**It is also vitally important that no matter how this vote goes that the established "Special Clinton District", which protects the area from 41st to 59th Street, from the West side of 8th Avenue to the river, be honored and maintained to preserve the low rise, lower scale, residential character of this neighborhood.** All Council Representatives must protect this part of Manhattan from any policies or zoning that tries to undermine or erode the protection of the Special Clinton District.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Tracy Sallows





[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Trevor Stewart [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 12:15 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Trevor Stewart  
[REDACTED] W 13th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ellen Pearre Cason [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 8:56 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
William Cason  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street #40-N  
NYC 10036

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 3:48 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

The relative size of the Queens portion of the proposed district argues that the Queens residents now covered by the district will get the majority of attention from the council members who presently represent them.

Would Manhattan cases now be adjudicated in Queens? This is absurd!

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms Adelaide Kent

█ E 69th St Apt 9G New York, NY 10021-5445 █

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:30 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mr. Alexander Johnson  
[REDACTED] Park Ave New York, NY 10128-1733  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 1:25 PM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mrs Alyssa Goodman

[REDACTED] E 69th St New York, NY 10021-5414  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ann A. Aust [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 10:33 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. I'm particularly concerned about the protections (the Clinton Special District, example) that we've had being eroded if our neighborhood is divided up.

My instincts tell me that this new proposal is just a bad idea and I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Ann A. Aust  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street, #32K

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Anne Silverstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 12:13 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Anne Silverstein  
[REDACTED] W 13th St  
New York, NY 10011



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** April Quinn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 1:27 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposed to redistricting UES

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I have lived on the UES of Manhattan for 17 years and am vehemently opposed to the potential of redistricting.

April Quinn

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:38 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mr. Benjamin Weintraub  
[REDACTED] E 76th St New York, NY 10021-2825  
[REDACTED]

# ■ SUTTON PLACE APARTMENT CORPORATION

■ Sutton Place, New York, NY 10022

Dear Chair Walcott,

As a resident of ■ Sutton Place, I write to ask that you **DO NOT ADOPT** the preliminary district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, notably splitting the Sutton Place community of interest between multiple districts and combining representation for a portion of our Manhattan community with Queens. Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to represent and serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two or more additional Manhattan Community Boards or hold full membership on multiple Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting, creating significant disparities among neighbors who share the parks and access to the new Greenway from Sutton Place? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Will the interests of Manhattan residents be served by a Council Member who serves a majority of constituents in Queens?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. Keep the Sutton Area neighborhood intact and with representation in Manhattan! If a redistricting is necessary, I would suggest and support the proposed district lines set out in the Community Board 6 Resolution of August 10 as an alternative. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sutton Place Resident:

**Brian Radin**

PRINT NAME

*Brian Radin*

SIGNATURE

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Carey Sloane [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 1:21 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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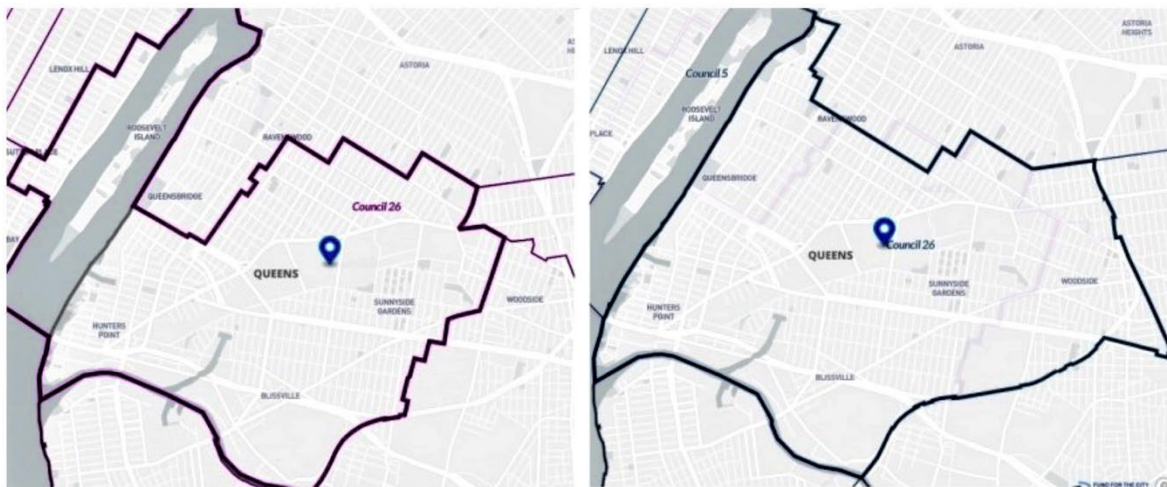
Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Carey Sloane  
[REDACTED] W 13th St  
New York, NY 10011



The draft map for Council District 26 (left) with the existing district map on the right. The new map would include Roosevelt Island and a section of the Upper East Side of Manhattan (Source: [redistrictingandyou.org](https://redistrictingandyou.org))

**Greetings, Chairman Dennis Walcott and Esteemed Commissioners, fellow Roosevelt Islanders and concerned guests.**

I am Carolina Tanjutco, a resident of Roosevelt Island since 2010, I had the opportunity to invest and bought my 2-bedroom apartment from the Island House after a long search for a Manhattan property. I came to know of this beautiful island when my daughter was entering Middle School, and P.S.217 was listed among the Manhattan schools back in 2005. You can imagine my delight when I discovered what the island has to offer in terms of a scenic view, safety, public transportation accessibility, mixed demographics and welcoming neighborhood. PS 217 itself offered a variety of afterschool services similar to NYC public schools downtown. The funding of this school relied heavily on Manhattan taxpayers like myself.

Like many baby boomers, one of my biggest investment in my portfolio is my own home. The valuation depends on the location and upkeep of the property, and neighboring community concerns. With this redistricting proposal that puts our situation in conflict between Manhattan and Queens borough councils. It will certainly affect the current marketability of our homes should we decide to sell, or leave the property to our next of kin when there are jurisdictional and political issues affecting our quality of life.

On every person's mind is, "So what's next?" Are we going to be transferred to Queen's County? Is there going to be a Charter change?

Like all American citizens, I have a Constitutional right to protect my property and investment, against erosion of its value, against unwanted meddling of another political power that can deteriorate the quality of life that we currently enjoy under Manhattan District 5.

That quality of living includes the NY Public Library, sports facilities, Manhattan funded senior center, and most importantly, our access to NYPD. We are funding our own Public Safety Officers stationed on the island, hence we have one of the best places to live in New York with least incidents of crime, Now, what happens should we be tossed to Queens Council 26, where we then have to compete with the allocation of NYPD vis-à-vis the higher crime rate in our neighboring Astoria?

We have the right to be secured in our homes and property like all other districts. That cannot be taken away from us because of some technicality that our neighbor requires more assistance than our Roosevelt Island community, and there are not so many police officers available to serve the entire District Council 26 at any given time. The day that we lose that security of having the NYPD at a short notice, that will start the proliferation of crimes in our backyard.

It is also not fair to Astoria because by including Roosevelt Island taxpayers in the calculation of average income, this will push up the level of income required for those seeking housing at District 26. Roosevelt Island has an average income level of \$135-160K. By factoring this ,on the Queens average income calculation, how will that affect the grant of public housing?

Let's talk about demographics and 2020 census. Each district is required to have approx. 172K but by including Roosevelt Island, with approximately 12,000 residents, now the population is up to 184K. Presently, without any change, Roosevelt Island has 29% white non-Hispanic, 31% Asian, 29% Hispanic and 6% Black. With redistricting, it will be off-balanced to **44% white** non-Hispanic, **25% Asian**, **22% Hispanic** and **4% black**. Clearly this is not in accord with the intention of redistricting.

A plain sight of the redistricting map shows a **direct violation of City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2)**, an extreme cross-over that results to an oddly shaped map, not compact, while joining neighborhoods with very distinct community interests. Roosevelt island is mainly residential and we work effectively with our Manhattan Council members for quick delivery of services. This redistricting proposal will result to change neither Roosevelt Islanders nor Astoria residents would like to have. Your careful study and deliberation of all concerns that you will hear today must be given a thorough evaluation of what is important to the constituents, not just to subserve political end.

Thank you for your attention, and the time you devote to listen to us. Roosevelt Island must remain as Manhattan District Council.



[REDACTED]

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**From:** Crista Grauer [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 11:54 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Crista Grauer  
[REDACTED] Broadway  
New York, NY 10012

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 4:04 PM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ms. CHRISTINE SMITH

[REDACTED] E 84th St New York, NY 10028-6226  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 3:24 PM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Dr Claudia Holland

[REDACTED] E 89th St New York, NY 10128-1251  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:28 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

THE ABOVE PROPOSAL IS ABSURD.

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island NOT BE adopted for the following reasons.

First & MOST IMPORTANTLY , the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may & OFTEN DO HOLD VASTLY DIFFERENT POSITIONS on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to RETURN TO THE DRAWING BOARD & NOT ADOPT THE PROPOSED DISTRICTS REFERRED TO ABOVE. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Dr. C. M. Pyle

[REDACTED] W End Ave New York, NY 10024-4933



[REDACTED]

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**From:** Cullen Barry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 12:13 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Cullen Barry  
[REDACTED] W 13th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 3:43 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Daniel S. Hamermesh  
[REDACTED] West 57th Street, Apt. 706  
New York, NY 10019

Daniel S. Hamermesh  
Sue Killam Professor Emeritus, University of Texas at Austin  
Professor Emeritus, Royal Holloway University of London  
Editor-in-Chief, IZA *World of Labor*

Tel (US cell): [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** David Adams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 1:16 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
David Adams  
[REDACTED] W 13th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 10:01 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Roosevelt Island says No to its redistricting

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## FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Madam, Sir,

My name is David Lawson and I am an elected representative of the Roosevelt Island community writing to you in my capacity as Roosevelt Island Resident Association (RIRA) governing Council, representing the Westview district, some 1000 residents. I am also former elected President by the Roosevelt Island community of this association and believe this letter represent the view of our entire Roosevelt Island community.

I am writing to share with you that the continuously growing 12,500+ Roosevelt Island resident community has been profoundly shocked by the redistricting lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5, which includes Roosevelt Island. As a result, the community has mobilized against it and oppose it vehemently for the following reason(s):

It is RIRA's views and the general Roosevelt Islanders' shared view that the proposed change is legally a direct violation of City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2), resulting in:

1. Neighborhoods and communities of interest not being kept intact
2. The proposed district is not compact as instructed
3. The proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, crossing a borough boundary

Furthermore, from a cultural viewpoint of view, the philosophy of the founders of Roosevelt Island was for it to be an integral part of Manhattan, which it has always been. The Roosevelt Islanders culture is that of Manhattanites and we have never been involved in Queens affairs. Nothing can justify in the eyes of Roosevelt Islanders such a drastic change.

While we understand the nature of redistricting as a result of the recent census. We question the census results and if everyone has really been counted considering a large number of Roosevelt Islanders were away during the Covid-19 crisis at a climax at the time of the census. Roosevelt Island has expanded tremendously with the addition of Cornell University, thousands of new residential apartments, which do not seem to be fully reflected in the 2020 census results.

From a political and administrative viewpoint, the proposed redistricting would complicate public policy on the Island, by dividing the political representation of the Island interests between Manhattan and Queens on key issues such as transportation, environment, education and infrastructure.

Lastly, political interest would not be served by such redistricting, which would consist in deciding against the will of the Roosevelt Island people for no benefit at all for the Island. At a time when the country and the city need to work together, jeopardizing the togetherness of Roosevelt Island will not translate in more public support for political leadership and public policy in any shape or form.

Therefore, I invite the Commission not to include Roosevelt Island in any plan that would lead to adding the whole or part of Roosevelt Island to a Queens district or any other non Manhattan district.

I thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Kind regards,

David Lawson

Council Member  
Roosevelt Island Resident Association (RIRA)  
Westview district  
Former RIRA President  
[REDACTED] Main Street, Apt 708  
New York, NY 10044

Please send your letter to [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov) and cc Joyce Short, the Founder of the *Main Street Democrats* at [jm\\_short@ymail.com](mailto:jm_short@ymail.com).



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Dawn Celestine [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 7:39 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Harlem Redistricting - District 9

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My name is Dawn Celestine.  
I was born and raised in Harlem.  
I have lived here all my life.

Harlem thrives with a shared sense of community and that needs to continue.

I have seen the redistricting map and don't  
feel it reflects that.

I hope any further adjustments will.

Thank you.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:44 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Deborah Brinckerhoff  
[REDACTED] E 87th St New York, NY 10128-3112  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:10 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

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First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

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- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Dr. Diane Romsaitong

[REDACTED] E 69th St Apt 50 New York, NY 10021-0019 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 8:17 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

Just on the face if it this proposal is ridiculous. To include a district in Manhattan into a large Queen's district will automatically substantially deny the Manhattan residents fair representation. I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Dianne Littwin  
[REDACTED] E 92nd St New York, NY 10128-1688  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 6:35 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Doris Straus  
[REDACTED] E 85th St New York, NY 10028-6349  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Edgar Jackson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 6:35 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Edgar Jackson  
[REDACTED] E 10th St  
New York, NY 10003

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 3:13 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms Eleanor Berman  
[REDACTED] E 79th St New York, NY 10075-0709  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 1:06 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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- the proposed district is not compact,
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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Erica Jaffe  
[REDACTED] E 69th St New York, NY 10021-5414  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 9:34 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

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Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Gwenn Kapner  
[REDACTED] E 80th St Apt 2F New York, NY 10075-0928 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Helene Goldfarb [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 12:51 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]

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August 22, 2022

To: New York City Districting Commission, Manhattan Public Hearing

Re: Redistricting of the Manhattan Council District 5

I was very disturbed to read of the possible redistricting of the Council District in what I live. The inclusion of a small part of my district in Manhattan (27%) into a much larger district in Queens seems to make no sense. I have lived in both Queens (for more than 40 years) and Manhattan (for 30) and can tell you that what I need from the Council and the person who represents me is quite different from what those who live in Queens – not better or worse but different - need. The neighborhoods have different needs and since we will be such a small part of the district, we will be left out not only of how we are represented but what we need. According to the New York City Charter, four things that should have been taken into consideration, were ignored: the district has a very peculiar shape; the district is not compact but all over the place; the district results in an extreme crossover between the boroughs ; and the district does not keep neighborhood and communities of interest in tact. Of all of these, the last is the most important to me.

As you look over this new proposal, please take all these problems into account and rethink how you are separating a part of this from where we belong and not taking any of the above into consideration.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 3:41 PM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ms. Holly Hollingsworth

[REDACTED] E 86th St New York, NY 10028-1016  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Ira Shuman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 10:58 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Sutton Place Community Proposed Redistricting

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I strenuously object to the proposal. The proposed district ignores the very different concerns of Manhattan and Queens residents. It is a crazily drawn district which makes no sense. It's absurd.

Ira Shuman  
[REDACTED] East 57th Street

Sent from my iPhone



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** James D'Apollonia [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:05 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C4d111e821f0e4f54273c08da81acefea%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637964878709447830%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6SzdxaQa4ez0KTQOZmnlx88F4yG%2Fy1fZMa2oPcojDLs%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,

James A D'Apollonia

[REDACTED] West 47th Street, Apt 2B, New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** James Talbot [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 12:10 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
James Talbot  
[REDACTED] W 13th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Pouliot, Jeffrey J. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 11:41 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Preserving Hell's Kitchen

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Jeff Pouliot  
[REDACTED] West 44th Street, 4B  
NY, NY 10036

=====

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jenny Pierson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 10:09 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident of about a decade, and I do not wish to see our wonderful and unique community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. It is a special neighborhood and cannot be subsumed into any other neighborhood, as I'm sure you understand if you are familiar with our one of a kind businesses, residents, and neighborhood treasured idiosyncrasies and issues to address.

As an editor at an independent journalism nonprofit organization that is international in scope (the Independent Media Institute), I have seen this in action with a hyperlocal news outlet of W42ST, which informs residents about what matters to us (including elections and district information, as well as topics relevant to what our denizens care about on the ballot like this!). And it is so important to me that we keep that local representation of our district, just as with our media, because, based on both my relationships with folks in the neighborhoods being proposed to be added to our district as well as their own local outlets, what they care about and report on is different from what Hell's Kitchen residents do. And maintaining and sustaining our unique neighborhood is of the utmost importance to me. And as I'm sure you know, it's what attracts tourists and New Yorkers alike to spend time and money in our neighborhood—because it has been uniquely and lovingly cultivated by our diverse neighbors and their elected representatives.

Additionally, and crucially, district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3: <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Thank you for hearing our testimony on this issue and considering this proposal.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Pierson  
[REDACTED] W 45th St  
Apt 10N  
New York, NY 10036



New York City Districting Commission

Dennis M. Wolcott, Chair

Meeting of August 22, 2022

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 515 Malcolm X Blvd., Harlem, Manhattan, 10037

Statement of John J. Keller ([jjkel@aol.com](mailto:jjkel@aol.com))

[Delivered via Zoom]

Good evening. My name is John Keller. I'm a member of Manhattan Community Board Six, by nomination of Council Members Garodnick and Powers and by appointment of Borough President Brewer, honored now to serve under the leadership of Borough President Levine and Board Chair Kyle Athayde. I'm a member of the Executive Board of CB6 and Chair of the Board's Youth and Education Committee.

I want to thank Districting Commission Chair Wolcott and the Commission members for inviting us to speak tonight.

I'm here to strongly support the Resolution passed by Manhattan Community Board Six, for which I voted, and the concurrent Resolution passed by Community Board Eight, both in opposition to the proposed redistricting and supporting the presented alternative. I also echo the sentiments of my friends and neighbors in Midtown Manhattan about being "relocated" to another Borough.

I am here specifically to discuss the potential impact of the proposed Redistricting on five public, elementary and middle schools currently in CD5 and very ably represented by Council Member Julie Menen.

There's a long history of a strong, beneficial relationship between our neighborhood public schools and our City Council representatives. It's just possible that Chancellor Wolcott may recall that I was elected to CECD2 in 2013 and was part of the group of parent advocates who worked for the siting and opening of Yorkville East Middle School (MS177) way back in 2012. I vividly recall how essential the efforts of Council Member Jessica Lappin were to bringing this fine school to a building already occupied by another great school, PS158, on York Avenue between 77<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup>. Council Member Ben Kallos played a critical role in the ongoing success of both schools and advocated strongly, with Manhattan Borough President Brewer, for the beautiful renovation of the shared facility. Council Member Kallos worked tirelessly with Council Members Garodnick and Powers to bring hundreds of Pre-K seats to our neighborhoods. Council Member Kallos also made it a hallmark of his tenure to assure the full inclusion of PS 217 on Roosevelt Island in Participatory Budgeting and the mainstream of Manhattan's CD5, as is Council Member Menen today. Council Members Lappin, Kallos and Menen have also been very supportive of PS183 on East 66<sup>th</sup> Street, in Manhattan. Districts 5 and 4 have been fortunate to have such champions for our schools as Jessica Lappin, Ben Kallos, Julie Menen, Dan Garodnick and Keith Powers, with Council Members Rosie Méndez and Carlina Rivera in District 2.

I am confident that Council Member Won of CD26 in Queens will be a strong advocate for Manhattan public schools. But, given the long, successful history of engagement by CD4 and CD5 Council Members, I think this is a case of "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Please, keep these neighborhoods and schools where they have been so ably represented for many years.

Thank you for your kind attention to our concerns.

###

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Judith Friedman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 11:34 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Redistricting Roosevelt Island

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To Members of the Redistricting Commission:

I have been a resident of Roosevelt Island for 32 years and I strongly oppose the redistricting lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5, which includes Roosevelt Island, for the following reasons, although there are so many more:

1. Roosevelt Island was conceived and built as a Manhattan Utopian Community by Mayor John Lindsay. Our area code is 212, not 718; our zip code is 10044, a Manhattan zip code, and we have always considered ourselves Manhattan residents.
2. The Roosevelt Island tramway, operated and overseen by the Roosevelt Island Operating Corp. is firmly rooted in Council District 5. It is imperative that the community maintain the direct relationship with the District 5 Council Member to insure the safe, efficient operation of the tram because most of our working population commute each day to Manhattan, not Queens.
3. In addition to supporting our school, PS217, our long established relationships with our Council Member supports quality of life programs for our families such as our Little League, NY Junior Tennis and Learning, our very active Carter Burden Senior Center, and additional projects and services that are the life-blood of our community.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Judith Friedman  
[REDACTED] Main Street #430  
New York, NY 10044

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** J Martin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 11:34 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re-districting Testimony  
**Attachments:** unitymap-220718-1.pdf

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Hello. My name is June Martin and I live at [REDACTED] West 56<sup>th</sup> Street between 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues. I have lived here for over 30 years.

I am asking the Commission to keep Hell's Kitchen intact in a single Council District. On July 15, 2022, the New York City Districting Commission released it's proposed new district maps as a result of the 2020 Census. This proposal breaks the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood apart into 3 different Council Districts.

Hell's Kitchen is widely recognized as running from 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Hudson River from 34<sup>th</sup> Street to 59<sup>th</sup> Street. It has a long colorful history and has been home to a long line of notables from Mickey Spillane to Mickey Rourke. It has served as a backdrop and inspiration for countless films like Taxi Driver and often turns up in Pop Culture books, comics, television, music and even video games.

Hell's Kitchen is known worldwide as a distinct neighborhood full of diversity - diversity of ethnicity, diversity of age, diversity of religion, diversity of race, diversity of economic status. The multitude of local restaurants from Peruvian to Ethiopian, the artists that live and work here and the many small businesses that support this community draw visitors from all corners of the globe. Hell's Kitchen is a unique gem and needs to stay that way.

One of the most unique characteristics of Hell's Kitchen is it's low rise residential aspect. This is a result of the Clinton Special District Zoning of which Hell's Kitchen is a part. The purpose of the Special District is to preserve the residential character of the community and promote public health, safety and general welfare. To accomplish this, construction in the area is required to keep in character with the existing scale of the community. This has allowed the preservation of lower rise buildings and the maintenance of open sky.

The diversity of Hell's Kitchen along with it's livability thanks to the Clinton Special District Zoning fosters a strong camaraderie within our community.

The City Council District lines proposed by the Districting Commission on July 15, 2022 will dilute the diversity of Hell's Kitchen as well as dilute the power of the community to retain it's Special District character by splitting the community into three parts. As a long time resident, I do not want unfettered development of high rise development and loss of the small businesses that make Hell's Kitchen what it is.

There is a better map that preserves our diversity and maintains the character of our neighborhood.

The Unity Map was released on July 18 by a coalition of the leading legal voting rights advocacy organizations. It reflects the fact that the white population of City Council District 3 generally and Hell's Kitchen in particular has decreased in percentage terms since the 2010 census. Additionally, the Latinx, Black and Asian populations in City Council District 3 has increased.

Combining Hell's Kitchen into one City Council District instead of dividing the neighborhood into three parts will bring minority representation into better balance across the entirety of City Council District 3.

Thus, I ask you to adopt the Unity Map for City Council District 3 to keep Hell's Kitchen whole and preserve our diversity and community cohesion. I've attached a copy of the map with my written testimony.

Thank you.

June Martin

■ West 56th Street  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Kalpana Gupta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 6:56 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

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Dear Mr. Walcott,

I am writing to you in your capacity as the Chair NYC Districting Commission/

The plan presented for 54 blocks of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island is not acceptable to the residents of the East Sixties. We believe it violates the charter requirements of keeping neighborhoods compact and in tack This plan would make CD26 an oddly shaped district with practical difficulties: they are - would the Council Member have a district office in Manhattan as well as on Roosevelt Island; would the Council Member cover Community Board meetings in Board 8 & 6 and have full membership on both Borough Boards, and finally we believe this part of Community District 8 would have a diminution of representation. While other Districts have physical boundaries in more than one borough, they are directly adjacent to one another. They do not have a river separating them as in this proposed plan. The issues in CD26 are not the same as in CD5. There are several well-established neighborhood associations whose membership would be torn asunder.

The issues that involve City Agencies such as Transportation, Sanitation, Parks etc. are different in the two council districts. Then there are two other major issues that would tear our community apart. The **first** is the hospital corridor with their buildings for the major institutions many of which would be in CD26 under the new plan. But many of their offices and allied buildings and staff and doctors would be located in/or live in CD5 making it difficult for discussing issues constantly arising. The **second** is Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 51 Districts for the least amount of park space in the city. This plan would remove: 24 Sycamores Park;  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Honey Locust Park—with  $\frac{1}{4}$  remaining in D5; most of our East River Esplanade and Andrew Haswell Green Park Phase 1 & 2A—2B is under construction at this time. Phase 3 has not yet started and will likely cost \$25 Million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the voters in her/his District? Most of the funding will probably be spent in the Queens part of the district. **This would result in CD 5 having the least amount of Park space in NYC.**

We strongly recommend that you study and implement Community Board 8's resolution and plan, as it takes into account the number of residents in all the adjoining districts.

Our Neighborhood Association depends greatly on our Council Member and her office staff, which is easy to reach by a short bus ride. I strongly urge the New York City Districting Commission to reconsider this ill-conceived plan and not divide an indivisible and cohesive neighborhood.

Best regards,  
kalpana

**Kalpana Gupta PhD, MBA,**  
Executive Director Business Development  
Head of Immunology, Infectious Diseases and Metabolism  
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
Office: [REDACTED]  
Ce [REDACTED]

Regeneron - Internal Use Only

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\*\*\*\*\*

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 10:32 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

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First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Katherine Redd  
[REDACTED] E 71st St New York, NY 10021-5159  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 10:07 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ms. Kathleen Segarra-Aitken

[REDACTED] E 69th St Apt 6N New York, NY 10021-5447 [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Kathryn Jolowicz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 7:17 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5th Manhattan City Council District redistricting

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My name is Kathy Jolowicz. I am president of a 50-year-old Block Association, the East 83/84<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association, spanning 16 blocks, from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues. For decades this organization has been split between the City Council Districts 4 and 5 at Lexington Avenue. Thus, many residents do not know who their representatives really are, and are confused as to whom they should go about addressing an issue.

The newly proposed 4<sup>th</sup> District stretches from Peter Cooper Village and Stuyvesant Town, Waterside Plaza, Murray Hill, Garment District, Tudor City, Turtle Bay, Times Square, Koreatown, Midtown East, Midtown West, Sutton Place, to Central Park South, where it then resembles a “hallway” through the Upper East Side all the way up through Carnegie Hill.

District 5's newly proposed boundaries covers, parts of Sutton Place and Lenox Hill; Yorkville and parts of the Upper East Side and Carnegie Hill, extending across the East River to another borough, of Queens.

#Combining communities that share common issues would be more productively represented under one council person's umbrella, rather than using statistics alone. Yorkville/Upper East Side share a common interest for example, the vibrant and sometimes explosive east west 86th Street Corridor from River to Park. This concern also extends north and south of the subway stop, and busy shopping street as well.

Extending the 5th Council District's boundaries westward to 5th Avenue from Lexington, with the east boundaries reaching the East River including Roosevelt Island, and starting from Central Park South up through UES/Yorkville to all of Carnegie Hill, instead of expanding eastward into the borough of Queens, with which the community of this section of Manhattan, has nothing in common, looks unintelligent.

This would leave the 4th District to begin at Central Park South to stretch southward instead if northward. The Councilmember would then not be spread so thin, which makes it difficult, in some cases, to juggle different community issues simultaneously, deeming that person unable to concentrate, and give the intense focus necessary for each issue. The same would apply to the 5<sup>th</sup> Council District leader who would have to engage in Queens's community issues, also being forced to be spread thin.

Another way must be found to implement a more efficient plan combining statistics, community common needs, whereby leaders can perform more efficiently. To achieve the best design, is to sit within the districts, rather than by viewing it from a “helicopter”.

Sincerely,

*Kathy Jolowicz*

*Yorkville/Kleindeutschland Historian ([ykhs-ny.org](http://ykhs-ny.org))*

*E 83/84th Street Block Association, President (2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. 16 blocks)*

*19th Precinct Community Council VP*

 *East 84th Street 3E*

*New York, NY 10028*

[REDACTED]

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**From:** KEVIN P MCANARNEY [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 8:49 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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I am Kevin McAnarney and since 1988 have been a resident of 301 West 45<sup>th</sup> Street (Camelot apt). I am Not just a long time Hell's Kitchen resident, I have worked in the theatre/entertainment industry since 1975 and was on the Board of Governors of ATPAM (Association of Theatrical Press Agents & Mangers) for over 25 years. I moved to the HK Community from the upper west side to be closer to Broadway. As you know the area has been the home to thousands & thousands of theatre workers for so many decades.

I am asking you to keep Hell's Kitchen whole. By just one block, I would be placed in a District that is 90% East Side. **They are NOT my community!** This would be my eviction, and my voice, situations, community and so much more would be the lowest minority there. Just one block would remove my representation that has been for 34 years.

I have been an activist, volunteer, pro bono press agent for so many organizations, events, individuals that are in this area, since I located to Hell's Kitchen. HK is such a diverse community, and our needs & representation should be as One and not splint into 3 districts, where we would be a Minority. **This country is too Divided Now, please do not divide Hell's Kitchen.**

My mother was Mexican American and had to go to convent school to learn English. I am too well aware of division. Hell's Kitchen is a COMMUNITY of Hispanics, Asians, Black, young & old, LGBT+, middle and low income families and people and so much more. There is great History here. The pandemic greatly affected the area, especially in the theatre and hospitality work. We banded together.

I am so Happy and Proud of our City Council Representative. And for the last elected represented was a volunteer to get the Best Representation for Hell's Kitchen. I have worked hard and do NKT want to be DISPLACED!

You are hearing from so many, and we have related so many reasons by the proposed lines are NOT what we want and NEED! The Map that they are presenting as the District should be the moral, ethical and RIGHT Choice / Decision!

Please Keep Hell's Kitchen as One and in District 3!

Thank you

Kevin P McAnarney  
[REDACTED] West 45th Street  
Apt 9 D  
New York NY 10036

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:51 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
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- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mr. Kevin Roe

[REDACTED] 5th Ave # 15D New York, NY 10029-6917 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:46 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mr. LAURENCE BELFER  
[REDACTED] Park Ave New York, NY 10075-0325  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 5:41 PM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mr. Len Cerasoli

[REDACTED] E 80th St Apt 6B New York, NY 10075-0988 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 1:19 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Sincerely,  
Dr. Leon Rybak

[REDACTED] E 69th St Apt 8N New York, NY 10021-5445 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:50 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Lester Brickman  
[REDACTED] W 13th St  
New York, NY 10011



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:35 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Sincerely,  
Ms Linda S George  
[REDACTED] E 96th St Apt 9A New York, NY 10128-0736 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Lisa Botwinick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 12:11 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Regards,  
Lisa Botwinick  
[REDACTED] W 13th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 3:21 PM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Miss Lynn Barber

[REDACTED] E 76th St New York, NY 10021-1400  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:05 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Margaret Norton  
[REDACTED] E 69th St New York, NY 10021-5414  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:32 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Marilynn Meek  
[REDACTED] E 69th St New York, NY 10021-5414  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:39 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Marjorie Hart  
[REDACTED] E 64th St New York, NY 10065-7045  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Giselle Mahoney [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 6:02 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Letter of Opposition

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Dear Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

Dennis M. Walcott, Chair, Hon. Marilyn D. Go

Maria Mateo, Esq.

Joshua Schneps

Lisa Sorin

Msg. Kevin Sullivan

Kai-Ki Wong

Maf Misbah Uddin

Michael Schnall

Kristen A. Johnson

Yovan Samuel Collado

Gregory W. Kirschenbaum

Marc Wurzel

Kevin John Hanratty

Dr. Darrin K. Porcher

\_\_\_\_\_,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.



Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,  
Mary Pistolese-Mahoney



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Matthew Cotter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 12:16 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Matthew Cotter  
[REDACTED] W 13th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 4:35 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed City Council District Changes for UES

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To Whom It Concerns:

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

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- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Hennes  
[REDACTED] East 78<sup>th</sup> Street, #5H  
New York, NY 10075  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 4:57 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

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- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

In addition, this is simply taxation without representation!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Mimi Lamia

[REDACTED] E 68th St Apt 5B New York, NY 10065-5603 [REDACTED]

Nancy S. Bonwit  
[REDACTED] East 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. 9A  
New York, NY 10022

Mr. Dennis M. Walcott  
Chairman, Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007

August 19, 2022

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I have been a resident in the Sutton Place area of Manhattan at the above address since 1997. It has always been geographically and politically a part of Manhattan. This letter is written to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

The draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

The proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, their populations and the person elected to represent the Sutton Place population. Specifically, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member extend representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, laws governing traffic congestion including fees to be levied and other restrictions on vehicles in restricted areas of **Manhattan**. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

**A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood** is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with large, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. These institutions provide significant medical services, not only to East Side and Sutton Place residents but to all Manhattan and the other four boroughs of the city, other USA residents and indeed the World.

Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be? Would they even be focused on unusual needs of these institutions? Or would their attention be focused on the different requirements of their larger constituent base in Queens?

The oddly-shaped, extreme crossover proposed district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

The Commission needs to withdraw the redrawn political map with the new districts it has proposed to be created. It then needs to imaginatively create something which works better for New York City, Manhattan and the enclave in which my neighbors and I live. I am sure my neighbors and fellow residents are available and eager to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose creative and useful alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

*Nancy S. Bonvitt*

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 4:22 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Sutton area redistricting

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August 19, 2022

Dear Commissioners:

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons: First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

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- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods.

Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8?

Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards?

Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards?

What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting?

Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and **not adopt the proposed districts referenced above**. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Nancy Koenigsberg

435 East 57<sup>th</sup> St.

New York, NY 10022

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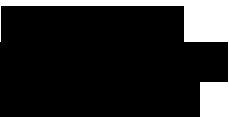
--

Nancy Koenigsberg

[REDACTED] East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022

Home: ([REDACTED])

Cell/Studio:





[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:11 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

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First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Dr. Panus Romsaitong

[REDACTED] E 69th St Apt 50 New York, NY 10021-0019 [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 5:05 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

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- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mr. Peter Pfeffer  
[REDACTED] E 76th St New York, NY 10021-2810  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ralph Tachuk [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 1:16 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Ralph Tachuk  
[REDACTED] W 13th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 1:17 PM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Renata La Rocca Vieira

[REDACTED] E 69th St New York, NY 10021-5414  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:34 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Dr. Roberta Olson  
[REDACTED] Park Ave New York, NY 10128-1733  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Robert Jackman [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 10:42 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Council District 5

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Dear Commissioners,

We have lived on the Upper East Side for almost 40 years. For the entire time we've lived here, we have been represented in the City Council by a member whose office was within walking distance from our home. There are many senior citizens living in this district in a similar position.

Therefore, we ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration

SANDRA & Robert Jackman  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

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**From:** Robert Zanfini [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 12:57 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Robert Zanfini  
[REDACTED] W.43rd St. Apt.NN  
N.Y.N.Y.10036  
<<ADDRESS>>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 8:54 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. robin nelson  
[REDACTED] E 73rd St New York, NY 10021-3520  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 3:16 PM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ms. Robyn Roth-Moise

[REDACTED] E 85th St New York, NY 10028-7405  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:56 PM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mrs Rochelle Busch

[REDACTED] Sutton Pl S New York, NY 10022-3071  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Roxanne and Patrick Feeley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 12:03 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] redistricting

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Hello,

I live on the UES of Manhattan. Queens is a bridge away. The Queens community has many different issues than the issues of the Manhattan community. I do not understand the thought process that a council person can effectively help both community of constituents. I have to imagine that the queens community itself have diverse issues amongst it as the Manhattan community has with the east & west sides.

Please do not redistrict Manhattan and Queens communities together. there must be a better solution. To begin with, we are mostly apartments and Queens is apartments and houses. When we being to speak about just the issues here, it is vastly diverse. Then start discussing the congestion pricing and it's another diverse discussion.

Please rethink this redistricting.

thank you for your time.

Roxanne Wild Feeley

[REDACTED]

## DeCillis, Michael

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:57 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ms Sally Mathews

[REDACTED] E 75th St New York, NY [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sandra Barnett [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 6:11 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] My Concerns About Redistricting

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Dear Members of the Districting Commission,

I would like to express my opinion on the proposal to redistrict Roosevelt Island (zip code 10044). It does not make sense to me.

I am a resident of Roosevelt Island since 1979. We are a diverse neighborhood with a population of almost 12,000 (per Census 2020). Roosevelt Island has developed and grown over the years I have lived here. That did not come easy, but with much intense representation from our Council person, other officials, and community representation to ensure the community needs were considered. Our Council person often set up an office on the island and knew our community and the needs well. Other elected officials also went to bat for us over the years.

We are a community with a wide breadth of people and needs -- upper, middle and low-income populations including seniors, disabled, single parents, youth as well as a large United Nations representation. We are also a community run by a complex leadership structure that includes local leadership, city, and state entities. Trusting relationships need to be built and sustained in order to see movement forward on any project here on the island. Often, community concerns have to be championed. Our past representation has spent the time, energy and resources to do this.

I am not in favor of this redistricting change for several reasons:

- I am concerned that we will lose the continuity and the history of 47 years of representation that we have had in the past to address the concerns of this community. For example, It took great effort upon officials and community alike to ensure that community concerns and ideas were considered during the first phase of building Cornell's campus. I hear Cornell is going to build a second phase in the near future. Attention will be needed again to ensure the community concerns are responded to in this next phase, too.
- It appears the plan splits up the East Side of Manhattan. In addition to other neighborhoods subject to change, our Tram is planted firmly in Manhattan. That is not changing. Our representatives fought for monies that enabled us to buy a new Tram when our 30 year-old tram was in need of replacement. More recently, a new working elevator has been completed and the plaza around it replaced. What will the tram be considered -- Queens or Manhattan? Where will monies come from for needs in the future? Currently, we are fighting to have OMNY at the Tram turnstiles.

- There are many programs on the island that impact seniors and youth that I believe are paid for out of funding that comes from discretionary funds of our representatives. Will those programs continue or will we lose that funding due to District 26 discretionary funding already committed to other priorities.
- Roosevelt Island is a subway stop on the MTA system -- will that be Queens or Manhattan jurisdiction? Who will oversee the issues related to this station?
- The flow and activity of the island's population is more connected to Manhattan than Queens. Trains are almost empty going to Queens and most of our people traffic is toward Manhattan during rush hour. Most are employed in Manhattan.
- How can part of Queens exist on Manhattan as the medical community and Sutton Place are also included in this redistricting? I thought that a borough could not be split that way according to the City Charter? So does that mean a proposed change in the City Charter is also being considered?
- What about our school on the island and the projects they need funding for? Where will that come from?

These are just a few concerns that I think warrant consideration. I am concerned that the quality of life for all Roosevelt Islanders could decline if some programs and systems are not supported due to lack of funding. This will take away from the vibrancy of this community. If this happens, we might no longer be an option people choose to live in. Worse, people could leave.

Queens is a great borough with a vast richness of cultures, which I love. My concern is that we may become the new kid on the block that could easily get overlooked given already established district 26 priorities and lack of relationship with the powers that be related to Roosevelt Island.

I ask you to leave Roosevelt Island as part of Manhattan's District 5. It makes the most sense!

Sincerely,

Sandra Barnett

Roosevelt Island Resident



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 9:17 PM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration, Sarah Bramwell

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sarah Bramwell

[REDACTED] E 96th St New York, NY 10128-0782  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:29 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Sheryl Dluginski  
[REDACTED] E 85th St Apt 1W New York, NY 10028-7487 [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Stephen Berger [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 1:50 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C4b0db5c389ce4cfd96b408da820b66a6%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637965284228972410%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=3janBkWweKzZ71E8GkDOtnBPjuUnPp7uSJ6vcf%2F9phk%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Stephen Berger  
[REDACTED] W. 43rd. St. Apt 34A  
NY, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 5:03 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

I find it difficult that draconian & unconstitutional boundaries are drawn up without common sense, forethought & undemocratic ways.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Stephen Lamia

[REDACTED] E 68th St Apt 5B New York, NY 10065-5603 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** susan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 10:28 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Forward suspect email to [phish@oti.nyc.gov](mailto:phish@oti.nyc.gov) as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Malbin

[REDACTED] W 55 St. NY NY 10019

Susan L. Malbin email: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 3:31 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

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- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Susan Siskind

[REDACTED] E 63rd St Apt 11B New York, NY 10065-7934 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Terri Roth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 1:11 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell%20's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Theresa Roth  
[REDACTED] W45 Street #12G  
NY NY 10036

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Thomas von Foerster [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 12:28 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Thomas von Foerster  
[REDACTED] W 13th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Trudi Posey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 12:54 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Trudi Posey  
[REDACTED] West 43rd St. Apt.NN  
N.Y. N.Y. 10036  
<<NAME>>  
<<ADDRESS>>



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** WAYNE HOFFMAN [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 1:03 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
GW Hoffman  
[REDACTED] West 43rd St, 31P  
NY NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:38 PM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mrs. wendy rosmarin

[REDACTED] E 69th St New York, NY 10021-5704  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Whitney Devlin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 12:41 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Sutton Place Redistricting

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I am a resident of the Sovereign on East 58th St. NY. For obvious reasons to you and almost everyone else in the area, having our neighborhood become part of district 26 and not our current district 5 is unacceptable!

I would appreciate not changing what isn't broken. We cannot have tunnel vision where people's lives are concerned. Your serious consideration to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Whitney Devlin

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Yago De Quay [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 4:55 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Yago de Quay  
The Strand, [REDACTED] W 43rd St  
--

Yago de Quay, PhD  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 2:48 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Dr. Yvonne Groseil

[REDACTED] 3rd Ave Apt 2 New York, NY 10128-3615 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Aaron Alexander [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 4:45 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>. Sincerely, <<NAME>> <<ADDRESS>>

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Sent from Gmail Mobile



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:26 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Akash Bose  
[REDACTED] E 79th St New York, NY 10075-1451  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:29 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ms Alexis Ginsberg

[REDACTED] E 79th St Apt 8M New York, NY 10075-1439 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Anita Weckenmann Mcdong [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 9:14 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Redistricting Hell's Kitchen

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Dear Redistricting Commission Members,

I am a long time resident of Hell's Kitchen asking the Commission to keep Hell's Kitchen intact. Hell's Kitchen needs a single Council District.

I have lived at the Parc Vendôme (333/353 West 56 and 340/350 West 57) since 1985. I have served on my Condominium's Board of Managers for 22 years. I understand the importance of community service and giving back. 10 years ago I began attending Community Board meetings and met Hell's Kitchen neighbors who feel as I do. I've met our elected representatives and have tried to assist those that I work with. I have learned that a property is enhanced by what happens outside of our walls. I am a proud member of the Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Coalition (HKNC), and I can't imagine how an Upper East Side representative would understand the needs and wants of my special west side community, formally known as the wild west.

Splitting Hell's Kitchen into three parts will dilute my ability to get anything done in my community. The Parc Vendôme is across the street from the Windermere, who constantly seeks to push the boundaries. That property (400 West 57th St) will be transferred to District 6, the Hudson Hotel, diagonally across the corner from the Windermere and directly across the street from the Parc Vendôme will be transferred to District 4. The Hudson has been problematic in the past and I have attended hearings for both buildings. Balsley Park is a POPS (Privately Owned Public Property) contiguous to the Parc Vendôme, yet the park is owned and operated by the Sheffield, (322 West 57th). Erik Botcher, Council Member of District 3 has been involved with Balsley Park. He understands the problems, an east side representative would not. It is heart breaking that the Council intends on separating the Parc Vendôme from Hells Kitchen.

I am asking the Commission to keep Hell's Kitchen intact and keep us in Council District 3.

Hell's Kitchen has it's own identity, it is legendary. Hell's Kitchen has always run along the Hudson River, that will change. Hell's Kitchen is World renown and a Distinct neighborhood full of diversity and flare. I am proud to live here. I am a proud volunteer in my Hell's Kitchen Community. Chopping this neighborhood into three parts will dilute our cohesiveness, our effectiveness, and shatter our unique congruence.

Thank you.

Anita McDonagh  
Board of Managers, Secretary to the Board  
Parc Vendôme Condominium  
[REDACTED] West 56th Street  
New York, NY. 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Annette Joseph [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 4:43 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3D&amp;data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C00c96906371e452a824e08da82eca7cb%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966250198329442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEkaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sd=QF6OkPIHvDq09WDoADRBHb6RIZYbbTCbAwu9Sl68f2s%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
A. Joseph  
[REDACTED] west 43 st  
NY NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** tony [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 2:35 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission, Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community. Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>. Sincerely, <>Anthony Stavick <

>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Barbara Costigan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 4:04 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,

Barbara Costigan  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street Apt 10E  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Barbara Hayes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 5:16 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Hayes  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street, #41F  
New York, NY 10036

**From:** BB Liu [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:13 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cfa767c219fd2458d101508da82b623bc%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966016069050648%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoim>



C4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2sc8gWo3eJuHQ  
4dq9dWVMbeDMfgVPeOCusWstiJVgl8%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

BB Liu

█ Columbus Place, Apt. S17G, New York NY 10019

## DeCillis, Michael

---

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Bernd Jirkal [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 11:58 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mr Bernd Jirkal

[REDACTED] E 79th St [REDACTED] New York, NY 10075-143 [REDACTED]

20 August 2022

Dear New York City Redistricting Commission Members,

As a 13-year resident of the historic village of Harlem in Upper Manhattan, I write to urge you to maintain the integrity of the Council District and its representation in the legislative body. For decades, Black Manhattanites have been marginalized and forced out of their homes. It is well documented that the thriving Black neighborhoods of Seneca Village and San Juan Hill were obliterated for the sake of undermining and erasing the political power and economic progress of Black society in New York's most popular and recognized borough. This year's decennial review must not, in any way, threaten the only true opportunity to have Black representation in the Council's Manhattan delegation. Thus, I request that Harlem's current Council district lines not be disturbed in any way that would hinder or weaken Black representation in New York City. Specifically:

While relieved that the NYC Council Districts Preliminary Maps do not exclude the Polo Grounds, Ralph J. Rangel Houses, and Holcombe Rucker Playground we are now faced with deep concern for the southern tip of Harlem. The preliminary plan calls for the removal of The Heritage at Schomburg Plaza, Clinton Houses, Lehman Houses and Lakeview Apartments— all a part and unique to historic Harlem. *These sites signify history, honor leaders, and are the fabric of cultural education and community and should not be excluded.*

- ▶ Schomburg Plaza, an apartment complex at the northeast corner of Central Park with two octagon-shaped 35-story towers on Fifth Avenue and one 11-story rectangular slab on Madison Avenue, was named after writer and activist Arthur Schomburg, a Black Puerto Rican, who settled in Harlem and developed a famous book collection as well as other materials about blacks. The housing development had world-famous tragedies but was also known for hard-working residents, producing outstanding public leaders like Bill Perkins and William Allen— two of only three Black men to serve as a county elections chief for Manhattan.
- ▶ Clinton Houses and Lehman Houses, owned and operated by the New York City Housing Authority, are culturally connected to historic Harlem in community interests and marginalization. In 2014, Clinton tenants sued NYCHA for negligence resulting in disrepair and public health hazards. Lehman Houses had similar challenges.
- ▶ At the most southern end of the four developments that serve as historic Harlem front doors is Lakeview Apartments. Lakeview was saved from losing its Mitchell-Lama status. For all four housing developments, Duke Ellington Circle, named in 1995 after the great jazz artist who lived in Harlem and The Africa Center, just opening, are at their doorsteps and serve as a grand entrance into historic Harlem.

Caren Skibell

W. 132<sup>nd</sup> Street NY, NY 10037

- ▶ Another beautiful opening to historic Harlem is the Harlem Meer in Central Park. The lake was transformed from a large, untamed swamp, into the centerpiece of New York's Central Park in 1857. Institutions like Boys & Girls Harbor, a new museum that celebrates the importance of African heritage and a monument of Duke Ellington at his piano, neatly provide a ribbon for the first blocks of historic Harlem as well as its political, racial and cultural composition. The very gate of the northern end of Central Park gives entrance to the Harlem Meer (dedicated last year and named the Exonerated) and honors the five young men who were wrongfully accused and convicted of the heinous rape of the "Central Park Jogger" (which occurred nearby). Three of these five resilient, (now) men lived and still have family in The Heritage at Schomburg Plaza. The tragedy and later exoneration of these men still resonate throughout and for Black families that are raising Black boys into men. The exoneration and the naming of the gate is a recognition of a community struggle to recognize the injustice that have been historic for Blacks in Harlem and in America.

In conclusion, in order to honor and preserve the history, historic leaders, culture, community, and education of Harlem I request that these sites not be excluded.

Respectfully,

Caren Skibell

\*Signature: Caren Skibell Print: CAREN SKIBELL

*\*By signing this, I authorize this document to be submitted as testimony to the NYC Districting Commission.*

Address: 132nd Street, 8M

New York, NY 10037

Email:

**DeCillis, Michael**

---

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Carole Goldman [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 9:45 AM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

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First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carole Goldman

[REDACTED] E 79th St New York, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Carolyn Pereira [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 2:58 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission, Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community. Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>. Sincerely, <> <

>



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** kpny.net [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 3:14 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Catherine Pormann  
[REDACTED] W 43<sup>rd</sup> St  
New York, ny 10036



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Charles Whitman [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:32 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** Community Board 8 Manhattan  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Including parts of the UES in a new UES/ Queens City Council District

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To The New York City Redistricting Commission:

I have lived on the UES for over 50 years and raised our two daughters here. Over those years I have seen our community and grow and change. The City Council Members who were elected by UES and Roosevelt Island allowed us to concentrate our energy in insuring the needs of our community were met despite efforts by various interest groups to pressure through changes which would dilute our sense of community and affect our quality of life.

I have been involved in the East River Esplanade, the restoration of the John Jay Park, projects which I doubt would have received the same attention for a park's starved UES, if the Council District priorities would have to be worked out with a equal sized Queens community. Both communities have legitimate interests but priorities of each community will differ and dilute our ability to get things done.

Congestion pricing is more of a concern to UES, whose neighborhoods are on the front lines. The push to build higher, and add density in one of the densest neighborhoods with an already stressed public transportation system, is likely to be a more urgent concern in the UES than in the area of Queens that would be included.

The issue of dealing with the new alternative means of transportation is a two edged sword. It allows ease of moving around, but is lightly regulated and presents a threat to pedestrians that is not adequately recognized. Our large senior population and the volume and variety of means of transportation used on the UES makes this an urgent problem here. I doubt the importance and urgency of it would be shared by our Queens neighbors.

Our Queens neighbors and our UES side community both have legitimate concerns. Neither would be well served by having a district where the city council member would have to juggle between the priorities of both communities. Both communities should be kept intact in their existing districts were they have a better chance of having their views heard and concerns addressed.

Respectfully,

Charles Whitman

**From:** Christine Cirker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 9:33 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** Christine Cirker  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I have been a Hell's Kitchen resident for 35 years and do not wish to see our community split among **three different districts**. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets.

Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. It is a community that cares for each other. Our representatives know that and are responsive to the growing needs of our neighborhood. If you SPLIT that up, you weaken our community's ability to effect any changes we need as we continue to grow. Three districts having a "piece" of us will break up what we have built. **It that your political goal?**

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.



Sincerely,  
Christine & Jason Cirker  
[REDACTED] W 43 Street  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Claudine Jellison [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 9:06 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

On a personal note. I have lived in Hell's Kitchen for over 30 years. My son grew up here. Coincidentally mother, the daughter of poor immigrants, was born and baptized here. Hell's Kitchen has a history and identity as a unified but incredibly diverse community--a working class community, a theater community, an arts community. People take care of

each other here, schools, parks, buildings, shops. To politically separate out this district goes against the grain.

Thank you,

Claudine Cassan Jellison  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street Apt 28A  
NY Ny 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** david blaut [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 2:54 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No to redistricting for Hells Kitchen

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I have lived in Hells Kitchen for over 11 years now and what you are trying to do is break the neighborhood up for no reason that will not benefit the community. You don't change state, county or town lines, so what is the goal you are looking to accomplish? Keep Hells Kitchen as it is and stop trying to bring negative politics to the community. We have enough other problems to worry about and this is one that easily be fixed to keep the community as is and make the residents happy.

Thank you,

David Blaut  
[REDACTED] West 47th St Apt 1D  
New York, NY 10036

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[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 5:57 PM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

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- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
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Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mr. David Fortunoff

[REDACTED] E 69th St Apt 10CD New York, NY 10021-5556 [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** DAVID GOLDEN [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 9:26 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony

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We are not part of Queens. We are Manhattan residents so we should be part of a district that has only Manhattan residents. We are very very different.  
David Golden

Sent from my iPad



*A Not-for-Profit Corporation*

east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

**P.O Box 1855**

**New York, NY 10021-0048**

**Tel 212-713-5826 • [info@esna-nyc.com](mailto:info@esna-nyc.com) • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)**

August 5, 2022

To: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

**VIA EMAIL TO:** [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

**MAIL TO:** Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria outlined in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8 and Roosevelt Island? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park , most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

NAME	ADDRESS	Zip Code
------	---------	----------

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Deborah White [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 2:31 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,

Deborah White

[REDACTED] West 43rd Street Apt 5N  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Dennis Barbosa [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 3:45 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident who was born here 36 years ago and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ce1ab7f6acf134b8c24fe08da82e48469%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966215251500824%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=9nb3Y6KfwxT4ysAaF2S330rddPxsqlPzHNNyPQHmxP0%3D&reserved=0>.

Sincerely,  
Dennis Barbosa  
[REDACTED] west 43rd street

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 3:40 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole!

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I strongly oppose dividing Hell's Kitchen Into 3 parts each represented by a different council member! It will lead to racial and financial disparities for voters and weaken our representation. Hell's Kitchen is a total community that needs to be kept together, dividing it up makes no sense.

Thank you. Diane Burgrave

Manhattan Plaza.

43rd St. Apt 5B.

New York,NY 10036

[REDACTED] West

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Donna Kennedy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 9:51 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed UES Council Districts

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Having lived on the Upper Eastside for the past thirty years, and being a homeowner for the past nine, I strongly oppose the proposed alteration of my council district and see absolutely no reason as to why this is being done. I am a resident of Manhattan, who pays Manhattan property taxes, votes in every primary and election, and I do not support this measure in anyway and I will be extremely upset if my district is changed.

Donna Kennedy  
[REDACTED] East 79<sup>th</sup> Street  
Apt. 17I  
NY, NY 10075



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 5:48 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Eleanor Abraham  
[REDACTED] E 52nd St New York, NY 10022-6324  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:01 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C46b456924ab94f7dabd608da82c54c3c%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966081174416803%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloi>

MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8vaK%2FmTkV  
VypQQ6ConYJ1KLd9Tdq%2BT8jCoYdCusY02E%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

<< Emanuela Villorini >>

<< [REDACTED] West 48th street #4W, NYC 10036 >>

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Florin Cimpean [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:30 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cfcf210021e66489bf84508da82b87122%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966025950018583%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xxBzFSjfVeP31fzt1Ku1t5ywQnI9hDfFDmLEXzfJsLk%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Florin Cimpean  
[REDACTED] W 43rd street  
NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 7:55 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Frances Qualter

[REDACTED] E End Ave Apt 8C New York, NY 10128-7890 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Freddy Perez [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:58 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cd6c7444ac3e047ed069908da82cd3414%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966115132428765%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloi>

MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=W9Mh6MaG7  
EwytD2uDDbiA3gCMBRITRCLK%2BUD2q%2F7UQ%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,  
Freddy Perez  
[REDACTED] West 28th Street Apt 5B  
New York, NY 10001

Sent from my iPhone



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Lee, Gail [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 2:04 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Gail Lee  
[REDACTED] West 55 St. Apt 4N, NYC 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Giuseppe Pica [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:10 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed UES Council Districts

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Having lived on the Upper Eastside for the past thirty years, and being a homeowner for the past nine, I strongly oppose the proposed alteration of my council district and see absolutely no reason as to why this is being done. I am a resident of Manhattan, who pays Manhattan property taxes, votes in every primary and election, and I do not support this measure in anyway and I will be extremely upset if my district is changed.

Giuseppe Pica  
[REDACTED] East 79<sup>th</sup> Street  
Apt. 17A  
NY, NY 10075

[REDACTED]

---

**From:**

**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 3:14 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. I've been a resident here since 1987 and can't imagine living anywhere else in Manhattan. It (mostly) remains a wonderful & diverse place to live. PLEASE DO NOT SPLIT UP OUR HELL'S KITCHEN COMMUNITY!!!

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
G. M. Tucci  
[REDACTED] West 43 St.  
Manhattan Plaza  
New York, NY 10036-6339  
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Hedy Hauptman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 11:17 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Hedy Hauptman  
[REDACTED] W 12th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jehudith Cohen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 9:56 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. We are Hell's Kitchen resident who do not wish to see our community split among three different districts.

Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are.

We think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and, therefore, ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Sincerely,

*Hyman & Jehudith Cohen*  
[REDACTED] West 56th Street  
New York, NY 10019

*Link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.*

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 3:53 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C8e3feb0c57dd4335e7c508da82e5b1eb%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966220296973346%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C7C&sdata=mx0yozL8ORYKlAaHLUhc5HNW5%2Bzcoj5usp4lboxmGhjE%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Ilyssa C. Guerra  
Manhattan Plaza- [REDACTED] West 43rd Street Resident

**From:** Irina Babushkina [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 7:47 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Sutton Place redistricting

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Dear Chair Walcott,

As a resident of 16 Sutton Place, I write to ask that you DO NOT ADOPT the preliminary district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, notably splitting the Sutton Place community of interest between multiple districts and combining representation for a portion of our Manhattan community with Queens. Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to represent and serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two or more additional Manhattan Community Boards or hold full membership on multiple Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting, creating significant disparities among neighbors who share the parks and access to the new Greenway from Sutton Place? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Will the interests of Manhattan residents be served by a Council Member who serves a majority of constituents in Queens?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. Keep the Sutton Area neighborhood intact and with representation in Manhattan! If a redistricting is necessary, I would suggest and support the proposed district lines set out in the Community Board 6 Resolution of August 10 as an alternative. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sutton Place Resident:  
Irina Babushkina



[REDACTED]

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**From:** James Melo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 9:32 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] against redistricting in the Upper East Side

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Hello, I want to voice my opposition to the proposed redistricting of Manhattan District 5 to become part of Queens District 26. This seems to be an egregiously wrong idea. Why slice part of a Manhattan neighborhood and incorporate it into a Queens neighborhood. I don't know what is the rationale, but it seems to me that the proposed redistricting is wrong.

James Melo  
[REDACTED] East 79th Street  
NYC, 10075

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:05 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Jane Foss  
[REDACTED] 2nd Ave New York, NY 10128-3612  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jan Horvath [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 2:31 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and ***do not wish to see our community split among three different districts***. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community. Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,

Jan Horvath  
[REDACTED] W 43rd St. #21C  
NYC, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** jasper mcgruder [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 3:15 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming less diverse. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Jasper Mcgruder  
[REDACTED] w 43rd street 18B  
New York, New York 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jeffrey Jenssen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:01 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,<BR><BR>Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. <BR><BR>The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community. <BR><BR>Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.<BR><BR>Sincerely,<BR><<NAME>><BR><<ADDRESS>>

Jeff Jenssen  
[REDACTED] W 43rd street 37B  
NY NY 10936

Sent from my iPhone so please excuse any and all typos and physical errors. :)

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 11:00 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Jessica LIPPMAN  
[REDACTED] E 69th St New York, NY 10021-5414  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Joan Shangold [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 4:02 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard (and important) work on redrawing the City Council district map.

I have lived in Hell's Kitchen for over 40 years and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. Our representation would be weakened because we will become a small, inconsequential part of *three different* City Council districts, represented by *three different* City Council Members. That is abhorrent! I also think this may be a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. Even though I am "white", I see NO good reason to weaken our representation!

For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3:

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,

Joan Shangold  
[REDACTED] West 43rd St  
Apt 7H  
New York, NY 10036-6336



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Joey Baruch [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:14 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Redistricting Roosevelt Island

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To Members of the Redistricting Commission:

I strongly oppose the redistricting lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5, which includes Roosevelt Island, for the following reason(s):

The proposed change is a direct violation of City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2), resulting in:

Neighborhoods and communities of interest not being kept intact.

The proposed district is not compact as instructed.

The proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, crossing a borough boundary.

The proposed district is very oddly shaped.

In addition, the Queens member would need to send representatives to 2 Manhattan Community Boards and hold membership in 2 Borough Boards. Queens and Manhattan residents may differ on public policy issues such as congestion pricing. Manhattan residents in the Queens district would be at a disadvantage in participatory budgeting.

Loss of representation in District 5, where the tramway is rooted, puts operation of this vital link in jeopardy.

I hope this nonsense can be stopped.

Best,  
Joey Baruch  
[REDACTED] Main St #3N, New York, NY 10044

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** John Alban Coughlan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 3:50 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
John Coughlan  
[REDACTED] West 43 Street, #4L  
New York, New York 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** KENNETH BOYS [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 3:08 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C2cd072ad194147c6ea4908da82df62f5%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966193226305130%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TQKpPQkl1YiEnZVievGRSwJKkdsLdewXrt65Giwu3t8%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Kenneth Boys  
[REDACTED] W43 St  
NY, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 9:19 AM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mr. Kevin Williams

[REDACTED] E 79th St New York, NY 10075-1451  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Krystin MacRitchie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 11:45 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Krystin MacRitchie  
[REDACTED] W. 57th St.  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Leah Rosenbaum [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 7:01 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] UES Re-Zoning

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I reside in Lenox Hill and I strongly oppose the proposed re-zoning of the UES districts. To divide neighborhoods and local interests into 3 groups, lumping some folks with people in another borough makes no sense. Do not make this change.

Sincerely,  
Leah Rosenbaum

To err is human, to have typos or auto-incorrects is to be iLeah. Please excuse her.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Lenore Dekoven [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 9:16 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cfaf98e22044488e6e708da8312ab26%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966413464837866%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=CLv01gvSyl2eS%2BF3U5cgznojbjDgxhSOUdUNPGAYYB4%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
<Lenore DeKoven  
<Hell's Kitchen resident  
>

Sent from my iPhone



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Linda McNicholas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:28 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** NYC Redistricting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: OPPOSE — SUTTON TO QUEENS DISTRICT ...

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Emails are bouncing back undeliverable ...

**From:** Linda McNicholas [REDACTED]  
**Date:** August 20, 2022 at 10:20:37 PM EDT  
**To:** PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov  
**Subject:** OPPOSE — SUTTON TO QUEENS DISTRICT ...

I whole heartedly oppose. What do Queens representatives know about our enclaves, needs, beliefs, concerns?

Who came up with the idea of cross-districting boroughs?

Would someone in Suffolk want Nassau representing them. Westchester, Rockland. Counties vs districts, but you get the idea.

It's preposterous.

NO NO NO NO NO !!!!

Resident  
[REDACTED] E 56  
NYC 10022

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Lisa Polakov [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:45 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cc2927ad2335349cd911308da82cb506f%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966107001734110%7CUnknown%7CTWFPbGZsb3d8eyJWljoi>

MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=pcQ1BFUKhK2  
G7MtTdPAWhEq%2FjbxWWWFClaAe17Rc7yw%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Lisa Polakov

■ W. 43rd St. Apt. 40T  
New York, NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Lonnie Poupard Jr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 1:06 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Hi there,

Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C640bbee5822b423a6c8108da82ce3d1e%7C>

35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966119568226067%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloi  
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9ijOEbwpuSF3Ue4Kzy5S9pznleWLS9E63o%2Fw%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Lonnie Poupard  
[REDACTED] W. 39th St 4H  
New York, NY 10018

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:04 PM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ms. Louise Schain

[REDACTED] E 66th St Apt 14A New York, NY 10065-6277 [REDACTED]

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED PLAN #1 REDISTRICTING  
THE UPPER EAST SIDE

I have been a resident of the Upper East Side, in the same building on E 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and First Avenue, for close to 40 years, and I am proud of our neighborhood and the sense of community I share with my neighbors. We are a cohesive population with shared interests and concerns. We clearly identify as Upper East Siders and Manhattanites, and this egregious proposed plan is an assault to that sense of identity and community.

To note, the proposed plan to splinter off the far East Side is a gross violation of four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2).

The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

The proposal plan would segregate Upper East Siders in affected areas from their neighbors, and severely disenfranchise them. The splinter area will not receive the attention and interest of officials they did not elect and by being split from their longtime community by this arbitrary demarcation, would be at a severe disadvantage in representation, attention, discretionary funding, and voting influence.


Additionally, the splinter area has elementary schools and the leading hospitals serving the other Manhattan residents, so they too would be disenfranchised from representation of their best interests.

**I strongly disagree with the proposed plan #1** and ask the Commission to hear the growing public dissatisfaction with this plan. Please adopt the proposed map submitted by Community Board 8 where the Upper East Side remains intact and the natural water boundaries of the East River serve as district border lines.

**It is imperative that the Upper East Side remain intact.** Additionally, Roosevelt Island is part of Manhattan, but if the population numbers require a shift, it would make sense to adhere to the water boundary of the East River, with Roosevelt Island shifting to Council District 26.

Thank you for your consideration of this written testimony.

Lydia Canizares

 East 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, Apt C2500, New York, NY 10021



[REDACTED]

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**From:** marcia haufrecht [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:45 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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My name is Marcia Haufrecht, live at 484 west 43st. I have been in residence here since 1982 and am also a member of the entertainment industry which is a part of Hell's Kitchen.

Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street. <BR> <BR>The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen. <BR> <BR>The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member. <BR> <BR>We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen. <BR> <BR>Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3. <BR> <BR>The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts. <BR> <BR>As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted. <BR> <BR>Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea. <BR> <BR>Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular. <BR> <BR>That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Please save our neighborhood

Thank you

Marcia Haufrecht

Sent from my iPhone  
marcia haufrecht  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 9:08 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Mariel Stepniewski  
[REDACTED] E 79th St New York, NY 10075-1451  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Marlyn Buehler <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:43 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C3f460689207c4fbfb46e08da831ed235%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966467001603573%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fLMBZx%2FVQyvY9woCNGvDvns%2BnuafXVjvrNdTPUZotrQ%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Marlyn Buehler  
[REDACTED] W. 43rd St.  
NYC 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 11:07 AM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

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- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mr. Martin Bender

[REDACTED] E 79th St Apt 17C New York, NY 10075-1463 b [REDACTED]



**From:** Michael Desimone [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:00 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,<BR><BR>Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. <BR><BR>The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community. <BR><BR>Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

[Mike DeSimone  
\[REDACTED\] W 43rd St 37B  
NY NY 10036](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cf0717d270f374955439b08da82f7742a%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966296571940629%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiM C4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8TCPMay6ybPyxesYWBekOV2YkBsZkD%2BQrIQCVOFFDU%3D&reserved=0.<BR><BR>Sincerely,<BR><<NAME>><BR><<ADDRESS></a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Sent from my iPhone so please excuse any and all typos and physical errors. :)

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Michael Fischetti [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 4:30 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission, Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community. Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>. Sincerely, <<NAME>> <<ADDRESS>>

Michael Fischetti  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Michael Hull [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 3:20 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony: do not split up Hell's Kitchen  
**Attachments:** Unity Map.jpeg

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I am writing to urge you NOT to split the Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood into 3 different City Council Districts.

I consider Hell's Kitchen to be one of New York City's most iconic neighborhoods, and I have had the pleasure of living here for 11 years, at two different addresses. During this time, I have seen the neighborhood thrive and welcome tons of visitors. I've also seen it struggle through a pandemic and fight to bounce back. I have made countless friends who live all over Hell's Kitchen, and have spent time getting to know them, why they've moved here, and how they feel about the state of our neighborhood. Two things are clear:

- 1- Hell's Kitchen is ONE community.
- 2- That community is vibrant, diverse, and has specific and unique needs that MUST be met to keep our community safe.

Splitting Hell's Kitchen into 3 different city council districts would dilute our representation as there would be no one City Council member to speak on behalf of this unique community. Instead, redistricting Hell's Kitchen would take a minority-heavy neighborhood, and scatter those voices into three other districts, essentially silencing hundreds of already-marginalized people.

Instead- I URGE you to utilize the unity map (attached to this email).

Thank you for your time,  
Michael Hull

--

**Michael Hull (he/him)**  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Michael Malbin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 7:39 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three districts. We are a single "community of interest" in the classic language of redistricting.

Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The community deserves to be represented as one, not split into small slivers of other districts. We need to

The district lines proposed by the Commission would split this majority-minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. This is a violation of the Voting Rights Act. I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

This is what we need.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Michael J. Malbin  
[REDACTED] W. 55th St. (Apt. 7B)  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Michael Pavese [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 7:34 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and have been for almost 25 years and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C899db99b9d2c4a481b6808da8304b344%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966354798418834%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5y0PEbaQGzIXuJJY%2ButJdL26wEE%2BI7A1co61cE5IABk%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Michael Pavese  
[REDACTED] West 43rd St, 16G  
NYC, NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Mitch Weiss [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 2:33 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole!

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If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Hell's Kitchen is a West Side community, an entity, a neighborhood. Plain and simple, my neighbors and I reject any proposal that doesn't IMPROVE our community.

I have yet to hear a positive reason for this change in districting. Leave us alone. Leave Hell's Kitchen alone.

Sincerely,  
Mitchell Weiss  
Stanley Harrison  
[REDACTED] West 43 Street #28Q NYC 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 2:34 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Dr. mozghan kermanshahchi

[REDACTED] E 79th St Apt 1F New York, NY 10075-1407 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Nancy Holland [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 9:57 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ca904317d428d4fb6167808da82b3edfa%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966007183642049%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=T5AhhpzDRP5q9%2B7I2Df2CXwT625FD51abR9HYQ4Piac%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Nancy Holland  
[REDACTED] West 55th Street 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Nancy Small [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:40 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please leave Manhattan in Manhattan. The world is already screwed up... don't make it worse.

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Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Neil [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 3:46 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Gerrymandering a Community Out of Existence

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Hell's Kitchen, one of the oldest, most well known, and most cohesive neighborhoods in this City is here threatened with being chopped into three, thereby crippling its ability to defend its interests as a distinct community.

This threat seems to stem from the notion that convenience for bureaucrats and advantage for politicians trumps common sense, and the norms of representative democracy. The "Unity Map" @ <https://districtr.org/plan/138591> takes a different approach, one that stems from the notion that there is value in community.

Following the recent, expensive, antidemocratic debacle at the State level, this is another nasty reminder of the corrosive effects of gerrymandering at every level of government in this country.

Yours truly, Neil Bleifeld / [REDACTED] W 48th St / NYC 10036



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Nick Ioriatti [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 1:19 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Nick Ioriatti  
[REDACTED] W 12th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 1:13 PM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ms. Nicole Green Manasse

[REDACTED] E 79th St New York, NY 10075-1451  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 11:41 AM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Odile PASSIN

[REDACTED] E 79th St Apt 17E New York, NY 10075-1463 c [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:29 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

How dare you attempt to grab power in such a despicable manner! You should be ashamed.

This is what crooked politicians have been doing all over the country: creating crooked lines through American neighborhoods to achieve crooked results.

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons:

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
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In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mr. Patrick Manasse

E 79th St New York, NY 10075-1451

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** PJ Kaplan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 8:35 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Redistricting Roosevelt Island

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To Members of the Redistricting Commission:

I have lived on Roosevelt Island my entire life. My grandparents, uncle and aunt, cousins, and even a great grandmother have lived on Roosevelt Island.

I strongly oppose the redistricting lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5, which includes Roosevelt Island, for the following reason(s):

The proposed change is a direct violation of City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2), resulting in:

Neighborhoods and communities of interest not being kept intact.

Loss of representation in District 5, where the tramway is rooted, puts operation of this vital link in jeopardy.

Peter Kaplan  
[REDACTED] Main St Apt 1202  
New York, NY 10044



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** grayre [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 7:06 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,

Rene Garcia  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street  
Apt 35P  
New York, NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone



## DeCillis, Michael

---

**From:** Robert Haufrecht [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:15 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,

<< William R. HaufrechtH>>

West 48th Street, NYC 10036>>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Robert Maril [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 1:20 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C63f5949419a7488ad49408da82d03d2f%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966128174276347%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloi>

MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Sx7cobq%2FM  
NNTbDiwBvPWtGid15VuVW6Hb8Byz9OIscY%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Robert Maril  
[REDACTED] W. 52nd St.  
Apt 16F  
NYC 10019

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Rose Ellis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 3:02 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Rose Ellis [REDACTED] West 45th

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 8:57 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission, Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community. Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>. Do NOT SPLIT HELL'S KITCHEN. PLEASE ONE VOICE

Sincerely, Rosemary Hopkins [REDACTED] w. 43rd Street NY,NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Scott Hernandez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 9:09 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HK redistricting

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Hello,

As a resident of Hell's Kitchen for over 13 years and as a condo owner, I would like to express my concern and dismay over the proposed redistricting of Hell's Kitchen.

I am NOT in favor of this.

Best regards, Scott

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
W 47th St Apt 3E  
New York, NY 1003



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Seth Arrobas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 11:05 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C6102a63d0d1a4396243608da82bd70ed%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966048482373592%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=pzOHEldtKAgpwjgsTq9TMAXkXSdhPAX0PoyoOv9sePE%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Seth Arrobas  
[REDACTED] W 55 Street  
New York, NY 10019



*A Not-for-Profit Corporation*

east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

**P.O Box 1855**

**New York, NY 10021-0048**

**Tel 212-713-5826 • [info@esna-nyc.com](mailto:info@esna-nyc.com) • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)**

August 5, 2022

To: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

**VIA EMAIL TO:** [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

**MAIL TO:** Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria outlined in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8 and Roosevelt Island? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park, most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

NAME	ADDRESS	Zip Code
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*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Thomas Hays [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 11:20 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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Hello,

We are strongly against the proposed redistricting. We believe that the proposed districting would not allow for representation of our interests as they do now.

We hope you consider our input.

Regards,

Ellen Friedland and Thomas Hays

[REDACTED] East 79th St., 10075

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Thomas Morrissey, Artistic Director, Theatre NOW [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:03 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** Manhattan Plaza Tenants Association  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

My name is Thomas Morrissey. I live at 400 West 43rd Street, Apt 45-O, NYC 10036. I am The Producing Artistic Director of Theatre Now New York, a non-profit theatre company that produces new musicals for our community that employs local theatre artists at the A.R.T./New York Theatres at 502 West 53rd Street, NYC 10019 **AND** I am a longtime resident of Hell's Kitchen.

**I do not wish to see our community split among three different districts.**

Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Morrissey  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street, Apt 45-O  
New York, NY 10036



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Virginia Hamilton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 3:17 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Virginia Hamilton  
[REDACTED] W 12th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Robert Haufrecht [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:15 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,



<< William R. HaufrechtH>>

■ West 48th Street, 4W, NYC 10036>>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Adam Sank [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 8:29 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C5d8a00bf724740c7ca7d08da8370b2ec%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966817319361018%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiM>

C4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ag27yPN50gnlcy  
aV2teWiDyAT%2F6msIF5eHN%2BHvOx0hA%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

<< Insert First NAME and Last NAME >>

<< Insert your Building address >>

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Alexandra Dolce [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 3:24 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Roosevelt Island in Manhattan

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Dear Districting Commission.

Moving Roosevelt Island to Queens would be a big mistake. Roosevelt Island's personality and uniqueness lies in the fact that it is part of Manhattan. Simply put, Manhattan is who we are.

Sincerely,  
Alexandra Dolce

My name is Al Kurland. I am a resident of District 7. I am a community activist and educator who has lived at 664 West 161 Street for 40 years. I am requesting that the redistricting commission SAVE THE 160's. Saving the 160's means that the lower 160's remain part of District 7 and do not become part of District 10. District 7's northern border should, at least, extend to 165th Street, West of Fort Washington Avenue and to 162nd Street, West of Broadway.

I am advocating for the map linked here: <https://districtr.org/plan/138688>.

Washington Heights has always been at the heart of District 7. Those of us who live in the lower 160's have formed our own small community—and together, we have a strong voice. United, we have been able to elect representatives who recognize our collective power and focus their attention on our needs. Divided, our community will be overshadowed by the communities just north of us.

In the last election, voters in the 160's cast their vote for our current council member, Shaun Abreu. Because our community makes up a meaningful percentage of the vote, we have been able to ask our council member for meaningful investments in our community. These investments include:

- \$1.2 million dollars to upgrade and revitalize Lily Brown Playground, located between 162nd and 163rd and Riverside Drive.
- Nearly \$1 million for P.S. 4 on 160th and Amsterdam to upgrade the auditorium, gymnasium, and library.
- Over \$50,000 to Riverstone Senior Life Services at 99 Fort Washington, where he has also fought for senior traffic zones.
- Working with the Parks Department and Department of Transportation to make desperately needed repairs to the sidewalks and implement loading zones for deliveries between 160 to 165 and Riverside.
- A massive block party on 161st Street where people from the lower 160's could come together, as we always have, to enjoy one another's company and show our kids a good time.

The 160's can't compete for attention with Inwood. The borders of any district are always at risk of being left out in the cold, but that isn't the case in District 7 because our northern border stands strong and united. I beg you - please do not tear apart what we have worked so hard to build. **Do not weaken representation of New York's Latino community.** Do not dilute the Latino vote or pack Latinos into a single district. Let the 160's continue to stand strong, hold our elected officials accountable, and have a voice in our local government.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Amir Levy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 3:40 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Amir Levy  
[REDACTED] W 43rd ST 36B  
NY NY 10036

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:17 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting commission

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Dear Commissioner :

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact, • the proposed district is not compact, • the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and • the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

I would like to propose the following redistricting boundary lines which would result in CD4 having a population of 177,446 and CD5 a population of 177,176:

- Give CD4 back the area between Stuyvesant Town and 34th Street east of 1st Avenue • Give CD2 (from CD4) the blocks between Broadway and 5th Avenue south of 39th Street.
- Incorporate the proposed westward expansion of CD4 out to 8th Avenue to cover the Broadway core instead of leaving it divided between two districts.
- Trace that up 8th Avenue to Columbus Circle, where CD4 currently ends.
- Give CD5 back Roosevelt Island, Sutton Area, and the parts in the East 60's and 70s, with minor modification of the area just south of 79th so the new line would be 78th (Lexington to 3rd) and 77th (3rd-2nd).
- Keep the previous district lines for CD4 and CD5 along Lexington from 79th up to 96th.
- Give Council District 8 all of the area north of 96th Street from CD4 and CD5.



Truly yours  
Amr shayeb  
[REDACTED] east 56th street, apt 36o  
New York- New York  
10022

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ariella [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 9:02 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony; NYXredistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Manhattan Council District 5

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Hello,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island **not be adopted for the following reasons.**

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:  
neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,  
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the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and  
the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? How will schools be addressed for families physically living on the island of Manhattan? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University, and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

**In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.**

Thank you,  
Ariella Goldman

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Ariella Goldman, MD, MPH, FACOG  
Pronouns: she/her/hers

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 6:09 PM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

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Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Pryor

[REDACTED] E 65th St New York, NY 10065-6712  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Betty Graham [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 4:18 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,

<<NAME>>Betty Graham

<<ADDRESS>> [REDACTED] West 43rd Street apt. 23K New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]


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**From:** Brenda [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 12:00 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** Brenda  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission, Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community. Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.  
Sincerely, <<NAME>> <<ADDRESS>>  
Brenda F Davidson  
[REDACTED] W 43rd St. 9H  
NYC NY 10036 6344

Brigitte and Juergen Thieme

 Sutton Place South, 7A  
New York, NY 10022

August 21, 2022

To New York City Districting Commission Members:

Dennis M. Walcott, Chair

Hon. Marilyn D. Go,

Maria Mateo, Esq.

Joshua Schneps

Lisa Sorin

Msgr. Kevin Sullivan

Kai-Ki Wong

Maf Misbah Uddin

Michael Schnall

Kristen A. Johnson

Yovan Samuel Collado

Gregory W. Kirschenbaum

Marc Wurzel

Kevin John Hanratty and

Dr. Darrin K. Porcher

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2).



The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: (i) Hospital for Special Surgery, (ii) Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, (iii) New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, (iv) Animal Medical Center, (v) Rockefeller University and (vi) Cornell Tech.

Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, we urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. Residents of our building as well as our representatives (members of our Board of Directors of Two Sutton Place South Tenants Corporation, as well as our managing company

Charles Greenthal) stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Juergen and Brigitte Thieme

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:05 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ceb39e9c9e54d462eff0d08da84369d4e%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967668531259148%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Iik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2F%2B2KAaSM5H0g1pefdW6YveQ12HQkQGn8W%2FKS9ThzIn0%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Caitlin Doukas  
[REDACTED] 10th Ave. New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Carol Hollenbeck [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 6:41 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cc220dc9c79644cc3a42808da83c63f26%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967184746980656%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIM>

C4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=sd1inbbrUfUsdX  
DAutpRIUCLRREJx14%2Byr4ycm4msFk%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

<< Insert First NAME and Last NAME >> carol hollenbeck << Insert your Building address >> ■ west 43rd st 25G n.y.  
10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** caryn koster [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 2:24 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] opposition to the proposed redistricting of Manhattan City Council 5 (CD5)

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> Dear Commissioner:

>

> I am writing in opposition to the proposed redistricting of Manhattan City Council 5 (CD5), moving Sutton Place and parts of the UES into Queens City Council district 26.

>

I have walked on beautified LIC waterfront and think the east side has a long overhaul that needs attention and it's own funding to establish similar beautification. Upper east side once was a very beautiful neighborhood, not anymore, it needs as much resources as any other waterfront area maybe more now than ever before because it has been assumed to be affluent. By keeping these districts separate we can provide attention to each neighborhood needs- grouping areas together don't help each individual area but further hurt them collectively.

> Reading the letter submitted by

> CB5 letter, I agree and support their statements that , "splitting the community goes against four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- > · neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- > · the proposed district is not compact,
- > · the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- > · the proposed district is very oddly shaped."

>

> I sincerely hope that you will keep Sutton Place and the adjoining Upper East Side in CD5 and not break the community and redistrict them with CD26 in Queens.

> Kind regards,

Caryn Koster  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Cathy Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 8:01 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen whole

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Hello There,

I'm appalled to hear Hells Kitchen is on the butcher block.  
This is an integrated, culturally cohesive community.  
We need the 9th Ave food festival to remain integrated.  
This is not a positive action, to cut up our community.

Thank you for hearing me out,  
Cathy Allen  
[REDACTED] W 48Th St # 4E  
NYC . 10036

Sent from my iPad



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Christe Sanis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 1:12 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Christe Sanis  
[REDACTED] West 43 Street  
Apartment 45H  
New York, NY 10036  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** David Latham [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 11:16 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Sincerely, David Latham registered voter at [REDACTED] West 43rd Street #34-H; New York, NY 10036<> <>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** David Licht [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 1:01 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ccf124d43dbe45799fe108da8396b46d%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966980554812375%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HbGk%2BkRTX4U0DW5qhEFg4Kk16KPmgz6iXYFeFTcL6K8%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,

David Licht  
[REDACTED] West 43rd St.Apt. 13E  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Denise Reiss [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:41 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Sincerely,

Denise Reiss  
[REDACTED] W. 42nd St., #51 D  
New York 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Deshana Hamid [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:10 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C3ae2217948d3437df96c08da84267495%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967599442673803%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEkaWw%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NchpQDPfjyxBZ0z0j0NjYRiZNMdSxZvZ5TmDzHsLkQ%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Deshana Hamid  
[REDACTED] West 55th Street  
NYC 10019

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:08 AM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ms. Dina Shapiro

[REDACTED] E 79th St New York, NY 10075-1037  
[REDACTED]

August 21, 2022

Dear Chair Walcott and the Districting Commission:

I'm a 7-year resident of Hell's Kitchen with close to 15 years of professional experience giving tours focusing on the neighborhood history, culture, and architecture; I am a member of the Guides Association of NYC and an elected alternate judicial delegate (seated August 2022) from Assembly 75, part B.

From this perspective, I'm writing to urge the commission to maintain the historical and contemporary neighborhood of Hell's Kitchen to one NYC Council District 3 rather than splitting it into three. A split disregards the historical and current makeup of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood (north of 34<sup>th</sup>, south of 59<sup>th</sup> and west of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue). It also ignores the commission mandate of keeping a neighborhood together.

**I am writing to defend the Clinton Special District's intention and to request that you consider the "Unity Map,"** which allows a reduction in district population to the deviation required while keeping Hell's Kitchen more intact (**see both below**). The Unity map also avoids the dissolution of minority representation and income mix that the current map proposed by the commission would trigger.

"The Special Clinton District (CL), generally between West 41st and West 59th Streets west of Eighth Avenue, was created to preserve and strengthen the residential character of a community bordering Midtown, maintain a broad mix of incomes and ensure that the community is not adversely affected by new development."<sup>1</sup>



2

Thank you for considering this request to maintain our neighborhood together. We rely on you to keep CD-3 diverse and to assure our representation in one voice by choosing the Unity Map.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Young (address: [REDACTED] W. 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, 34h, NYC, NY 10036)

<sup>1</sup> <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/zoning/districts-tools/special-purpose-districts-manhattan.page>

<sup>2</sup>map source: <https://onehellskitchen.org/>



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ellen Agress [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 4:30 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reshaping of CD 5

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To: Chair Walcott and NYC Redistricting Committee Members

I am a resident of the Upper East Side in what is now City Council District 5. I am writing to oppose the plan to divide this District by moving a section of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island from the rest of the Upper East Side District to other City Districts including District 26 in Queens. The current District has unique needs, projects and plans that will be adversely affected if a portion of it is allocated to other Districts. The representation and advocacy currently provided by our elected representatives, including the City Council, will be diluted by the proposed division of our District. For example, big portions of the East River Esplanade are in desperate need of repair and are therefore closed to pedestrians who would otherwise use it for walking and cycling. The Upper East Side District and our elected representatives have long focused on repairing and improving the Esplanade, which is an important recreational area for the neighborhood. Residents in Queens and other neighborhoods have no interest or stake in making the Esplanade and East River waterfront usable by residents of the Upper East Side. The advocacy and representation we now enjoy from officials in City government will be diluted if a portion of our District is reallocated to other boroughs and neighborhoods. Residents of the proposed new District will not share goals for funding and resource allocation.

I strongly urge the Districting Commission not to adopt this plan that will divide our community and place important projects that enhance the well-being of the Upper East Side neighborhood in jeopardy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ellen Agress

■ East End Avenue

Apt. 15E

New York, NY 10028

## Sample Letter to Districting Commission

Dear Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

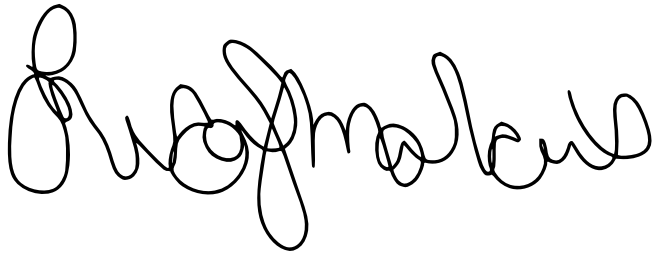
Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth W. Hanft". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ruth" being the most prominent part.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Eric Johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 6:39 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Forward suspect email to [phish@oti.nyc.gov](mailto:phish@oti.nyc.gov) as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C0a7f08499a854955969608da83c60984%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967183838369745%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BiqSTDGKcHyzlJGdrqNC6g0%2FFzCCH4eY6VZT9NGM3Zc%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Eric Johnson  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Florence Isaacs [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 11:08 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Florence Isaacs  
[REDACTED] W 13th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:**

**Sent:**

[REDACTED]  
Sunday, August 21, 2022 5:58 PM

**To:**

Public Testimony

**Subject:**

[EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island NOT be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ms. Frances Eberhart

[REDACTED] E 87th St New York, NY 10128-4801  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Grant Neale [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 5:26 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting. Please keep our neighborhood unified!

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Grant Neale  
[REDACTED] West 43rd St.  
Apt 27L  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 2:54 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Letter to Mr. Walcott Re proposed redistricting Manhattan District 5

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Via email at [publictestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:publictestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

August 21, 2022

Dennis M. Walcott  
NYC Districting Commission  
235 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioner Walcott:

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following Reasons:

First, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents, essentially disenfranchising us from being effectively able to voice our local concerns.

Second, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Third, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods in Manhattan. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy, for example, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

Fourth, a defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are the Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. I do not believe a Queens Council Member will be effective in dealing with these complex issues.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Jacob Dimant, MD

■ E 56<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10022

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jan Buttram [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 6:03 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Jan Buttram  
[REDACTED] West 43rd St., Apt. 23-A  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:06 AM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

And lastly, we made a choice to elect Julie Menin, because of her knowledge & concern for the issues relating to our Upper East Side neighborhood. We r unfamiliar with the other elected official & whether the council person will be focused on our needs.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jane Nadboy

█ E 79th St Apt 6C New York, NY 10075-1437 █

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jenny Burton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 8:20 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the

Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to

preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

I wasn't born in Hells Kitchen, but was born in Manhattan. I have lived happily in Manhattan Plaza, **a whole community**, for over 30 years.

Whatever the agendas are around this contemplation of splitting the districts up, and we **ALL** know that there are always agendas, know this,

UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL, AND THAT AIN'T NO STAGE JOKE!!!!!!!

Every time we leave wisdom and common sense in the rearview mirror, we mess up as a people and sacrifice the well being of things!!!!



I sincerely hope you will consider what you're really doing to this community.

With Respect,

Jean Burton

■ West 43rd St. #44R

New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jen Choi Weinstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 8:09 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Redistricting Roosevelt Island

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To Members of the Redistricting Commission:

I strongly oppose the redistricting lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5, which includes Roosevelt Island, for the following reason(s):

The proposed change is a direct violation of City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2), resulting in:

1. Neighborhoods and communities of interest not being kept intact.
2. The proposed district is not compact as instructed.
3. The proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, crossing a borough boundary.
4. The proposed district is very oddly shaped.

In addition, the Queens member would need to send representatives to 2 Manhattan Community Boards and hold membership in 2 Borough Boards. Queens and Manhattan residents may differ on public policy issues such as congestion pricing. Manhattan residents in the Queens district would be at a disadvantage in participatory budgeting.

Loss of representation in District 5, where the tramway is rooted, puts operation of this vital link in jeopardy.

Thank you,

Jen Weinstein, RI Resident

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** John Druzba [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 3:58 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
John Druzba  
[REDACTED] W 43rd St, Apt 8K, NYC, 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Judith Searcy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 12:56 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C6cb363172ad14fff141c08da83962c8a%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966979298919524%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=MdZWYOh5bouc4pJN6mQ1i5r63vpm6kbSD8QBRIkhMJQ%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Judith Searcy

[REDACTED] West 43rd St. #13E  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Karen Schadow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 7:48 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Karen Schadow  
[REDACTED] W. 43rd St.  
NYC 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Kate Hurd [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 11:54 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole!

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am a resident of Hell's Kitchen who is opposed to the idea of separating our current district into three. It does not better represent the constituents of this area, it weakens it. I ask you to please keep Hell's Kitchen whole.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathleen Hurd  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street #34N  
New York, NY 10036

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ms. K [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 11:20 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission, Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community. Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>. Sincerely, Kathy Hart, I live at [REDACTED] W. 55th Street, 6C, 10019. Thank you.



[REDACTED]

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**From:** Laura Linet Acosta Jacobs [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 6:37 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission, Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community. Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,

*Laura Acosta*  
*Resident of Health kitchen*

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Leila Guenancia [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:53 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ca3059d5832644a39f18b08da843d4270%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967696942052034%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xTGs8oTUqUMr8TqInmtNgkMgyprXSZscd8QLEBS5JE0%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Leila Colbert  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street

L

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 9:42 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mr. Leonard Lavitt  
[REDACTED] E 79th St New York, NY 10075-1451  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Leslie Davis <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:00 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Leslie Davis  
[REDACTED] W 13th St  
New York, NY 10011



*A Not-for-Profit Corporation*

east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

**P.O Box 1855**

**New York, NY 10021-0048**

**Tel 212-713-5826 • [info@esna-nyc.com](mailto:info@esna-nyc.com) • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)**

August 5, 2022

To: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

VIA EMAIL TO: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria outlined in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8 and Roosevelt Island? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park, most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.


Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

---

Elizabeth Wagner  East 63rd Street, 9D New York, NY

10065

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*





[REDACTED]

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**From:** Majed Abdulsamad [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:08 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regarding the Proposed Redistricting Plan

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To whom it may concern,

This is in opposition to the plan currently put forth for the redistricting in NYC, especially as it relates to the removal of Sutton Place from Manhattan to Queens. I would like to propose the following redistricting boundary lines which would result in CD4 having a population of 177,446 and CD5 a population of 177,176:

- Give CD4 back the area between Stuyvesant Town and 34th Street east of 1st Avenue
- Give CD2 (from CD4) the blocks between Broadway and 5th Avenue south of 39th Street.
- Incorporate the proposed westward expansion of CD4 out to 8th Avenue to cover the Broadway core instead of leaving it divided between two districts.
- Trace that up 8th Avenue to Columbus Circle, where CD4 currently ends.
- Give CD5 back Roosevelt Island, Sutton Area, and the parts in the East 60's and 70s, with minor modification of the area just south of 79th so the new line would be 78th (Lexington to 3rd) and 77th (3rd-2nd).
- Keep the previous district lines for CD4 and CD5 along Lexington from 79th up to 96th.
- Give Council District 8 all of the area north of 96th Street from CD4 and CD5.

Best,  
Majed

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Marguerite Martin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 7:43 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Marguerite Martin  
[REDACTED] W 12th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Marietta LaFargue <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:14 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole!

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I'm Marietta Federici-LaFargue, an actor and Forensic Psychologist. I have lived at 484 W. 43rd Street for 45 years raising my mixed race children. Please keep Hell's Kitchen whole — our boundaries are from 8th ave to the Hudson River and from 34th St. - 59th St. We are a very diverse community with affordable housing, restaurants and shops that offer Greek, Ethiopian, Mexican, Turkish, Indian, Afghan, Brazilian, Italian, Puerto Rican and many other foods that enrich our lives. For example, the yearly Ninth Ave. International Food Festival covering west 42nd St. - 57th St., which has served as a reunion for generations of Hell's Kitchen Families and friends for over 40 years. The notion that our neighborhood could be split between 3 council districts is preposterous and offensive. Generations of families have lived and worked together to build this community that is our NEIGHBORHOOD. We have come together in the darkest of times to uplift each other. Our children were raised knowing the value of a strong community — In a City like New York, where such a community is RARE, please do not divide what has been long worked and fought for.

--

Marietta LaFarge (AKA Federici-LaFargue)  
Actress  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 1:37 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Marion Darby  
[REDACTED] West 43rd St, Apt 20-R  
New York, NY 10036

\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Districting Commission,

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cff350333dd0d4c73ef4308da83b45cba%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967107951330866%7CUnknown%7CTWfpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCIMn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=idB9X%2F5Bqs68hW4%2Bgzikbyulz%2FEyxcQE%2F3yXTqjXUW4%3D&reserved=0

Mark Dean

W. 50th Street 10019

1

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Marla Altberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:27 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] testimony regarding re-districting

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I oppose the redistricting of Manhattan areas into Queens. There are totally different issues and priorities in these areas. We each, both Queens and Manhattan, need representation with the priorities in mind of the locality, not grouping everything into a singular objective.

Marla Altberg  
440 E 79th St, New York, NY 10075  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Mary Faucher [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 5:37 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony regarding proposed redistricting of NYC Council Districts

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Dear Chair Walcott and NYC Redistricting Commission Members:

I live in City Council District 5 and I write to urge the Redistricting Commission to reject the proposed reconfiguration of City Council Districts 5 and 26 and to keep the present City Council District 5 intact. At the very least, City Council District 5, however reconfigured, should remain entirely within the geographic boundary lines of the Borough of Manhattan.

The proposed reconfigured Council Districts 5 and 26 would move a portion of an Upper East Side Manhattan neighborhood into a Queens City Council District. The majority of constituents in the reconfigured District 26 reside in Queens.

This defies common sense. The Manhattan neighborhood and the Queens portion of the proposed District 26 are not adjacent; they are separated by a RIVER. To travel from the Manhattan neighborhood to the Queens District one must board a ferry or cross a bridge. Presumably, the City Council member of this proposed District 26 will set up an office in Queens, thus requiring the Manhattan residents to take two subways or some combination of subways and buses to interact with the Council member or staff in person. Creating this burden on the Manhattan constituents is unacceptable.

It is stating the obvious that the concerns of the constituents in Queens will frequently differ from and in fact be at odds with the concerns of those in the Manhattan neighborhood, who will be in the minority. Take, for example, the issue of congestion pricing for vehicles traveling into Manhattan from Queens. Similarly, Manhattan and Queens residents may have different views about the regulation of e-bicycles and e-scooters.

Moreover, the Manhattan neighborhood in question contains a portion of the East River Esplanade, a vital public recreational space for the residents of the Upper East Side and East Harlem. Manhattan City Council members whose districts include the East River Esplanade have consistently devoted themselves in time and money to maintaining and improving this valuable walkway parkland. It is difficult to imagine a City Council member, most of whose constituents reside in Queens, being motivated to continue such devotion.

It is my understanding that the Redistricting Commission is required to try to avoid splitting existing neighborhoods and communities. Yet, the proposed reconfigured Districts 5 and 26 do just that, and therefore, should be rejected.

Sincerely,

Mary Faucher  
[REDACTED] East End Avenue  
New York, NY 10028  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 11:31 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mr. Matthew Thornton

[REDACTED] E 79th St Apt 12J New York, NY 10075-1440 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Meenakshi Baker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 7:54 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] City Council Redistricting Plans

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Dear Commissioner:

I am writing in opposition to the proposed redistricting of Manhattan City Council 5 (CD5), moving Sutton Place and parts of the UES into Queens City Council district 26.

The residents of Sutton Place and adjoining Upper East side are predominantly senior citizens and have needs for congestion pricing so there are less cars in their neighborhood. They also have need for a continuous bike lane by the East River so there are lesser number of bikes on the streets and avenues and they can walk in safer streets. They also need parks and places to sit and other services focused on providing them a quality of life they are used to and worked all their lives to achieve. Further, they have lived in their neighborhoods for decades and have provided value for their communities.

The residents of Queens on the other hand are younger, depend on cars, already have parks by the East River due to the development of the new high rises, and their needs will be more focused on services for babies, adolescents et al. The population in the rental buildings by the East River in Queens are transient.

Reading the letter submitted by CB5 letter, I agree and support their statements that , "splitting the community goes against four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped."

It is important that communities of common interests are kept together so they can thrive and enjoy living in the City and continue to live in the City.

I sincerely hope that you will keep Sutton Place and the adjoining Upper East Side in CD5 and not break the community and redistrict them with CD26 in Queens.

Thanks for listening.

Meenakshi Baker  
[REDACTED] East 40th Street,  
New York, NY 10016

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Michael Bellantuoni [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 3:03 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C6ab64f1a483b4aedc80608da83a7d5bc%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967054119066048%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlji>

MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2B8sDZ5iRqP  
58opPxjnDyJNNOuexmeAiSqof0ZXlZeSg%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Michael Bellantuoni  
[REDACTED] west 48th St Apt 3D  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Michele Troise [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 9:41 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Michele Troise  
[REDACTED] W 43 St, Apt 33E  
NYC, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Mitch Jacobson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 11:14 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] keep Hell's Kitchen whole

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I am asking you to keep Hell's Kitchen whole.

Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The old City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

The Commission's preliminary map divides our neighborhood into three major chunks so that we would be represented by three different City Council members.

This would be a disaster for our neighborhood.

---

Mitch Jacobson



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Nancy Tamuccio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 2:42 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting proposal

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We live in the Lenox Hill area of Manhattan and we are opposed to the proposal to break up District 5 and put part of it into Queens District 26. This makes absolutely no sense and is a violation of the New York City Charter. The Charter indicates that communities are to be kept intact. The needs of the communities in District 5 are completely disparate from the needs of people in District 26. To integrate part of Manhattan into Queens is not logical and would not benefit either District 5 nor District 26.

Thank you for your attention to our email.

Nancy & Tom Tamuccio

[REDACTED] E. 66st.  
NYC, 10065  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Nina Frankel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:58 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Testimony - Council District 3

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Dear Chairman Walcott and New York City Districting Commission Members,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. My name is Nina Frankel and I have been a resident of Hell's Kitchen for 45 years. I reside at 484 West 43rd Street in Manhattan Plaza where I have lived since it opened in 1977.

One of my first experiences as a Manhattan Plaza resident was as a participant in a "welcome to the neighborhood tour" led by Lili Fable of Ninth Avenue's Poseidon Bakery. From Pozzo Bakery in the West 50's, Piccinini Brothers and Poseidon in the West 40's, and Central Fish, Manganaro's and Esposito in the West 30's, Ms. Fable introduced us to the history of Hell's Kitchen not just through food, but through the people behind the counter and the people on the street who make up our diverse community.

Pozzo and Manganaro's are gone and Amy's Bread and The Little Pie Company have joined the ranks of Hell's Kitchen food classics. But from the day of Lili Fable's tour on, we, of West 43rd Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues, understood that we were not just Manhattan Plaza residents, but proud residents of Hell's Kitchen. We who live here know that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Street, a fact that is acknowledged and celebrated annually at the Ninth Avenue International Food Festival. We do not wish to see our community split among three different districts.

Our community is a diverse and vibrant one, and I ask today that you preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice that will protect the uniqueness of our community.

Sincerely,  
Nina Frankel  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street Apt.44N  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 9:29 AM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nina Porzecanski

[REDACTED] E 86th St New York, NY 10028-1059  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** PATRICIA KELLEY [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 6:28 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole!

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Dear Districting Commission:

I have lived in Hell's Kitchen for 45 years at 400 West 43rd Street. Being part of this community has been an extraordinary experience, always challenging, yes, but it works. From its lowest points, as with 9/11 and Covid, to its vibrant everyday life and celebratory festivals, it is just that, a community. It is a community of artists, immigrants, and small businesses that need to function as such. It is a community now with a majority that is non-white, and it requires strong, unified City Council representation.

Viewing the proposed Commission's re-districting map, I knew that I must add my name to those in opposition. Chopping Hell's Kitchen in three, and placing each section in different districts, will greatly weaken the Hell's Kitchen spirit of community, as well as its ability to function effectively as it should. It will, moreover, weaken the new minority majority's rightful weight in decision making.

The Unity Map, <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>, is a fairer and sensible solution. I urge that it be adopted.

Thank you,

Patricia Kelley

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Rusty [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:59 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.


That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ccc9aa67b4f9f4f11b23108da83ea3c00%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967340825772358%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoim>

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BVH%2FtwXkijxi4IV4xXKISM7pW2QdY%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Paula riegelman  
 west 43 st

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

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**From:** PEGGY SHERERTZ [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 5:28 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ca950a2e747214481b22008da83577750%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637966710163608379%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=o3LMWXLbbkqHoVzwN496WaWY4g0hnLeCZUrbI5Ke%2Fa4%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Peggy Sherertz  
[REDACTED] West 43rd St., 45R  
NY, NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Robbee Fian [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 12:13 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole!

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Dear People,  
I am asking that you keep Hell's Kitchen whole!

My name is Robbee Fian L. Ac., I have been a dancer, singer, actress, producer and an acupuncturist and have lived at 484 west 43rd St between 9th and 10th avenues since 1977, a time when no New Yorker would walk further west than 8th Avenue. I have witnessed a forgotten neighborhood develop, grow and actually become united, diversified and cohesive over the decades.

I beg you to not destroy the community that has evolved, PLEASE keep Hell's Kitchen whole. My goodness, EVERY New Yorker knows that Hell's Kitchen begins at 8th avenue and goes west to the river, between 34th street to 59th street. It makes sense, it's logical. Being adjacent to midtown gives HK unique problems and concerns. It is extremely important that our community remains intact, as our concerns are specific to our shared experience of a neighborhood and should not be diluted by arbitrary new boundaries that make no sense to the reality of what our neighborhoods look like. HK is Not the Upper West Side and they should not have their concerns diluted by ours. This proposal appears to have little to do with the realities of living in a neighborhood in NYC and more about political manipulation, there is no other possible explanation. I have always loved that this was an incredibly diverse community with affordable rents. But now we are seeing longtime residents being kicked out as million dollar apartments begin to proliferate and destroy the fabric of our community, along with the encroachment of a multitude of hotels. These are OUR issues, allow HK to remain WHOLE, allow us to speak for ourselves with our distinct voice and unique needs. Prove to us that you care more about the residents of HK (and ultimately NYC) than you do about politics and attempting to manipulate voting blocks.

Most Sincerely,  
Robbee Fian L.Ac.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Robert Kahan [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:12 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Robert Kahan  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street, 4L  
New York, NY 10037

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Robert Moulthrop [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 7:06 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Robert Moulthrop  
[REDACTED] W 13th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** ROGER PRESTON SMITH [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 9:38 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ca279dfcdc91445a3993308da83def798%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967290922178757%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiM>

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C9tZO6O4C6KJFB9v7oUR8RGEzIfw%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Roger Preston Smith

■ W 45th St.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Sally Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:22 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cf52358f2794c48a26d6708da83e5154a%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967318643642797%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=EdPBuxqJD6oJbrqRNaX7KUX8zwHINarbXkz7ynFRQsk%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Sally Taylor  
[REDACTED] West 41st Street

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:35 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident...living in Manhattan Plaza...and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches WEST FROM 8TH AVENUE TO THE HUDSON RIVER, BETWEEN WEST 34TH AND WEST 59TH STREETS. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I strongly believe this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the UNITY MAP to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen WHOLE. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Hell's Kitchen has already been drastically chopped away with rezoning. Please do not allow this to happen with redistricting.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Samuel Goldstein  
[REDACTED] West 43rd St., #21-B  
New York, NY 10036

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 12:20 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Sandra Nance written testimony KEEP HELL'S KITCHEN WHOLE  
**Attachments:** Still Kicking Cover.png

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Good Evening Members of the New York City Districting Committee.

I am testifying to urge you to “Keep Hell’s Kitchen Whole”

I support the Map, presented by the Unity Map Coalition, that would Keep Hell’s Kitchen Whole and in Council District 3.

My name is Sandra Nance. I live in Hell’s Kitchen at 484 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York City.

I have lived in Hell’s Kitchen for over 45 years. The City Council District I have lived in all these years is District Council 3, represented by one City Council Member.

I am a member of the Hell’s Kitchen Democrats; my Union is Actors Equity Association; and I am a preservation activist. In 1981, I co-founded the Committee to Save the Theatres which was a theatre preservation campaign, to save The Helen Hayes and Morosco Theatres from demolition, and took on the work to save all the free-standing Broadway Theatres under landmarks protection. In this campaign we lost The Helen Hayes and Morosco theatres. But 10 years later we won the war when the City of New York landmarked all the remaining Broadway Theatres.

This kind of effort doesn’t happen all by itself. It depended on the hard and persistent work of theatre workers all over the metropolitan area, across the country, and the boots on the ground of theatre workers living in “The Dance Belt”. A powerful political voice depends on the synergy of many individuals who care enough to keep doing the work and have an interest in doing the work. And we have that in Hell’s Kitchen. The Broadway Theatres are in our District, or right next door. Our Unions are in our District or nearby. Our craftspeople and professional services are in our District or very close by.

<sup>1</sup>In **2010** our area became the focus of a Research Study initiated by the RESEARCH CENTER FOR ARTS AND CULTURE at Teachers College Columbia University, to



assess the needs of aging performing artists. The ensuing Survey Study was presented to the Community in 2011 at a meeting in St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital. I am not going to enter this entire study into the record, but I would like to quote an answer on page 7 to the question, WHY IS THIS RESEARCH IMPORTANT?<sup>2</sup>

To Quote: *"Through intergenerational, interdisciplinary, inter-cultural collaborative efforts with professional aging artists, [...] we can illuminate the experience of those who would make art as professionals, as well as those who are influenced by it."*

From page 48, I quote: *"In 2011, The Actors Fund, in partnership with Manhattan Plaza and Visiting Nurse Services of New York's Center for Home Care Policy, conducted a needs assessment of seniors in Manhattan Plaza and the surrounding neighborhoods...."*<sup>3</sup>

In anticipation of a Naturally Occurring Retirement Community, the Study did not just assess the future needs of those of us who live in artist's housing like Manhattan Plaza, (where I live), but the Whole of what is Hell's Kitchen and the surrounding neighborhood of District 3.

It would be painful to dilute the kind of political weight we have in Hell's Kitchen. It would be debilitating to lay waste to the naturally occurring community The Study anticipated and which has come to pass.

We love that we have had an impact on the livability of the neighborhood, and the research shows that we have; shows that we don't just speak for ourselves. Our Hell's Kitchen neighbors never had an Actors Fund Coffee Hour until we came. But they've been holding onto Hell's Kitchen a long time before we got here. My neighbors, the Italian ladies now growing older, the Greek and Puerto Rican families I moved into Manhattan Plaza with, are repeated throughout the neighborhood. And it appears we will be welcoming more.

Because look at us: we are a mash-up of colors and ethnicities, backgrounds and professions, ages and genders. We are a neighborhood of pizza parlors and stagehands. By just looking, you won't be able to pick out who is the usher and who is the dry cleaner; who owns the Afghan restaurant down the block and who is starring on Broadway; who is the fat lady who does specialty background work in Woody Allen films, and who is the old lady who has lived here, in the same apartment, on the same block, all her life.

All of this will be maintained best, by keeping our community whole, Whole as a Village. And you, the New York City Districting Committee, can help us do that.

Thank you.

Notes: <sup>1</sup>, <sup>2</sup>, <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**STILL KICKING:** Aging Performing Artists in NYC....by Joan Jeffri, with contributions from Martin Y. Iguchi and William Penrose. ©Trustees of Teachers College Columbia University/Research Center for Arts and Culture, 2011 525 W. 120<sup>th</sup> St., [REDACTED] New York NY 10027 212-678-8184, [REDACTED]

<sup>2</sup>Chapter 1 *Background and Introduction*, page 7 **Why is This Research Important?**

<sup>3</sup>Chapter 2, **Housing and Location**, page 48

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Srqw [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:01 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting regarding Manhattan Council District 5

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Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with

Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Sharon Wechsler

■ Sutton Place South Apartment 5E

New York, NY 10022

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sherrill Mane [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 4:58 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Redistricting of Hell's Kitchen

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My name is Sherrill Mane. I live at The Parc Vendome, 350 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY.

I am writing this letter to express my tremendous dismay and strong opposition at the notion of dividing Hell's Kitchen into 3 slivers, with each sliver belonging to a different city council district. Hell's Kitchen is a diverse and unique and cohesive community. **To preserve a Manhattan community that is interesting, cohesive, diverse and caring is particularly important especially since the residential parts of Hell's Kitchen sit near highly commercial areas that are simply not neighborhoods.**

We in Hell's Kitchen deserve to be recognized as a community, a neighborhood, a residential section of midtown Manhattan that welcomes people of all backgrounds, ages, and interests. Why would anyone want to dismantle our home? I know the last sentence sounds hyperbolic, but to me, to my neighbors and friends, this neighborhood is home. We care about our surroundings and our quality of life and if we become slivers on maps of three districts, our communal voice will be lost as will our sense of home. A home is not just a structure. It is place where real people live and shop and eat and play and look out for each other.

Prior to purchasing my home in the Parc Vendome over 20 years ago, I lived in Hell's Kitchen on the top floor of a walk up near 10<sup>th</sup> Ave for 10 years. I chose to buy an apartment in Hell's Kitchen rather than leave the neighborhood when I had the option of doing so. And, I chose to stay here during the COVID 19 shutdown. Over the years, I have learned that the convenience of Hell's Kitchen is not the only reason to stay here: it is the community and the neighborhood.

Those who live in Hell's Kitchen and know it as I do recognize that we want to preserve our neighborhood's character while building on it's heritage of welcoming all. We have little in common with the vast expanses of half empty office buildings in Midtown East where part of Hell's Kitchen would go if the newly drawn district map becomes reality. Even pre-COVID, the commercial centers of midtown were not neighborhoods and communities filled with day-to-day life.

For the better future for our city and certainly for the home Hell's Kitchen is, I respectfully request that you find a way to meet redistricting requirements without tearing our neighborhood apart.

Sherrill Mane  
[REDACTED] West 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
7J  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 6:20 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Sulin Low  
[REDACTED] E 79th St New York, NY 10075-1451  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** SUSAN BURGOS [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 4:41 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C6186789071c74346f9d408da83b58676%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967112927652785%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DGF5MyNdv1zgpvc7g%2FfluSNdOPTifWe9Rvivi3hgEUvo%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Susan Burgos  
[REDACTED] West 43rd St  
Apt 43F  
NYC, NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 6:49 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] request for our few blocks to be included in a district on the west side of Manhattan

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I still support the effort to re-unify the core of Hell's Kitchen into District 3, *where our buildings had previously been included*. I understand the need to redistribute, but we are not just "census count" pawns — **WE ARE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE WEST SIDE COMMUNITY** and do not accept that our few short blocks could not be included in the west side districts of either District 3 or District 6.

Those of us who live at the Coliseum Park apartments, on West 58th and 60th Streets, between Columbus Circle and Ninth Avenue, are questioning the newest re-drawing of the district maps. Somehow, **ONLY** our few west side blocks were **gerrymandered** into a district that goes east. I would like those in charge to consider a more cohesive district. I feel our small area was ignored in favor of several other west side blocks.

In discussions with neighbors south of 57th Street, I was told that Council District 6 wanted to include a housing development on the west side — and therefore, moved the District 6 line down to 53rd Street, creating a "carve out" extension of District 6.

**A more equitable plan** would have made the dividing line across all streets between Columbus Circle and the river --- either drawn at 60th Street, for us to remain in District 3 or perhaps drawn at 56th or 57th Street. This grouping of streets would be a more cohesive line, which would then include **us** in West Side District 6.

I object to being "gerrymandered" into District 4.

**Please make every effort to keep us in either District 3 or District 6, keeping us on the West Side of Manhattan, where we have ALWAYS been. Our area should not be just a narrow strip that was ignored in the newest fixes that keep District 3 cohesive. There is possibly a plan that will keep us on the West side -- we should not be a weirdly drawn extension of the east side of Manhattan.**

Considering this request, please try to redraw the lines to include our very narrow cut-out!

Susan Lahn  
[REDACTED] West 58th Street  
Apartment 4E  
[REDACTED]





*A Not-for-Profit Corporation*

east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

**P.O Box 1855**

**New York, NY 10021-0048**

**Tel 212-713-5826 • [info@esna-nyc.com](mailto:info@esna-nyc.com) • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)**

August 5, 2022

To: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

VIA EMAIL TO: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria outlined in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8 and Roosevelt Island? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park , most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.


Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

---

Susan Wagner       E 63rd Street, 9D, New York, NY

10065

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 11:45 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Susan Williams

[REDACTED] E 65th St Apt 25D New York, NY 10065-6665 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sue FitzGerald [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:18 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C5a9afe96438f4c5980de08da84386d95%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967675174497807%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rzK9JuWRo6P97sZrID5FL7MJAq6UT0hLYRGKi1xoocY%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Suzanne FitzGerald  
[REDACTED] west 51st St

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Thomas P. Sakmar [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 11:11 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** Thomas P. Sakmar  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opinion in Opposition to Redistricting Roosevelt Island  
**Attachments:** smime.p7s; ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm

August 21, 2022

To Members of the Redistricting Commission:

I respectfully request that my opinion regarding Roosevelt Island redistricting should be considered at the hearing on August 22, 2022. I strongly oppose the proposed redistricting lines for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5, which includes Roosevelt Island.

Roosevelt Island is a unique residential community with close ties to educational and healthcare institutions in Manhattan. For example, Cornell University, Weill-Cornell Medical College, New York Presbyterian Hospital, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Marymount College, and Rockefeller University have all invested in the development of Roosevelt Island over at least two decades and have arranged for their students, trainees and employees and their families to live on Roosevelt Island in support of their important educational and healthcare activities in Manhattan.

Many of these institutions, along with the active civic and community organizations of Roosevelt Island, strongly supported the development of the fabulous Cornell Tech campus, which is still only about one-third complete. The development of Cornell Tech was agreed to in light of protections guaranteed for the Roosevelt Island community, which need to be maintained by the same vital City Council oversight moving forward.

Roosevelt Island has very little in common with Western Queens. The governance, public services, grounds maintenance, transportation, safety, security, environmental concerns and funding models for Roosevelt Island are unique, and the current situation has proven very effective in service of the community. The status quo should be maintained.

In addition, I believe that the proposed change is a direct violation of City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2).

The proposed redistricting would create unprecedented administrative and governance challenges that should be avoided. For example, the Queens member would need to send representatives to two Manhattan Community Boards and hold membership in two Borough Boards. Also, Queens and Manhattan residents are likely to differ on public policy issues. Manhattan residents in the Queens district would be at a disadvantage in participatory budgeting. Importantly, the loss of representation in District 5, where the Tramway is rooted, puts operation of this vital transportation link in jeopardy.

Roosevelt Island residents frequently call on Manhattan City Council Representatives for constituent services, such as for help in landlord/tenant matters, which are adjudicated in Manhattan landlord/tenant court. A Queens City Council Member will be unable to provide the level of effective aid needed in housing matters.

In summary, redistricting would serve neither the residents of Roosevelt Island, nor the residents of Queens. Considering all of the aforementioned, I stand in strong opposition to the redistricting proposal.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Sakmar, M.D.  
Richard M. & Isabel P. Furlaud Professor  
Senior Attending Physician  
Acting President 2002-2003  
The Rockefeller University



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 1:02 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mr. Tim Wang  
[REDACTED] E 79th St New York, NY 10075-1451  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Bil Badolato [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 8:09 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cc516d6cd3d02475070ce08da83d2944f%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967237715618056%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloi>



MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5%2FEEEmEOT  
wBQkLCt3oZY%2BCpaWwtNTUIGY6Vegm6sykQk%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,  
William Badolato  
[REDACTED] W 48th Street  
NY NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** William Hooker <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 9:35 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission, Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community. Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>. Sincerely, <<NAME>> <<ADDRESS>>

--

Please make sure to send all future emails to my new address: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Will Sakmar [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 1:48 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I AM OPPOSED TO to Redistricting Roosevelt Island! We are MANHATTAN!!!

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Dear Members of the Redistricting Commission:

I hereby submit my comment to be read at the redistricting hearing on August 22, 2022.  
As stated in my subject line, I **strongly oppose** the redistricting lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5, which includes Roosevelt Island, for the following reason(s):

The proposed change is a direct violation of City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2), resulting in:

Neighborhoods and communities of interest not being kept intact.  
The proposed district is not compact as instructed.  
The proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, crossing a borough boundary.  
The proposed district is very oddly shaped.

In addition, the Queens member would need to send representatives to 2 Manhattan Community Boards and hold membership in 2 Borough Boards. Queens and Manhattan residents may differ on public policy issues such as congestion pricing. Manhattan residents in the Queens district would be at a disadvantage in participatory budgeting.

Loss of representation in District 5, where the tramway is rooted, puts operation of this vital link in jeopardy.

Additionally, most of the working folks on our island commute each day **to Manhattan**, not Queens and chose to live here BECAUSE we are part of Manhattan.

We have long-established relationships with our Council Member who supports the quality-of-life programs our families have moved here to enjoy: For example — our Little League, NY Junior Tennis and additional projects and services. Also the Senior Center. These programs are a huge part of what makes our community so special.

Our area code is **212**, not 718. We have a **Manhattan zip code of 10044**. For like 50 years, Roosevelt Islanders have considered themselves Manhattanites NOT Queens-'aights.  
The MTA considers Roosevelt Island a Manhattan stop. Even our local library is part of the Manhattan library system, not Queens.

We are an Island, as is our mother island of Manhattan. Stop complicating things!

Regards,  
William Sakmar

[REDACTED] River Road  
NY NY 10044

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Aaron Alexander [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:52 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C171b6cfba43147ac64b608da84910ca9%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968055773387932%7CUnknown%7CTWFPbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIM>

C4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=f9GD%2FAQdaSB  
QadXHEwxXBRg5yQUScahKd56RcDtejl4%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Aaron Alexander

West 43rd St. Apt 44s  
NY NY 10036



Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Adam van Eeckhout [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 10:32 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C647492e20d6f477479b508da84afbd9c%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968188802215475%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1ycEWn%2Fla%2BMpPa6rRKX6xA1KI%2F08gSBwQAc6hArINlc%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,

Adam van Eeckhout  
[REDACTED] W 49th St.  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Adriane Kufta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:03 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C3a54d67b24fa475606b308da84689a52%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967882055790352%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljo>

MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=oKQjZS3n2%2F  
WFjcSSTYNPGTRkmSBEdXvP%2BnBb3n5Pq88%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,  
Adriane Daley  
[REDACTED] W48 St.  
Nyc, NY 10036



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ajay DK [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:52 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Sincerely  
Ajay Divakaran  
[REDACTED] west 42 st

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Albert Sgambati [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:05 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony; hkdemsnyc@gmail.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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This is a democracy. Please support the wishes of the people - this is SO IMPORTANT especially today as clear majorities are being ignored in favor of political expediency. The Unity Map is what the Hell's Kitchen community wants! Side with the People- not with a party, or an ideology, or because of your career. Do not make the cohesiveness of our community more difficult than it already is.

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,

Albert Sgambati  
[REDACTED] West 48th St.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Alexis Audette [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:50 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,

Alexis Audette  
[REDACTED] W 48th Street, Apt 1C

New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** ALEX STEELE [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:30 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

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Sincerely,  
Alex Steele  
[REDACTED] W 47th St  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 10:02 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mr. Ali Wambold  
Sutton Pl S New York, NY 10022-2493  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Allan Mantel [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:11 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] East Side Esplanade

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The East River Esplanade has been neglected for decades, particularly north of 96<sup>th</sup> Street, which currently is largely unusable due to the structural damage. Each time the political winds change, the promises to finally repair and restore the northern East River Esplanade have been broken, and residents have been deprived of their access to the river and park. The West Side Esplanade has been a show case for decades, from the Battery to the GWB. Why has the east side been neglected for so long? It's long past the time to rectify the disparate treatment of NYC's neighborhoods.

**Allan D. Mantel**

Mantel McDonough Riso, LLP  
[REDACTED] Park Avenue 17<sup>th</sup> Fl  
New York, NY 10022

[REDACTED]  
[www.mmrlp.com](http://www.mmrlp.com)

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[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ally [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:01 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Ally Castellano  
43rd and 10th

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** flaca085 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:54 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Amanda Alcivar  
[REDACTED] west 43rd street  
Ny, NY, 10036

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Amelia Nicholas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:10 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cf560bdca93e34795967d08da848b1bf6%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968030245829881%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C7C&sdata=BW4%2BmqqVzZwBoNY6Og8CxggQkFVvEKljaWtnFlyRiCg%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Amelia Nicholas  
[REDACTED] West 44th Street  
#5E  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Amy Jones [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:45 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Sincerely,  
Amy Jones  
[REDACTED] W 49th St. 3B  
Ny NY. 10019

Amy Jones  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Andrea Worthington [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 9:34 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Sincerely,

<<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>  
<<BUILDING STREET ADDRESS>>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Andrew Boeckmann [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:14 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C942a786c79c34e95039008da8459624e%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967816685734678%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloi>

MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ABgcs2pmrDd04Et12ypb%2BCBem6UvsFtgli2lJDJl8%2Fo%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Andrew Boeckmann  
[REDACTED] West 45th Street Apt 9J  
New York NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone

**TESTIMONY OF ANGEL VASQUEZ  
RESIDENT OF WEST 160<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
CANDIDATE FOR NEW YORK STATE SENATE**

Monday, August 22, 2022

Dear Redistricting Commission,

My name is Angel Vasquez, and I am a resident of District 7 living on 160th Street and a candidate for New York State Senate for SD31. I am requesting that the redistricting commission SAVE THE 160's. Saving the 160's means that the lower 160's remain part of District 7 and do not become part of District 10. District 7's northern border should, at least, extend to 160th Street, West of Fort Washington Avenue and to 163rd Street, West of Broadway.

I am advocating for the map linked here <https://districtr.org/plan/138688>.

Washington Heights has always been at the heart of District 7. Those of us who live in the lower 160's have formed our own small community—and together, we have a strong voice. United, we have been able to elect representatives who recognize our collective power and focus their attention on our needs. Divided, our community will be overshadowed by the communities to the north of us.

In the last election, voters in the 160's cast their vote for our current council member, Shaun Abreu. Because our community makes up a significant percentage of the vote, we have been able to ask our council member for significant investments in our community. These investments include

- \$1.2 million dollars to upgrade and repave Lily Brown Playground, located between 162nd and 163rd and River Drive.
- Nearly \$1 million for P.S. 4 on 160th and Amsterdam to upgrade the auditorium, gymnasium, and library.
- Over \$50,000 to Riverstone Senior Life Service at Fort Washington, where he has also fought for senior traffic cone.
- Working with the Parks Department and Department of Transportation to make desperately needed repairs to the sidewalk and improve pedestrian loading zone for deliveries between 160 to 163rd and River Drive.
- A fantastic block party on 161st Street where people from the lower 160's could come together, as we always have, to enjoy one another's company and show our kids a good time.

The 160's can't compete for attention with Inwood. The borders of any district are always at risk of being left out in the cold, but that isn't the case in District 7 because our northern border stands strong and united. I therefore implore you do not tear apart what we have worked so hard to build. **Do not weaken representation of New York's Latino community.** Do not dilute the Latino vote or pack Latinos into a single district. Let the 160's continue to stand strong, hold our elected officials accountable, and have a voice in our local government.

Sincerely,

*Angel Vasquez*

Angel Vasquez



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Anna Levin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 1:06 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Midtown Isn't our neighborhood!

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Our neighborhood, west of Columbus Circle in Manhattan, has been shuffled between Council Districts 3 and 6 over the 40 years we've lived here. This has made sense, because our neighborhood is simultaneously within Hell's Kitchen and Community District 4, and the Lincoln Square BID. We're a bridge between the two districts, and have benefitted from shared and cooperative representation within Community Boards 4 and 7 for many years. The Preliminary Plan now moves us to Council District 4, with which we have little in common. We fear we are being treated as the leftovers in this mapping exercise.

Please keep our neighborhood and community of interest intact by leaving us in CD3 or moving us to CD6. Just don't move us to Midtown!

With all good wishes,  
Anna and Peter Levin  
[REDACTED] W. 60th St.  
New York, NY 10023

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Anne O'Sullivan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:04 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C4d4fc3e05bbf49139f5308da8479888d%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967954783476300%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=06La8CPOZgJJXB204yeRZe6SJ%2BvdU1HIN9ugRZjROs%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,

<<Anne>> <<O'Sullivan  
<[REDACTED] West 50th St.>>

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Anne Yerger [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:34 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Sincerely,  
Anne Yerger  
[REDACTED] W. 34th

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Gmail [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:10 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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To the Chair of the Commission,

My name is Annie Baierl. I have been living with my partner, a lifetime resident of Hell's Kitchen, at [REDACTED] West 47th street for 5 years.

I am writing to ask that you help keep Hell's Kitchen whole.

The Commission's preliminary map divides our neighborhood into three major chunks so that we would be represented by three different City Council members.

This would be a disaster for our neighborhood.

We will have to convince three *different* City Council members to work together and fight for our housing, our schools, our parks, our small businesses, our safety, LGBTQ+ rights and the Clinton Special District that preserves the Hell's Kitchen's neighborhood from greedy real estate developers.

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Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

## Demographic Trends for CD-3 (2013 Boundary Lines)

	2010 Census	2020 Census
Population	168,489	202,572
Hispanic (any race)	13.1 %	14.6 %
White non-Hispanic	67.6 %	59.7 %
Black non-Hispanic	4.7 %	5.6 %
Asian non-Hispanic	11.8 %	15.2 %
Other non-Hispanic	0.5 %	0.9 %
2 or more races Non-Hispanic	2.3 %	4.0 %

Source: NYC Department of City Planning

## Demographic Comparison of Current vs Proposed CD-3 maps

	Current CD-3	Commission CD-3	Unity CD-3
Population	202,572	173,586	175,888
Hispanic (any race)	14.6 %	13.6 %	15.4 %
White non-Hispanic	59.7 %	62.6 %	58.2 %
Black non-Hispanic	5.6 %	5.2 %	6 %
Asian non-Hispanic	15.2 %	13.4 %	15.5 %
Other non-Hispanic	0.9 %	n/a	n/a
2 or more races Non-Hispanic	4.0 %	n/a	n/a

Sources: NYC Department of City Planning, NYC Districting Commission, Unity Coalition

## Demographic Comparison of Hell's Kitchen, Chelsea and Proposed CD-3

	Hell's Kitchen	Chelsea	Commission CD-3	Unity CD-3
Population	74,621	63,039	173,586	175,888
Hispanic (any race)	18.2 %	18.2 %	13.6 %	15.4 %
White non-Hispanic	48.1 %	57.5 %	62.7 %	58.2 %
Black non-Hispanic	7.5 %	6.6 %	5.2 %	6 %
Asian non-Hispanic	21.4 %	13.0 %	13.4 %	15.5 %

Sources: <https://districts.org/edn/137381?event=nyc2022>; <https://districts.org/CC/238335>; <https://districts.org/edn/135300?event=nyc2022>; <https://districts.org/edn/137926?event=nyc2022>

Additionally, splitting Hell's Kitchen into three parts will make it easier for real estate developers to chip away at the Special Clinton District, which was created in 1973 and "designed to promote and protect public health, safety, general welfare and amenity. Because of the unique geographical location of the Clinton community, situated between the waterfront on the west and a growing central business district on the east, it is necessary to provide specific programs and regulations which will assure realization of community and citywide goals."

Chief among these goals, as stated in [City Zoning laws](#):









a) "to preserve and strengthen the residential character of the community"

- b) "to permit rehabilitation and new construction within the area in character with the existing scale of the community and at rental levels which will not substantially alter the mixture of income groups currently residing in the area"
- c) " to preserve the small-scale character and variety of existing stores and activities and to control new commercial uses in conformity with the existing character of the area"



Map of Special Clinton District



	<i>Special Clinton District</i> Bound
	Area Boundary
	Preservation Area
	Perimeter Area
	Portion of Perimeter Area to additional 42nd Street regulations. ( <b>See map be</b>
	Portion of Perimeter Area Article VIII, Chapter I ( <i>Speci</i>
	Other Areas
C1	Northern Subarea
C1-1	Special Use Regulations /
C1-2	Special Use Regulations /
C2	Western Subarea
	Excluded Area

Fortunately there is already an alternative map that preserves the diversity of our neighborhood and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

It's called the Unity Map and it was put together by a [coalition of leading legal voting rights advocacy organizations](#) representing Hispanic, Black and Asian communities.

Thus, I ask you to adopt the Unity map for City Council District 3 to keep Hell's Kitchen whole and preserve our diversity. I've enclosed a copy of the map with my written testimony.

Preserving affordable housing and a community of neighbors who can congregate, organize and petition as a collective community in one of New York City's beautiful historic and diverse districts is an imperative. Hell's Kitchen deserves to be strengthened in the way that only neighbors and people help strengthen a place and a sense of belonging in that place.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,

Annie Baierl  
[REDACTED] West 47th Street

Sent from my iPhone

Testimony

August 22, 2022

District One

Christopher Marte

I would first like to thank this body for the opportunity to speak this evening. My name is Arnette Scott and I am the founder of The Black Voices of Lower Manhattan. In reimagining the district lines of District One, the culture and history of District One were at the forefront.

The lines were thought while prioritizing the needs of the existing community and what makes us a community. The F train is central to the community, it is essential that the community remains centered around the F Train, from East Broadway to West 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

In addition, historically lower Manhattan is rich in Indigenous people history as well as a rich in African history. It is extremely important to maintain the enrich history of the enslaved and free Africans of lower Manhattan. The Lands of Blacks are documented and it is extremely important to maintain the landmarks within one community. Black Gotham an organization that provides walking tours stitch together a full and rich history of free Africans who lived and thrived in lower Manhattan and it very important to keep the history connected as much as possible within one district.

<https://distrctr.org/plan/138798>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land\\_of\\_the\\_Blacks\\_\(Manhattan\)#/map/0](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_of_the_Blacks_(Manhattan)#/map/0)

In conclusion, the attached district lines are to maintain the rich culture and history while maintaining an essential subway line that connects the people of the community.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Masri, Assad <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:55 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Assad Masri  
[REDACTED] W 48th St, #33  
New York, NY 10036



**ASSAD MASRI**

LICENSED REAL ESTATE SALESPERSON  
DOUGLAS ELLIMAN REAL ESTATE  
**SOLOMON MASRI TEAM**  
Serving New York City and Westchester County  
OFFICE: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1995 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10023

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** barbscarlin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:21 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Written testimony of Barbara Carlin, District #5 Manhattan

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**Regarding the proposed Redistricting Plan for present Manhattan District #5]:**

**The Plan threatens serious negatives.**

1) It essentially transplants District 5 residents across the River—where we do not live. We eat, we shop, we socialize—here. Many of us have lived here for decades. We chose to live here. Not in Queens. We do not raise our children there. We have different parks and public schools. We have problems specific to our neighborhoods. In short, we are two very different areas, with different issues and needs.

2) As dissenting Commissioner Michael Schnall remarked on July 15 when the Commission approved the initial redistricting, “It is important that communities of interest should and must stay together.” He also said, “It is equally important not to put together communities with competing interests.” But this last would be the fate of the tear-off from District #5 when artificially joined to District #26.

3) *The redistricting proposal disproportionately favors Queens.*  
The ratio of Queens District 26 residents to transplanted Manhattan District 5 residents favors Queens and thus virtually assures that our interests are in great danger of being bypassed.

4) If we are joined with District 26, the questions will be: To which side of the River should money go? Who is more needy? What is more vital?  
The proposed redistricting would make each party less able to focus on and remedy its particular issues. To flourish and to improve quality of life in their respective areas, both the Manhattan and Queens contingents of proposed District #26 must concentrate on what is necessary for them.  
But since monies for projects necessary to the old District 5 area would draw funds away from vital Queens’ projects, what might one conclude about the outcome of a vote for a Manhattan problem? Sadly, Manhattan would more than likely be bypassed. .

5) Furthermore, the proposed Redistricting eviscerates much of District 5. It chops off whole areas; walls off one side of an avenue from the other. It ends up tearing neighborhoods apart.

6) So I ask you: How does it make sense to send citizens to a District across a river-- to a place where they do not live, and where they have a very small voice?  
Essentially we are being relocated to where ours will be the minority interest. And this area will suffer for it

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Barbara Cohen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:05 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole!

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Barbara Cohen  
[REDACTED] West 43rd St #38S  
New York, NY 10036

## **Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole: Testimony to NYC Districting Commission, 22 August 2022**

My name is Barbara Knecht. I live in Hell's Kitchen, Council District 3, at [REDACTED] West 55<sup>th</sup> Street, at the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. I have lived here since 1988. I represent the West 55<sup>th</sup> St Block Association (created in 1978) on the Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Coalition, and I am a member of the HK Dems. By profession, I am an architect and urban planner. I worked for the City of NY in the 1980's-90's, developing housing and social services programs for people experiencing homelessness. My ongoing work as a practitioner, educator and writer has been immersion in the analysis, development and livability of urban neighborhoods and cities.

I am here to speak in support of Keeping Hell's Kitchen Whole, and (therefore) in opposition to the preliminary redistricting map which splits the northern end of Hell's Kitchen among three council districts: the current District 3, the upper west side Council District 6, and the midtown business district/Upper East Side Council District 4.

I will make three brief points that speak to the requirements that guide redistricting.

**First:** Redistricting should keep neighborhoods and "Communities of Interest" intact.

"Communities of Interest" self define and self identify; neighborhoods often have externally designed boundaries. In the case of Hell's Kitchen, the physical boundaries of the neighborhood are coincident with the Community of Interest. Hell's Kitchen is bounded by 8<sup>th</sup> Ave and the Hudson River, 34<sup>th</sup> St and the 57-59<sup>th</sup> St corridor. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave is its "main street" and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave its "working street." These commonly acknowledged boundaries of Hell's Kitchen are reinforced by every result in a Google search, as well as by the Special Clinton District established by the NYC Department of City Planning in 1973 to preserve the character and scale of the neighborhood.

9<sup>th</sup> Ave is characterized by its local businesses and restaurants. This food-centered and cohesive history of 9<sup>th</sup> Ave is exemplified by the Ninth Avenue International Food Festival founded in 1973 by the 9<sup>th</sup> Ave Association, the oldest and largest festival of its kind in NYC. A recent example of the strong Community of Interest is how dozens of neighborhood block associations, businesses, BIDs, alliances, individuals and institutions came together, in a matter of weeks, in



the Fall of 2020 to form the Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Coalition to address pandemic related public safety.

**Second:** The currently proposed boundaries violate the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which this commission is bound to, by law, and by City Charter. According to the data collected by the NYC Office of City Planning and the NYC Districting Commission, the preliminary map will increase the White non-Hispanic population of our district and reduce the percentage of Hispanic, reduce the percentage of Black, and reduce the percentage of Asian, residents in our district. The net result would be to increase the overall population of White non-Hispanic voters. This clearly violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which prohibits "minority vote dilution." This requirement is reiterated in the NYC Charter which calls for "the fair and effective representation of racial and minority groups in NYC which are protected by the United States voting rights act." NYC Charter 52(1)(b).

**Third:** The Special Clinton District, which shares north, west and east boundaries with Hell's Kitchen, was created in 1973 to preserve the character and scale of the neighborhood. The current redistricting proposal would severely compromise the ability to maintain that purpose. By siphoning off parts of the district to other council districts, it will adversely affect our ability to realize the goals of the special district to "protect the mixture of income groups currently residing in the area," "and promote and protect public health, safety, general welfare and amenity." As an example, it will split the local businesses – a hallmark of our neighborhood - on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues among three council districts, thereby diluting their currently cohesive voice.

We understand that the population changes necessitate changing the boundaries of the council district, but it does not benefit anyone to break up an historically coherent neighborhood with robust associations and coalitions. The Unity Map represents the consensus of a coalition of legal voting rights advocacy organizations representing Hispanic, Black and Asian citizens and keeps our Hell's Kitchen and our Community of Interest intact. Adopting the Unity Map will allow Hell's Kitchen to coordinate with city agencies and our representatives as the unified entity it is.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Benjamin Rosenfield [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:10 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Testimony: Save the 160's

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Thank you, commissioners, for giving me the opportunity to submit my testimony. My name is Ben Rosenfield, and I am a resident of District 7.

I am speaking primarily to applaud the commission's preliminary map. District 7 grows south by necessity, and the manner proposed makes sense. I would recommend only a slight change - that the district's southern border stop at 96th street, which is a large intersection and transit hub and makes sense as a natural border. The preliminary map marks the southern border at 95th street.

I will share some concerns about the amount of District 7's northern border that is lost to District 10. I am very concerned about the potential loss of Latino population in District 7. I believe this shift would have two major consequences: First, it would dilute the Latino vote and Latino representation in local government. Second, it would stretch our city's already limited resources by increasing the poverty in District 10 and increasing the wealth in District 7. None of us want to see either of these outcomes.

The Save the 160's map (<https://districtr.org/plan/138688>), which I support, resolves these issues while keeping both District 7 and District 10 within acceptable population margins. I urge the commission to adjust District 7's northern border accordingly. Specifically: District 7's northern border should extend to 165th Street, West of Fort Washington Avenue and to 163rd Street, West of Broadway.

I'll end by thanking the commission for other choices in the preliminary maps that maintain the integrity of District 7, including keeping Manhattan Valley part of District 7 and keeping Manhattanville Houses and Grant Houses part of District 7.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our city.

Yours in service,

Ben Rosenfield

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Brando <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:13 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Brandon Hughes

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Brian Graifman [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 10:24 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Sutton Place Manhattan to Queens??

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I live at 57th Street between First Avenue and Sutton Place in Manhattan. I understand from the Sutton Place Parks Conservancy that our park east of Sutton Place along the East River is or has been redistricted to Queens -- across to the other side of the East River!!

That is crazy, and ignores a large river. Why would anyone in Queens care about our park?  
I challenge anyone involved in this fiasco to see if they could swim that distance across the river.

In this age of unfortunately ignoring reality and fealty to fiction, get real and fix it.

Brian Graifman  
[REDACTED] E 57th St, New York, NY 10022  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Brian E. Kinsella <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:57 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Brian Kinsella  
[REDACTED] West 42nd Street, #37G  
New York, NY 10036

--

Brian E. Kinsella

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Brian Suk [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 10:44 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** District3@council.nyc.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Hi. I've been a resident of Hell's Kitchen for almost fourteen years now. I've always loved being here despite the ups and downs that we've all lived through, and genuinely think it's a great place to be. The news of the redistricting proposal has made me very upset, however, and as a resident who is Asian American, after looking at the numbers it's hard to see this proposal in a favorable light. I don't want to accuse it of being racially motivated... but it definitely looks that way if you're a person of color. I'm not sure why people want to carve up our neighborhood, but I am fully supportive of not doing that and keeping our neighborhood whole. Thanks.

--

Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City

Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,

Brian Suk

■ W 44th St.

New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** brunilda reyes [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:13 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep hellskitchenOne

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I want hell's kitchen to remain whole!!

Thank You,  
Brunilda Reyes



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** BRYAN WARE [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:20 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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I'm a minority owner of Fresh From Hell, in Hell's Kitchen. Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cf4a7261fb3cc4a98821708da847ba3e1%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967963818903469%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIM>

C4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vyfeCDaS968PoJx  
tsnuyv042IO%2Btx7CeTzTKYsXuA9c%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Bryan Ware  
Fresh From Hell  
[REDACTED] W 47th St  
New York NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Caitlin Canfield <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 10:39 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between, and including, the north side of West 34th and the south side of West 59th Streets.

Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In addition, as a parent, I am concerned that our district schools will no longer be in the same council district as most of their students and families, making the tasks of advocacy and budgeting even more strenuous for our already overburdened school personnel and parents.

We must preserve the unique voice of Hell's Kitchen for all residents, including families and those who are members of minority communities.

Sincerely,  
Caitlin Canfield  
[REDACTED] Columbus Place

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:23 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Respectfully Always,  
Carlos Rodríguez  
[REDACTED] West 48th Street NYC 10036



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Cataleya Bernardo [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:18 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

<<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>

<<BUILDING STREET ADDRESS>>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Catherine Sigal [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:22 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Strong Opposition to Proposed Redistricting of Sutton Place

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Dear Commission Members,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Catherine Sigal

  
E 57th Street #16A  
New York, NY 10022



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Catie Savage [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:00 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on this important project. My name is Catie Savage and I am a Hell's Kitchen resident who does not want to see my community split up into three different council districts.

I moved to the city for college in 2004 and have lived in Hell's Kitchen for the past 18 years after falling in love with this vibrant community on Manhattan's west side. Anyone who lives here knows our natural boundaries are from 34th to 59th streets from 8th Ave to the Hudson River.

As of the 2020 census, Hell's Kitchen is 18.8% Hispanic, 21.3% Asian, 7.8% Black and 4.7% Native American/non-white identifying. This makes up a 52.6% minority population in Hell's Kitchen. As my neighbors have mentioned, the draft map dilutes the vote of our majority minority neighborhood by making districts 3, 4 & 6 whiter than they currently are.

In a more practical sense, the draft map will have a detrimental impact on the cleanliness of our neighborhood. Currently, 9th avenue from 43rd to 57th streets and 10th avenue from 44th to 55th streets have supplemental cleaning services paid for with City Council discretionary funding under the NYC Cleanup Initiative.

If the proposed district lines hold, our community will have to get 3 council members to work together to allocate this funding to small portions or their larger districts. For example, both sides of 10th avenue from 44th to the south side of 49th street would be part of council district 3, the west side of 10th avenue from 49th to 55th would be in council district 6 and the east side of 10th ave from 49th to 55th would be in council district 4.

Cleanliness isn't the only issue at this critical corner of 49th St & 10th Ave. The Skyline Hotel, which is currently housing asylum seekers from Texas, would be in CD6 while PS111, the school many of the children are going to be enrolled in just 4 blocks away and across 10th ave would be in CD4. Those who get enrolled in PS51, 5 blocks south, will be in CD3.

It is hard enough to get one elected official to advocate for our community, but to expect three council members to work together to solve issues that criss-cross district lines all over our community is an unnecessary burden to residents who have already dealt with so much upheaval in the past 2 years due to the pandemic.

Therefore I urge the Commission to support the Unity Map for City Council District 3 and Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole. Here is a copy of the map for your reference: <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Catie Savage  
[REDACTED] West 51st Street

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jeep Rosenberg [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:34 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting Proposal

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Dear commission:

I moved to the 400 block of West 43rd Street in October 1977. We raised our son in Hell's Kitchen and celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary there. It is a savvy and caring community that works. A real New York neighborhood with a high functioning connection with our elected officials, police, ground transport, and, usually, sanitation! Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole.

Respectfully  
Charles Rosenberg

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Charmaine Broad [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 1:13 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C5c01c143f60d49590ab208da84734c4b%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967927996173895%7CUnknown%7CTWfpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoi>

MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=X3X9yRjnt05C%2Bu7JdaBtPV95CZr35jncH3XuPI2575s%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Charmaine Broad

█ West 48th Street, #2E

New York, NY. 10036

<< Insert your Building address >>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Chase Thomaston <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:21 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C3cc2b418ddd84ac0cb2708da847bdbdc%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967964780637100%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikh1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hb%2FMC1Ln7KLClubjUj8JccGmzB1As8Y%2B9fNPALhMRmQ%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,

<<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>  
<<BUILDING STREET ADDRESS>>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Chris Bustamante [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:06 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission, Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community. Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Chris Bustamante

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Chrissy Collins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:18 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cb82bb7b7bd15453ec26c08da846aa6db%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967890850630992%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fK5xPQUX2Zd2js6pvOTQHimMXcRGZNjpVWSB3mb%2FWZA%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,

<<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>  
<<BUILDING STREET ADDRESS>>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** tina tsiang [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:14 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East In Manhattan

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I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens City Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island NOT be adapted further following reasons.

The draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52(1)(c) and (e) and 52(2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

Neighborhoods and communities of Interest not kept intact proposed District results in extreme crossover District is oddly shaped.

The proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably a Queen's council member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the need of an extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in the Manhattan District 6 and 8. Will a Queens council member send representative represent to two additional Manhattan Community boards? Will a Queen's council member hold full membership on two Borough boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail on a matter participating budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residence may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including but not limited to congestion pricing. Which position will a Queen's council member adopt? A defining element of the East Side neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical research facilities with sprawling densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions in surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens council member be in this regard? The oddly shaped extreme crossover district will significantly an adverse adversely impact the provisions of municipal services and diminish political voices of thousands of Manhattan residents. In the strongest terms possible I urge the commission to reject this proposal.

Sincerely  
Christina Tsiang- Shorr  
[REDACTED] E 79th St. Apt 5A  
New York, NY 10075



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:43 PM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ms. Christina Tsiang-Shorr

[REDACTED] E 79th St Apt 5A New York, NY 10075-1437 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Christine Berthet <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 7:54 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on redistricting - City council District 3

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To whom it may concern.

I am a resident of City Council District 3, which is proposed to be broken into three areas, two of them to be attached to the upper west side and to midtown.

I have served for 15 years on Manhattan Community board 4, a former chair and a current co-chair of its Transportation committee .

Per its charter, In redistricting the commission must be vigilant to respect the character of the neighborhood and the integrity of its community.

Hell's Kitchen is a tightly knit working class community with recognizable characteristics linked by historic immigration, similarities in habitat and in mode of transportation, with dominant activities that makes its streetscape distinct. It's many block associations work together tirelessly to improve the residential quality of life of the district.

- The Irish community is well represented. The artists community has dedicated homes and services in the district. The LGBTQ community has found a welcoming home in Hell's kitchen and its needs are well understood by the elected representatives.
- The special Clinton District Zoning recognizes and protects this specificity by maintaining low density and protecting affordable housing in the district.
- 80% of the district's population does not drive but the air quality is the third worst in the city
- As a successor to the historical food industry, the restaurant industry continues the tradition of varied offerings by immigrants in the many establishments of 9th and surrounding avenues.

The contrasts with adjacent districts are notable:

The upper west side is more affluent, with residents living in much taller buildings, and a much larger proportion of drivers , but good air quality

Midtown is a commercial district and the few residential buildings there are super tall and extremely pricey and the air quality is not an issue.

Neither district has concentrated populations of artists and LGBTQ.

We ask that the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood be maintained as a whole in District 3 to ensure that our elected officials are educated and focused on its needs.

Respectfully.

Christine Berthet  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Christine Cunningham [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 9:00 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Redistricting NYC - Council Districts 26 & 5

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Dear Chair Walcott,

As a resident of [REDACTED] Sutton Place South, **I write to ask that you DO NOT ADOPT the preliminary district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5** which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, notably splitting the Sutton Place community of interest between multiple districts and combining representation for a portion of our Manhattan community with Queens. Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to represent and serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two or more additional Manhattan Community Boards or hold full membership on multiple Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting, creating significant disparities among neighbors who share the parks and access to the new Greenway from Sutton Place? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Will the interests of Manhattan residents be served by a Council Member who serves a majority of constituents in Queens?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. Keep the Sutton Area neighborhood intact and with representation in Manhattan! Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Final point - I have been listening to the testimony at the public hearing tonight and every single person I have heard has made a compelling case to reject this proposal; reasons have varied but all relate to preserving/protecting the communities they are currently in.

Thank you.

Christine Cunningham, [REDACTED] Sutton Place South, NY, NY 10022

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[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Christopher D. Canfield [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 10:41 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split our neighborhood into three council districts. This violates the City Charter requirement to keep neighborhoods as intact as possible, as well as, potentially, the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The proposed district lines will result in significantly weakened support for the schools in Hell's Kitchen, especially our main elementary school, PS 111, by dividing local parents into multiple districts. This will deeply damage our local schools, which are already struggling to recover from the pandemic.

Please, I ask that you support the Unity Map to keep Hell's Kitchen as united as possible. While that map will still move my building and family into a different district, it distributes people more equitably, and keeps the neighborhood more together and compact, than the proposed map. And it more clearly follows all requirements of the City Charter.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Christopher D. Canfield

[REDACTED] Columbus Place, Apt S12F, New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Cille K Longshaw <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 10:59 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Redistricting NYC - Council Districts 26 & 5

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Dear Chair Walcott,

As a resident of Roosevelt Island, I write to ask that you **DO NOT ADOPT the preliminary district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5** which include portions of the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the following reasons:

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, notably tearing Roosevelt Island from its very ideological foundation: it has always been considered a part of Manhattan, having been conceived by Mayor Lindsay as a "Manhattan Utopian Community," a visionary step that paved the way for what the Island is today: a jewel in New York City where people love to live (and tourists love to visit). As just a few measures of the Island's irrefutable Manhattan roots:

- We Roosevelt Islanders pay property taxes -- to Manhattan;
- Our schools are in DOE District 2 -- in Manhattan;
- Our area code is 212 -- a Manhattan area code;
- Our zip code is 10044 -- a Manhattan zip code;
- The MTA considers Roosevelt Island part of Manhattan;
- Roosevelt Island is included in the same flat rate taxi fare as Manhattan; and
- We are a proud part of the Manhattan Public Library System; Queens has a separate library system.

Not one of these defining characteristics of Roosevelt Island daily life bear any relation whatsoever to those of most Queens residents, so what is the logic behind disrupting all of these long-standing, logical and obviously healthy allegiances?

For example, if redistricting were to occur, would a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to represent and serve the particular needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors residing in District 5? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two or more additional Manhattan Community Boards or hold full membership on multiple Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting, creating significant disparities among neighbors who rely daily on the Roosevelt Tram and ferry service to and from our island? And surely Manhattan and Queens residents hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Will the interests of Manhattan residents be served by a Council Member who serves a majority of constituents in Queens?

Finally, the proposed redistricting seems designed to **complicate** rather than simplify quality of life and the integrity of future planning by creating an awkwardly shaped, extreme crossover district that will significantly and adversely impact

the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I ask that you keep the Roosevelt Island community intact with full representation in Manhattan.

In closing, this evening I listened to the testimony at tonight's public hearing tonight and every single person I have heard has made a compelling case to reject this proposal; reasons have varied but all relate to preserving/protecting the communities in which they currently live.

Thank you in advance for listening and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cille K. Longshaw  
■ Main Street, #1109  
NY, NY 10044



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** CJ Simpson [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:33 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

**I agree with the content of the letter below. Breaking up the historic district of Hell's Kitchen is to weaken this recognizable neighborhood & its diversity. The proposal of three smaller districts (absorbing some into others?!) is to destroy the character and strength that has always been historically Hell's Kitchen. Leave us whole!**

**CJ Simpson  
Registered voter in D3  
[REDACTED] West 43rd St. Apt 17R  
New York, ny 1003**

Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

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That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,

<< Insert First NAME and Last NAME >>

<< Insert your Building address >>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Claudia Gomez [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:09 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,

Claudia Gomez  
[REDACTED] west 47th street  
New York, N.Y. 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Colleen Keenan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:13 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C37a58ba503e24053e6ba08da84726a52%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967925385663045%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2FFwYxbH9DAhJIUKanJISTPI2imY7c7XTMEEKfciJiag%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Colleen Keenan  
[REDACTED] 10th Avenue

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Courtney M [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:58 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Sincerely,

Courtney M.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Daniela Darrah [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:55 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Sincerely,  
<<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>  
<<BUILDING STREET ADDRESS>>

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Daniel Hanold <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 7:42 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Daniel Hanold  
[REDACTED] W 12th St  
New York, NY 10011



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Daniel Kressman [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:52 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=S3XUOs2U4NIJ  
xmlBJ5%2B4hG5CCbqYVow8DhCg8B2qOn4%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,  
Daniel Kressman  
[REDACTED] W 52nd St, Apt 16A  
New York, NY 10019

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Danny Zelibor [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:43 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Danny Zelibor  
[REDACTED] W 57th

Sent from my iPhone

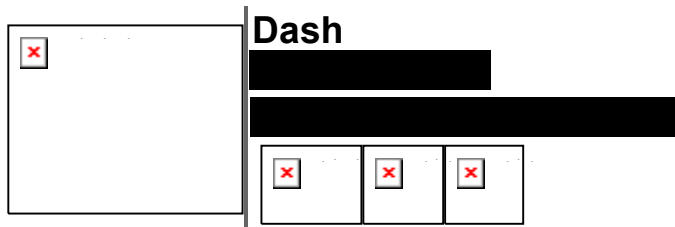
**From:** Dashiell Eaves [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 9:46 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dashiell Eaves  
[REDACTED] W 43rd St  
10036  
--



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Dave Bartlett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:57 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I support the unity map

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<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,

Dave Bartlett

Hell's Kitchen Resident ([REDACTED] W 46 Apt 4201)

--

Dave Bartlett

[REDACTED] [m](#)

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Uptown Friends [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:01 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Save the 160's

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I am a resident of District 7 (living at 600 W. 161st St.), and I am requesting that the redistricting commission SAVE THE 160's. Saving the 160's means that the lower 160's remain part of District 7 and do not become part of District 10. District 7's northern border should, at least, extend to 165th Street, West of Fort Washington Avenue and to 163rd Street, West of Broadway.

I am advocating for the map linked here: <https://districtr.org/plan/138688>.

Washington Heights has always been at the heart of District 7. Those of us who live in the lower 160's have formed our own small community—and together, we have a strong voice. United, we have been able to elect representatives who recognize our collective power and focus their attention on our needs. Divided, our community will be overshadowed by the communities just north of us.

In the last election, voters in the 160's cast their vote for our current council member, Shaun Abreu. Because our community makes up a meaningful percentage of the vote, we have been able to ask our council member for meaningful investments in our community. These investments include:

\$1.2 million dollars to upgrade and revitalize Lily Brown Playground, located between 162nd and 163rd and Riverside Drive.

Nearly \$1 million for P.S. 4 on 160th and Amsterdam to upgrade the auditorium, gymnasium, and library.

Over \$50,000 to Riverstone Senior Life Services at 99 Fort Washington, where he has also fought for senior traffic zones.

Working with the Parks Department and Department of Transportation to make desperately needed repairs to the sidewalks and implement loading zones for deliveries between 160 to 165 and Riverside.

A massive block party on 161st Street where people from the lower 160's could come together, as we always have, to enjoy one another's company and show our kids a good time.

The 160's can't compete for attention with Inwood. The borders of any district are always at risk of being left out in the cold, but that isn't the case in District 7 because our northern border stands strong and united. I beg you - please do not tear apart what we have worked so hard to build. Do not weaken representation of New York's Latino community. Do not dilute the Latino vote or pack Latinos into a single district. Let the 160's continue to stand strong, hold our elected officials accountable, and have a voice in our local government.

Coach Dave Crenshaw

Uptown4Life

--

Sent from my Android phone with GMX Mail. Please excuse my brevity.



[REDACTED]

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**From:** Deborah Gaffaney [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:15 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony Hells Kitchen

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I support the Unity map. Hells Kitchen has been besieged with crime, litter, homelessness, drugs ,etc throughout COVID. Together we were able to get much done with one representative, Erik Bottcher. We worked as a cohesive community to build a Litter Legion for weekly garbage pickup, we delivered a lot of groceries for food insecure , etc. The problems are the worst since 1991 when I moved here. Together we are tackling them and are unified w one voice and neighborhood.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Deborah Lomax [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 1:07 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Sincerely,  
Deborah LOMAX  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Dina Frank [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 1:51 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Change of Sutton Place to CD 26

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I live at 25 Sutton Place S. This redistricting proposal makes no sense to take a sliver of Manhattan's east side and annex it to Queens.

The 2 neighborhoods have nothing in common as far as needs, types of amenities, historical aspect of Sutton Place, it's pocket parks along the river, age of the residents(many elderly).

What is the benefit to either district? Or is this just a "Power Grab"? This is obviously being done for political reasons as I see no beneficial outcome.

Dina Frank

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** DRGSPDC DRGSPDC <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 10:21 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C472e5ec74abf47ccf46108da84ae2d2c%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968180879473430%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiM>

C4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WscpRjjxdzTVK0I  
g3FBDNCs0p869W4TnrUGmdMoCQHE%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Don Cullen

■ west 47th St Apt 1B  
NYC 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 9:19 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mr. Dutch deCarvalho

[REDACTED] E 92nd St Apt 11D New York, NY 10128-6835 d [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Elaine Keating-Brown [REDACTED] k>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:23 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident at 530 W45TH Street and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community. Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>. Sincerely,  
Elaine Keating-Brown

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** EJ Dn <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:05 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a lifelong Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Elise Dahan  
[REDACTED] west 43rd street  
NY NY 10036

Elise  
she/her



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 7:04 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Unity Map for Hell's Kitchen

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I support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole!

Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,

Elizabeth Bruzzese  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street  
30-H  
NY, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ellen Laurie <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:51 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Ellen Laurie  
[REDACTED] West 55th St, Apt 7C  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Elliott Mattox <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:09 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. My name is Elliott Mattox and I am a Broadway performer for 7 years and a Hell's Kitchen resident for over 2. I do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

I have fallen so deeply in love with the beauty and diversity of the neighborhood and I feel that this redistricting would kill the representation of our diverse community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C9d56452c28174259d14008da8458b416%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967813782900943%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LtqYBdPYN9OyS2NSWrBdE1FzgF%2BJ0tpUJtE9drDkAfw%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,

Elliott Mattox  
[REDACTED] W 48th St  
New York, NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Evelyn David <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:18 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] from Evelyn David, Concerned Citizen

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To the Redistricting Committee,

As I didn't know we had to preregister to give testimony at tonight's public hearing,  
please accept this letter as my testimony:

My name is Evelyn David and I live in CB8, Dist. 4. I would like to voice my total  
disapproval to your plan to divide the East Side of Manhattan and put it in Queens.

As Dist. 4 and Dist. 5 are in CB8 you would destroy this relationship Further, funding for  
schools, inner city programs funded by discretionary Council funds, landmarking issues  
and protections, zoning regulations, DOT issues, parking regulations, and many more unforeseen  
problems will be impossible to resolve. Never mind the catastrophic traffic nightmare about to be created  
by congestion pricing for the Upper East Side and the Bronx.

CB8 sent you their Disapproval Resolution letter dated July 25, 2022. It states that the proposed  
D4 and D5 lines quote "do not comport with the Commission's own redistricting criteria and"...it goes  
on for another 28 "Whereas" statements showing that your data is incorrect. They also sent their  
recommendations for a solution to this problem.


It is becoming increasingly difficult to live in this City and contribute our services.

Why are you making it even harder?

Respectfully

Evelyn David

Public citizen

**Felice Farber**  
 **East 80<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**New York, NY 10075**

August 22, 2022

Dennis M. Walcott  
Chair, NYC Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Via Mail and Email to [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

As a resident of the Upper East Side I am writing in opposition to the proposed redistricting plan which would divide the Upper East Side and draw a part of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island currently part of Council District 5 into Queens-based Council District 26. This proposed new districts would be a disservice to the residents of Manhattan, Roosevelt Island and Queens.

The draft proposal would violate the City Charter Districting Requirement by failing to keep neighborhoods and communities of interest intact, is not compact, would result in an extreme crossover district and is very oddly shaped. In fact, the proposed district would create a new crossover district between Queens and Manhattan for the first time since the Council was expanded to 51 members.

The proposed lines would separate many medical and research facilities from their current Manhattan location and place them in District 26 in Queens. This would make it seem as though the residents of Queens were well-served by large hospitals, even though the reality may be different.

A number of Parks including John Jay Park, Andrew Haswell Green Park and portions of the East River Esplanade would be separated from most of the residents who use them. These parks would become part of Queens District 26, while not being easily accessible to District 26 residents. This could impact critical investments in the repair and rehabilitation of these parks.

Three Upper East Side public elementary schools, P.S. 158, 183 and 217 would be negatively impacted by being placed in a majority Queens Council district, while still being attended by residents of the Upper East Side and remaining part of Manhattan School District 2..

Hunter College's main campus at 68<sup>th</sup> Street and Lexington Avenue, would be split into two separate districts. Indeed the Hunter College Skybridge connecting two buildings would be located in 2 different Council Districts under the current proposal.

The proposal would separate communities of interest in Queens and would dramatically change the demographics of the new District 26, changing a very diverse district into one that would have a plurality that would be approximately 40% white.

The current district 5 shares common interests and community concerns. The proposed redistricting plan would separate a single community of interest, of which Roosevelt Island is an integral part of Manhattan.

The proposed redistricting plan for District 5 and District 26 would do a disservice to the residents of Manhattan, Roosevelt Island and Queens and should be thrown out and a new plan proposed. For these reasons, I strongly oppose the proposed redistricting plan.

Very truly yours,

Felice S. Farber

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Frances Berwick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:39 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

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To: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria outlined in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8 and Roosevelt Island? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?



Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park , most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

Frances Berwick, [REDACTED] E64th Street, #18G, New York, NY 10065

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[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Frances Hamermesh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:05 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Frances W. Hamermesh  
[REDACTED] West 57<sup>th</sup> St. Apt. 706  
New York, NY 10019  
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Abraham Lincoln the Third [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:01 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Garry Rissman

[REDACTED] West 43rd Street, #602  
New York, NY 10036

<<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>  
<<BUILDING STREET ADDRESS>>



August 15, 2022

**Sent via E-Mail: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov**

District Commission  
253 Broadway, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

My name is GARRY WRIGHT, and I am a resident of the 31<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT community. My neighborhood rests within the 31<sup>st</sup> Councilmanic district and shares representation with the communities of Arverne, Edgemere, Far Rockaway, Rosedale, Laurelton, and Springfield Gardens.

I write in response to the recently published Preliminary Map issued by the Commission and ask that the Commission revisit district 31 by drawing the lines in accordance with <https://districtr.org/plan/138582>. This map, I truly believe reflects a district that will meet the established criteria for communities of interest.

While, the Commission's Preliminary Lines thankfully was able to re-unify JFK Airport and keep the Rockaway Peninsula intact, we'd like to ensure the current Springfield Gardens community is restored into our district, returning Ozone Park to Council District 32. By making these adjustments, the communities represented by the 31<sup>st</sup> district will remain contiguous and ensure our voices we have spent several decades establishing are not diminished.

This district was created in the 1980s, and while population and lines have shifted over the years, the communities reflected in today's District 31 have all been a part of the lines. We have banded together creating taskforces and committees to help mobilize our neighbors around issues impacting our communities. Whether it be around schools, property taxes, environmental justice, transportation and healthcare access, from the mainland to the Peninsula, we have banded together on many occasions to win greater representation changing our district could heavily diminish our voice in a time we are beginning to realize progress.

The 31st Council District enjoys Rockaway Beach and Jamaica Bay within our district, and while we enjoy these assets we also share the burden of high table water, resulting in infrastructure needs our neighbors understand firsthand. When Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Ida devastated our communities we shared similar damage and impact. The same can be said for the Covid-19 pandemic. We were hit first and hardest. It was our collective voices that ensured we were connected to much needed PPE supplies, testing and vaccination sites.

Additionally, the JFK International Airport is a major regional economic engine for this district, and I am pleased the Preliminary map will reunify this asset back under one



[REDACTED]

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**From:** Gary Zaragovitch <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:43 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Gary Zaragovitch  
[REDACTED] West 48th Street Apt 2E  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 10:46 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen

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I am registering my opposition to the division of Hell's Kitchen into differing districts.

The community is defined by these borders:

Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between 34th St and 59th Street

Keep our community whole!

Gayle Kliever  
active voter from 45th street (betw. 8th and 9th)

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Andy York <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:02 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ce44ff34e46e433cc08da84793522%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967953939575005%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoImC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PDKgE%2FfkpHAN3PzyouIXx6AS0vofe64w%2FfkOLQhFsHo%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
George York  
[REDACTED] W. 48th Street  
#1FW  
NY NY 10036

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:50 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ms. Gigi Semone

[REDACTED] E 87th St Apt 3J New York, NY 10128-3210 [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Gina C. Williams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 7:23 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] City Council District 9

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Forward suspect email to [phish@oti.nyc.gov](mailto:phish@oti.nyc.gov) as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

Good evening NYC Districting Commission,

The city council restricting is suggesting to rip out the historical landmarks and threaded fabric of our cultural heritage of people of color and community.

Most importantly great scholars , artist, working professionals such as doctors, lawyers, musicians, filmmakers, etc with athletes who are about of the hall of fame.

I stand with Assembly Member Dickens, Taylor, State Senator Cordell Cleare and the legendary NAACP Hazel Dukes we need our District to stay how Harlem is so we will continue to be great.

I to am born and raise in Harlem it brings joy and pleasure for me to educate my son age 12 about the possibilities and unlimited dreams to achieve.

I urge you to keep your Hands off Harlem so we may continue to thrive within our culture and know greatest comes out of Harlem.

Respectfully  
Gina Williams

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Gonzo Blanco [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:54 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

<<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>

<<BUILDING STREET ADDRESS>>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Gordon Stanley [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:27 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; susan ameel  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Adopt the Unity Map!

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Dear Redistricting Commissioners:

Since the start of the Pandemic Hell's Kitchen has been under siege, mainly because the City of New York has decided we are a "sacrifice zone," which is a euphemism for a dumping ground. The decision to place over 4000 homeless people, many of whom have serious substance abuse and mental health issues, in underused hotels has been a disaster for this area and for the Garment and Theater Districts. Apparently the City refuses to learn the obvious lessons from this experience since it continues to place new homeless shelters and concentrate social service facilities in an area that already has far more than its fair share.

Why did this happen? Why here? Why not share the pain? The answer, very simply, is that we lack the political power we need to defend our neighborhood. The Commission's proposed map will make the problem even worse: the largest part of Hell's Kitchen will have vastly reduced influence within the Third Council District, while the smaller portions will become minor appendages to districts that are much wealthier and less diverse than Hell's Kitchen as a whole. The proposed map may even violate the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by diminishing minority voting power.

Fortunately there is an immediate solution at hand: the Commission should adopt the Unity Map. The Unity Map preserves the great majority of Hell's Kitchen as part of the Third District, and maintains minority voting power. Ideally I'd prefer a line a few blocks to the North but the Unity Map is a good compromise that gives Hell's Kitchen a fighting chance.

I have lived in Hell's Kitchen for almost 45 years. I love this area, much of professional life has been centered here and most of my life savings are invested here, but I remember the Bad Old Days, and have no wish to see them return. Through my time here and my work with The West 44th Street Better Block Association and, more recently, the Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Coalition I've learned that politicians only respond to voters who are part of a determined, unified group. The Commission has the opportunity to help us make our politicians do their jobs. Please don't make it easier for politicians to ignore us by slicing and dicing our neighborhood. Help us save Hell's Kitchen by adopting the Unity Map.

Yours truly,  
Gordon M. Stanley  
[REDACTED] West 44th Street, Apt. 1  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** gregory mcmullen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:23 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.


Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ce94542c1dd3440240ed708da845a96b3%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967821871104480%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljo>

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wMOtHMygMNTgblrIIG99iCskx4e2Rs%3D&reserved=0

Gregory McMullen  
 West 48th Street

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Guillermo Dodd <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 1:20 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

I am an Hispanic and resident of Hell's Kitchen for roughly 20 years identifying with the Latino population of HK. One of the major factors for coming to this neighborhood was because of its rich culture and cultural diversity and after over a century of this neighborhood's existence and it's historical importance, it just wouldn't be the right thing to do just to give Staten Island the votes that it needs. There should be some other and better solution to solve Staten Island's population numbers. Hell's Kitchen must be preserved.

This is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

I SUPPORT THE UNITY MAP!!

Thank you,  
Guillermo Dodd  
[REDACTED] W 47th Street  
New York, NY 10036

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cc4941451ee944b6a9a6d08da84629177%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967856145341480%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LJLgz7%2F6EuqpeEtrrltuQBX3feyZ6a3dHT1HNLLC5JA%3D&reserved=0>

Sent from my iPhone

Date: July 29, 2021

Dear New York City Redistricting Commission Members,

As a resident of the historic village of Harlem in Upper Manhattan, I am writing to urge you to maintain the integrity of the Council District and its representation in the legislative body. For decades, Black Manhattanites have been marginalized and forced out of their homes. It is well-documented that Seneca Village and San Juan Hill, thriving Black neighborhoods, were obliterated for the sake of undermining and erasing the political power and economic progress of Black society in New York's most popular and recognized borough.

Every ten years, our City undergoes a mandatory review of Council district lines for the purpose of maintaining a sense of equity and fairness in the elected representation of New Yorkers in City government. This year's decennial review must not, in any way, threaten the only true opportunity to have Black representation in the Council's Manhattan delegation. To that end, I am requesting the following:

- 1.) That Harlem's current Council district lines not be disturbed in any way that would hinder or weaken Black representation in New York City and,
- 2.) The Redistricting Commission hold one of its next public meetings in Harlem to provide its residents with an adequate and accessible opportunity to comment on the proposed Council district maps.

Redistricting should strengthen Black communities like Harlem that have long been marginalized, and should not result in the constraint or lessening of Black political power.

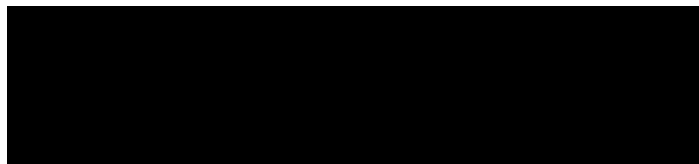
Respectfully submitted,

\*Signature:



*\*By signing this, I authorize this document to be submitted as testimony to the NYC Districting Commission.*

Address:



Email:

\_\_\_\_\_

Gen.



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7/30/12

Dear New York City Redistricting Commission Members,

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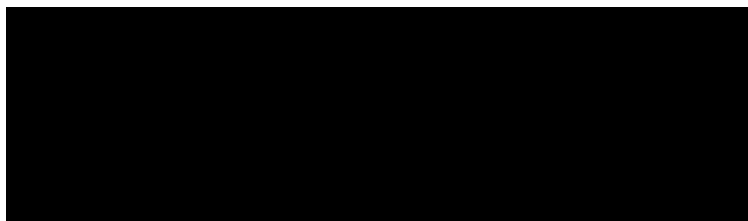
Respectfully submitted,

\*Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print: \_\_\_\_\_

*Fatima Noyola*  
\*By signing this, I authorize this document to be submitted as testimony to the NYC Districting Commission.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Gen.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7/30/22

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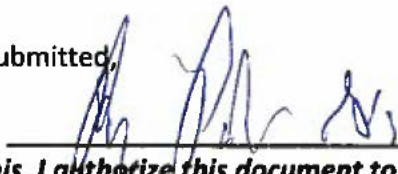
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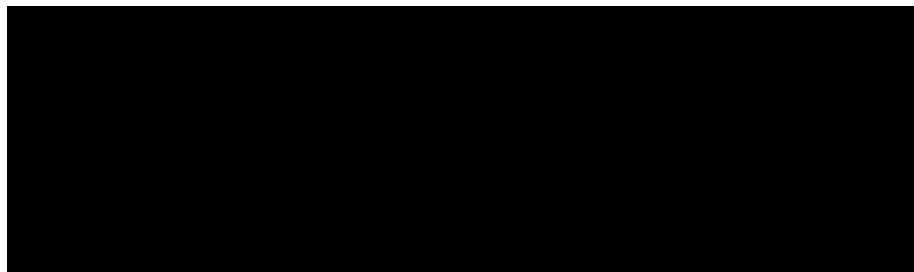


Print:

Randy Poole Sr

*\*By signing this, I authorize this document to be submitted as testimony to the NYC Districting Commission.*

Address:



Email:

Gen.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Heather True LaValle <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 1:11 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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W324dPAiFCVmYYqU85xCLcuzhFouY%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,  
Warmly Heather True LaValle  
[REDACTED] west 50th Street 1W  
NY NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Hector Mejia <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:24 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] SAVE THE 160'S

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I am and have been a resident of District 7 for over 40 years, and I am requesting that the redistricting commission SAVE THE 160's. Saving the 160's means that the lower 160's remain part of District 7 and do not become part of District 10. District 7's northern border should, at least, extend to 165th Street, West of Fort Washington Avenue and to 163rd Street, West of Broadway.

I am advocating for the map linked here: <https://districtr.org/plan/138688>.

Washington Heights has always been at the heart of District 7. I have grown up and raised a family in this community. Those of us who live in the lower 160's have formed our own small community—and together, we have a strong voice and have built a family. United, we have been able to elect representatives who recognize our collective power and focus their attention on our needs. Divided, our community will be overshadowed by the communities just north of us.

In the last election, voters in the 160's cast their vote for our current council member, Shaun Abreu. Because our community makes up a meaningful percentage of the vote, we have been able to ask our council member for meaningful investments in our community. These investments include:

- \$1.2 million dollars to upgrade and revitalize Lily Brown Playground, located between 162nd and 163rd and Riverside Drive.
- Nearly \$1 million for P.S. 4 on 160th and Amsterdam to upgrade the auditorium, gymnasium, and library.
- Over \$50,000 to Riverstone Senior Life Services at [99 Fort Washington](#), where he has also fought for senior traffic zones.
- Working with the Parks Department and Department of Transportation to make desperately needed repairs to the sidewalks and implement loading zones for deliveries between 160 to 165 and Riverside.
- A massive block party on 161st Street where people from the lower 160's could come together, as we always have, to enjoy one another's company and show our kids a good time.

The 160's can't compete for attention with Inwood. The borders of any district are always at risk of being left out in the cold, but that isn't the case in District 7 because our northern border stands strong and united. I beg you - please do not tear apart what we have worked so hard to build. **Do not weaken representation of New York's Latino community.** Do not dilute the Latino vote or pack Latinos into a single district. Let the 160's continue to stand strong, hold our elected officials accountable, and have a voice in our local government.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:27 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C4bc01752e321403124f708da84744d64%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967932332693097%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ij1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vuumUI%2BQmCydxjj8a%2B3m4gu4onnXNeFFtItlBjBhUA%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Helena Durst  
[REDACTED] West 43rd street apt 1  
New York, New York 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Helik Torres [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:43 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C235e665e0ec74584147908da848fac24%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968049856669636%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=pWudB6tEKv%2BFQl5zRfJNxq2ajDH7H2HIKE9KsuHn9GA%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
<<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>  
<<BUILDING STREET ADDRESS>>

Helik

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Johnny Huey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:45 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Aug. 22, 2022

Dear Districting Commission,

Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>



Thank you,

Hui Cheng

Tenant in [REDACTED] West 47 Street, NY NY 10036

Issues I care about:

1. Apartment warehousing hurts nascent tenant unions, and hurts tenant organizing in general: [click here to find out how](#)
2. When landlords fall in love with certain apps, it behooves us to fully understand which ones, and why: [click here for the growing list](#)

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Insha Malik [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:12 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** Azeem  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

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To: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria outlined in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- ☐ neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- ☐ the proposed district is not compact,
- ☐ the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- ☐ the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8 and Roosevelt Island? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have

years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park , most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

NAME: INSHA & AZEEM MALIK ADDRESS: [REDACTED] E 64th st, 19j  
Zip Code: 10065

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** jack fogle [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:17 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] SAVE THE 160'S

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Dear Redistricting Commission:

My name is Jack Allen Fogle, I have lived in District 7 at 159-00 Riverside Drive West, NY, NY 10032 for 40 years, since June, 1982. As part of my civic duty, I have volunteered/served on CB12, Northern Manhattan Council of Churches (Episcopal), North River Community Environmental Review Board, North River State Park Advisory Board, and Co-founded the Riverside Triangle Block Association in the 1980s when the neighborhood was struggling for recognition and community services. I also represent our Coop, River Arts Apartments, with a constituency of more than 500 residents of district 7. As a resident with close and long-term ties to District 7 and our elected officials, I am requesting that the redistricting commission SAVE THE 160's. Saving the 160's means that the lower 160's remain part of District 7 and do not become part of District 10. District 7's northern border should, at least, extend to 165th Street, West of Fort Washington Avenue and to 163rd Street, West of Broadway. The lower 160s have always been closely aligned with ALL the "Heights" -- Washington Heights, Hamilton Heights and Morningside Heights, our future depends on remaining together within district 7.

I believe if you remove THE 160'S from district 7, it would have the effect of removing a molar from an existing healthy set of teeth, in my experience it would be a 40 year set back, and the consequences for us would be the onset of decay to the bridge and political infrastructure we have built in our community.

I am advocating for the map linked here: <https://districtr.org/plan/138688>.

I would appreciate if you take our appeal seriously. If you need any further information from me, I remain available.

Yours truly,

Jack Allen Fogle  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jackie Cox <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:15 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole- Use Unity Map!  
**Attachments:** IMG\_8056.HEIC

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Hello,

I'm Drag Performer Jackie Cox, resident of Hell's Kitchen for ten years. I've seen this neighborhood grow and embrace the queer community and people of color over the last ten years and strongly feel we should keep the neighborhood together and represented as one neighborhood that caters to our vibrant, artistic, and diverse community! Please reconsider the proposed district map that would split up our neighborhood and leave us without representation in government! Please use the attached unity map and make sure our city stays strong and represented!

Thank you!  
Jackie Cox

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jacob Whitt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:36 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Jacob Whitt  
[REDACTED] W. 54th St.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Romano, Jaime [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:25 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Belnord Condominium - 225 West 86th Street, New York, NY 10024

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regards to the Upper West Side community district 7. As your office may be aware, this community is experiencing a higher increase of homeless and drug activity resulting in dangerous situations. I am the property manager of The Belnord Condominium located at 225 West 86<sup>th</sup> Street which encompasses an entire city square block from 86<sup>th</sup> to 87<sup>th</sup> and Broadway to Amsterdam. Given the expanse of the property and retail/commercial spaces, the building unfortunately attracts those the homeless population to encamp on the unused staircases of the building.

We are kindly requesting the support of the community district to assist with more policing of this area. Reports were received of high activities over this weekend.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Jaime Romano  
Property Manager  
Douglas Elliman Property Management  
225 West 86<sup>th</sup> Street | New York, NY 10024  
T [REDACTED]



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[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jaygee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:04 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ce828334abd0940f5de4108da84797abd%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967954539491989%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Dell8JYA2Vmw tcl7QRVkfCwUGLokbQwi1c2fV7febX8%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
James Garvin  
[REDACTED] W 37th

Sent from my iPhone



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** James Griffith [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:55 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ca6453c1bd5394b26e7c808da8456d82c%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967806945097233%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Lf3IMLn8%2BzQP7%2B4x2NdrZLLeiOw%2Fe8G9PEnEIO5LWh0%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
James Griffith  
[REDACTED] W43

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** James Heller [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:17 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
James Heller  
[REDACTED] E 14th St  
New York, NY 10003

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** jamilly jamilly [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:08 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] SAVE THE 160'S

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I am a resident of District 7, and I am requesting that the redistricting commission SAVE THE 160's. Saving the 160's means that the lower 160's remain part of District 7 and do not become part of District 10. District 7's northern border should, at least, extend to 165th Street, West of Fort Washington Avenue and to 163rd Street, West of Broadway.

Washington Heights has always been at the heart of District 7. Those of us who live in the lower 160's have formed our own small community—and together, we have a strong voice. United, we have been able to elect representatives who recognize our collective power and focus their attention on our needs. Divided, our community will be overshadowed by the communities just north of us.

I live on Riverside and 161st Street. My partner lives a block away. Our whole lives happen in this neighborhood, and we know where we belong: District 7.

In the last election, voters in the 160's cast their vote for our current council member, Shaun Abreu. Because our community makes up a meaningful percentage of the vote, we have been able to ask our council member for meaningful investments in our community. These investments include:

- Over a million dollars for Lily Brown Playground
- Nearly a million dollars for P.S. 4
- Over \$50,000 to Riverstone Senior Life Services at [99 Fort Washington](#)
- Desperately needed repairs to the sidewalks from 160th to 165th and Riverside.
- A block party just this past weekend on 161st Street where people from the lower 160's gathered together and had an incredible time.

The 160's can't compete for attention with Inwood. The borders of any district are always at risk of being left out in the cold, but that isn't the case in District 7 because our northern border stands strong and united. I beg you - please do not tear apart what we have worked so hard to build. Let the 160's continue to stand strong, hold our elected officials accountable, and have a voice in our local government.

I am advocating for the map linked here: <https://districtr.org/plan/138688>.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:21 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Jane Halpern  
[REDACTED] E 79th St New York, NY 10075-1451  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** jane shapiro [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:03 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Stop the redistricting of Sutton Place into Queens

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Dear Mr. Walcott,  
Chairman of the NYC Redistricting Commission  
And the rest of the Commission

We are writing this because we are very upset about the fact that you are even thinking about putting Sutton Place in a Queens District.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in the City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, it is ridiculous to think that a district in Queens would have the same needs and concerns as would our district. We have nothing against Queens but look at the map, **it's across the East River from Sutton Place! We're in Manhattan!** Why are you trying to diminish what is a wonderful, charming historic neighborhood (and lower our real estate values)? How could we expect proper representation?

Please take all these concerns into consideration and decide against the redistricting that moves Sutton Place into Queens.

Sincerely,

Jane Shapiro, Secretary of the Board of

[REDACTED] Sutton Place, Apartment 14B

Warren Shapiro, resident of [REDACTED] Sutton Place, Apartment 14B

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Janet Ross [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:33 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony regarding the potential dividing our district

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To the Districting Commission,

As a resident of the upper East Side since 1965 this is a simple but ardent protest against the outrageous prospect of the sundering of our cohesive neighborhood.

Why undermine the efforts of so many years of working with good will together for the betterment of all our lives by this dispiriting action?

What purpose can it serve

Janet C. Ross

[REDACTED] East 72nd Street, Apartment 3D, Nyc, 10021

Member:

Friends of the Upper East Side

The Municipal Arts Society

The Preservation League of New York State

The Central Park Conservancy

Supporter of

The Four Freedoms Park

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** JAY PENDLEY [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:38 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cc10f6b46dc904423f19308da848ef4d6%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968046777629637%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIM>

C4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiv2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xFglU90ng4Vpp0VR4fAp%2BvAekI9GkiMtnmBee1Pgrik%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

<< Insert First NAME and Last NAME >>

<< Insert your Building address >>

Sent from my iPhone



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jeannie Monte [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:47 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cc0e3330abffd4002fd1b08da846ea675%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967908026915068%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dkonvBk7cexiFPVCObibE%2FZKWzSO4hbskRAT8Ze1cyQ%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Jeannie Monte  
[REDACTED] West 43 St #36B  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jennifer Huh [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:54 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Sincerely,  
Jennifer Huh

[REDACTED] W42nd Street 4i  
New York, NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** jess d [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:06 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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1WRHq62FBCqImKbUlrTH8hADSOXkY4%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Jessica Doman 10036

Jessica Lappin  
[REDACTED] East 55th Street  
New York, NY 10022  
[REDACTED]

**Testimony to the New York City Redistricting Commission**

**August 22, 2022**

I am Jessica Lappin, an East Midtown resident and former City Council Member for the 5th District in Manhattan. I had the honor of representing Midtown East, Sutton Place, Turtle Bay, Lenox Hill, Yorkville, and Roosevelt Island from 2006-2014. Prior to that, I spent 8 years working as an aide and District Chief of Staff to NYC Council Speaker Gifford Miller, who represented the same district from 1996-2005.

As someone who has been actively engaged in the community for over 25 years, as both an elected official and a civic leader, I strongly oppose the version of the draft map for Council District #5. The proposed district map moves Roosevelt Island and a portion of the east side from East 79th Street to East 54th Street, east of First Avenue, from a Manhattan member to a Queens representative.

This doesn't make any sense. The Upper East Side is a community that shares common local interests and should be kept together, for purposes of local representation. First of all, as a former elected official, I know first hand the importance of offering accessible constituent services. My district office staff and I were helping residents on a daily basis with a myriad of issues relating to housing, sanitation, education, quality of life, transportation, and senior services. Having a local office where people could come in person for assistance, guidance, and support was crucial. Under this proposal, constituents who live on the Manhattan side of the new district would have to travel to Queens for help. This is neither fair nor practical.

Second, the East Side of the current district contains some of our city's most renowned hospitals and is often referred to as Bedpan Alley. Many of these institutions, like Memorial Sloan Kettering and New York-Cornell, have facilities and offices on both the east and west sides of First Avenue. And regardless of their addresses, hospitals and research facilities like the NY Blood Center, Rockefeller University, and the Hospital for Special Surgery work in concert on a variety of policy, staffing, and funding issues and should retain a singular representative.

Third, when it comes to our precious parks and open spaces, like the East River Esplanade, John Jay Park, the Queensboro Oval, 24 Sycamores, and the pocket parks along the river, they serve all Upper Eastiders. The Councilmember who represents the park users should also be the one to represent the parks themselves.

Fourth, when it comes to mass transit issues like M15 bus service and the Second Avenue Subway, the East Side is unified and unique. It makes no sense to lump East Siders in with residents in Queens who face different transit needs.

Jessica Lappin  
[REDACTED] East 55th Street  
New York, NY 10022  
[REDACTED]

Fifth, I don't understand how three public elementary schools that serve East Side children and one on Roosevelt Island, could best be represented by a Queens Councilmember, when they are located within District 2 - like the other East Side public schools.

Sixth, there are nearly constant land use issues that arise along the East Side and past zoning and rezonings have taken the character of the entire area into account. Land Use is one of the most important roles of the City Council and when applications and issues arise, the same one Council Member should be talking to constituents, negotiating, and leading.

Lastly, while Roosevelt Island sits in the middle of the East River, it has always been considered part of Manhattan and part of Community Board 8. It is linked to Manhattan by the tram and the MTA's F train. Under this plan, both sides of the tram and the respective subway stations would be represented by different Council Members.

In summation, I strongly reject the proposed redistricting map for Council District #5. It will needlessly cut a community of interest in half and, as a result, disenfranchise the most eastern portion of the Upper East Side. I implore the Redistricting Commission to reconsider this proposal in order to keep the district whole, and represented by a Manhattan Councilmember who can better serve and advocate for their local community.

Thank you for your time and attention.



*A Not-for-Profit Corporation*

east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

**P.O Box 1855**

**New York, NY 10021-0048**

**Tel 212-713-5826 • [info@esna-nyc.com](mailto:info@esna-nyc.com) • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)**

August 5, 2022

To: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

CC: Council Member Julie Menin, District 5

**VIA EMAIL TO:** [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

**MAIL TO** Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria outlined in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8 and Roosevelt Island? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park, most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

Jill Appel

■ East 62<sup>nd</sup> Street #15J

New York, NY 10065

NAME	ADDRESS	Zip Code
------	---------	----------

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*



[REDACTED]

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**From:** Joanna McKeever [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 9:16 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

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Sincerely,  
Joanna McKeever  
[REDACTED] West 45th Street

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** John Farida [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:13 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HK District

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I own a condo in Hell's Kitchen and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

John Farida

[REDACTED] W. 42nd St. 58G  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** John Reeds <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:00 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Sincerely,  
John Reeds  
[REDACTED] W. 46th NYC 10036

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** John Salvatore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:24 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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AiLCJQljoiv2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dO3kWFkctgmcW4n%2FTIG1J  
J5Po0o7V5yzbdzAqzMh%2BGY%3D&reserved=0

John Salvatore

█ West 45th Street

#18C

New York, NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jonathan S. Cerullo <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:21 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen is significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile, the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,

<< Insert First NAME and Last NAME >>

<< Insert your Building address >>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jonathan Raviv [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:20 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I support Hell's Kitchen and the Unity Map

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Forward suspect email to [phish@oti.nyc.gov](mailto:phish@oti.nyc.gov) as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

To whom it may concern:

Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

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Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,



Jonathan Raviv

■ W. 44th St. Apt 3B  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jone Noveck <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:33 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C69e40f4dd3b847fdb7b808da84756aac%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967937088745785%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMjC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=efvPA6G4PTRI1tcAPPuX3w6fqgchVj65ewJBna2yFBw%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Jone Noveck  
[REDACTED] West 47th St. Apt#5D  
New York, NY 10037  
<<>>

J.N

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jordan Cowan [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:03 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C45b7cbe822fb4aedfc9708da84b40658%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968207179568226%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Iik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=quqYErO2eSP1klMMPAa%2FpKIGp7V4bOm2D%2F9IUUG93lo%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Jordan Cowan  
[REDACTED] W 44th Street  
New York NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Rasoulinejad, Ali  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:17 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** Goodwin-Raab, Miranda  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] August 22nd - NYC Districting Commission Public Hearing (virtual participation)

--  
Ali Rasoulinejad  
Chief of Staff  
New York City Districting Commission  
Work: 212-346-6348 | Email: [REDACTED]  
Web: <http://www.nyc.gov/districting>

---

**From:** Joseph Benincasa [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:16 PM  
**To:** Rasoulinejad, Ali [REDACTED] >  
**Cc:** Goodwin-Raab, Miranda [REDACTED] Matthew Kovach  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] August 22nd - NYC Districting Commission Public Hearing (virtual participation)

I am traveling but will be able to join the meeting at 8:30 Eastern Via Zoom. Thank you for the update.

I'll be brief and here is my testimony:

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

My name is Joseph Benincasa. I am President and CEO of the Entertainment Community Fund headquartered in Times Square and serve on the Board of Directors of the Times Square Alliance where I chair the Budget & Finance Committee. I respectfully submit this testimony to urge the New York City Districting Commission to modify the redistricting map by extending the boundary lines for Council Districts 3 and 4 from Broadway and 42nd Street to Columbus Circle. This will create a more equitable representation for our commercial and cultural district.

The Times Square district, 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 the district 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.

Times Square's western portion has been culturally and politically aligned with the Hell's Kitchen community for decades. However, in the current draft of the redistricting map, Times Square loses critical representation with constituencies west of Broadway. We believe a more equitable

solution can be achieved by continuing the boundary lines along Broadway from 42nd Street to Columbus Circle.

This will ensure the Times Square area can continue to work in partnership with and would establish an alignment of interests between residents, businesses, and the theater community, and be more representative of the diversity of these constituencies at the City Council, which has been vital to the success of Times Square for nearly a decade.

The partnership between Times Square and its surrounding communities has led to the successful passage of legislation that has eased pedestrian congestion, expanded public plazas, and improved the quality of life for people who live, work and visit the Times Square area.

It is critical that the City Council boundary lines be redrawn in a way that includes the diversity of commercial and residential interests that have helped make Times Square the economic engine it is today. It will also help ensure a more equitable recovery for the area in the years ahead.

Thank you for considering this recommendation to modify the district lines for the Times Square district.

Sincerely,

Joseph Benincasa

President & CEO

Entertainment Community Fund

and

Member of the Board of the

Times Square Alliance

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 22, 2022, at 10:33 AM, Rasoulinejad, Ali [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Community Member,

Thank you for registering to participate virtually for today's public hearing of the New York City Districting Commission.

**Please use this link to register and join the hearing virtually:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlpcumtpzoqGNMKblQKSBIPC-rG8HIUy7JK>

**You will be speaking in the approximate time range of 8:30pm to close. Please be ready to speak at the top of this time range. You will have three (3) minutes of speaking time. Due to incredibly high demand and time constraints, we ask that speakers adhere to this limit.**

The Commission values your input and appreciates you testifying on behalf of your community. We thank you for your continued interest and participation in the City Council redistricting process, and we look forward to hearing from you today. If you have any questions, you may e-mail [arasoulinejad@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:arasoulinejad@redistricting.nyc.gov).

Please feel free to submit written testimony to [publictestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:publictestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov).

Sincerely,

The New York City Districting Commission

--

Ali Rasoulinejad

Chief of Staff

New York City Districting Commission

Work: 212-346-6348 | Email: [ali@nyc.gov](mailto:ali@nyc.gov)

Web: <http://www.nyc.gov/districting>

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**DeCillis, Michael**

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**From:** JOYCE YEE [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:01 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] unifying Bensonhurst

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My name is Joyce Yee . I have lived in Bensonhurst for 23 years.

My occupation is housekeeper .

I support the Unity Map because it creates two strong plurality Asian American districts, one that contains only Bensonhurst, the other that keeps the Asian and Latino communities in Sunset Park together.

The 43% increase in APA population in Brooklyn supports two strong plurality Asian American districts.

I thank the Commission for trying to draw a majority APA district, but to create the one the Commission drew divides the neighborhood of Bensonhurst in 1/3rds and creates a plurality white neighborhood to the detriment of an Asian and Latino longstanding coalition district.

Bensonhurst is currently divided into 4 city council districts. The Asian American community is diluted among these 4 districts with approx. 25% of the APA population in each. Therefore, the Asian American community is NOT getting its fair share of resources because they are approximately ¼ in each District. Keeping the majority of Bensonhurst in one district guarantees the community will get its fair share of resources. Because our power is diluted, our needs are neglected.

Bensonhurst is a neighborhood. The plurality district is compact. We know the neighborhood. To divide this neighborhood into 1/3rds breaks up a neighborhood that frequents the same stores, restaurants, culturally sensitive services, and transportation lines. It sows conclusion into a community as to who represents them from street to street.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Judith E. Schneider [REDACTED] t>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 9:00 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] East Sixties Neighborhood Being Redistricting to Queens

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### **Monday's TESTIMONY 8/22/2022**

Good evening, Commissioners,

My name is Judy Schneider and I live Community Board 8 M in the east sixties.

Commissioners you must take into account your draft proposal for Manhattan, and R I violate four of the criteria outlined in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact such as R I and Manhattan—including the E S N, where a river runs through it.
- the proposed district is not compact,
- it results in an extreme crossover district, and
- it is very oddly shaped.

My Second comment is about our Hospital Institutions: Rockefeller, Weill Cornell, NY-Presbyterian, MSKCC and HSS, which are all being made part of city council District 26 Queens. Concerns with the current plan are now these institutions will be considered part of CC D26Q, where there are no hospitals---not even a birthing center. If the Queens area is looked at for needing additional medical funding, none will be given, since they now have so many institutions. Also, these institutions are **Manhattan Bureau Centric** and they are use to dealing with Manhattan Borough Offices for DOT, Sanitation, Building Dept. etc. Now they will have to deal with Queens Borough offices that are not aware of Manhattan issues. These institutions are used to having the council members full support in every way possible, as they are very familiar with the institutions. Not so with a Queens council member.

One last thought, RI & Manhattan only represent 27% of the people/voters in Council District 26Q – where will most of the Members funds be spent—in Queens? How will our institutions or any of Mannhattans schools, libraries, participatory budgeting, or any city services benefit with this change?



Commissioners CB8M has submitted a plan to the commission to keep our district whole and taking into account the population in each district. Please take a good look at this plan and implement it.

Thank you for listening to my testimony.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:27 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Julie McLarney  
[REDACTED] E 69th St New York, NY 10021-5414  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Batista, Julio <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:28 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] SAVE THE 160'S  
**Attachments:** DISTRICT 7 PROPOSED MAP.pdf; D7 NORTHERN BORDER.pdf

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## TESTIMONY CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING August 22, 2022

My name is Julio Batista. I am a resident of District 7, and I am requesting that the redistricting commission include the West 160s in the proposed new District 7. This area is unique and shares little characteristic to District 10. District 7's northern border should, at least, extend to 165th Street, West of Fort Washington Avenue and to 162nd Street, West of Broadway.

I am advocating for the map attached to this email and linked here: <https://districtr.org/plan/138462>

Washington Heights has always been at the heart of District 7. Those of us who live in the lower West 160s have witnessed over the years how distinct our community is. North of West 165 Street, the community makeup has shifted. You have more institutional and affluent residents as opposed to the south of West 165 Street, where residents' income, characteristics, and challenges are similar to the rest of District 7. Keeping this area unified will continue to provide one voice to deal with similar issues. United, we have been able to elect representatives who recognize our collective power and focus their attention on our needs. Divided, our community will be overshadowed by the communities just north of us.

In the last election, voters in the West 160s cast their vote for our current council member, Shaun Abreu. Because our community makes up a meaningful percentage of the vote, we have been able to ask our Council members for meaningful investments in our community. These investments include:

- \$1.2 million to upgrade and revitalize Lily Brown Playground, located between 162nd and 163rd and Riverside Drive.
- Nearly \$1 million for P.S. 4 on 160th and Amsterdam to upgrade the auditorium, gymnasium, and library.
- Over \$50,000 to Riverstone Senior Life Services at 99 Fort Washington, where he has also fought for senior traffic zones.
- Working with the Parks Department and Department of Transportation to make desperately needed repairs to the sidewalks and implement loading zones for deliveries between 160 to 165 and Riverside.
- A massive block party on West 161st Street where people from the lower West 160s could come together, as we always have, to enjoy one another's company and show our kids a good time.

The West 160's can't compete for attention and resources with upper Washington Heights and Inwood. The borders of any district are always at risk of being left out without a voice, but we hope that this isn't the case in District 7 because our northern border will stand strong and united. I respectfully urge you to please not tear apart our community and weaken our collective voice and diminish our collective voice. **Do not weaken the representation of our Latino community.** Do not dilute our vote or pack us into a single district. Let us continue to stand strong, hold our elected officials accountable, and allow our voices to be heard in our local government.



[REDACTED]

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**From:** Justin Reed [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:07 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Justin Reed  
[REDACTED] West 50th Street

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Karen Feldman [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 7:09 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ccb8555ed3e3441afa68808da84935e68%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968065743795805%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljo>

MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2F%2BYB4LYt  
vvRlrBG8pqkv5H7j0tuSuVEzfw3kqe7Pcrs%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Karen Feldman  
Chatham 44  
[REDACTED] W. 44th Street #5F  
NY, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Kasey Spickard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 1:21 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole - Use the "Unity Map"  
**Attachments:** IMG\_8056.jpg

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Hello,

My name is Kasey Spickard and I have been a resident of Hell's Kitchen for almost a decade living on 47th Street and 9th Avenue for the entirety of my life here.

The new, proposed redistricting of our neighborhood breaks up our community. The new map breaks my neighborhood up into 3 different districts. I have friends who would now be in each of the new districts and our voices would be separated, diluted, and not heard under this new map.

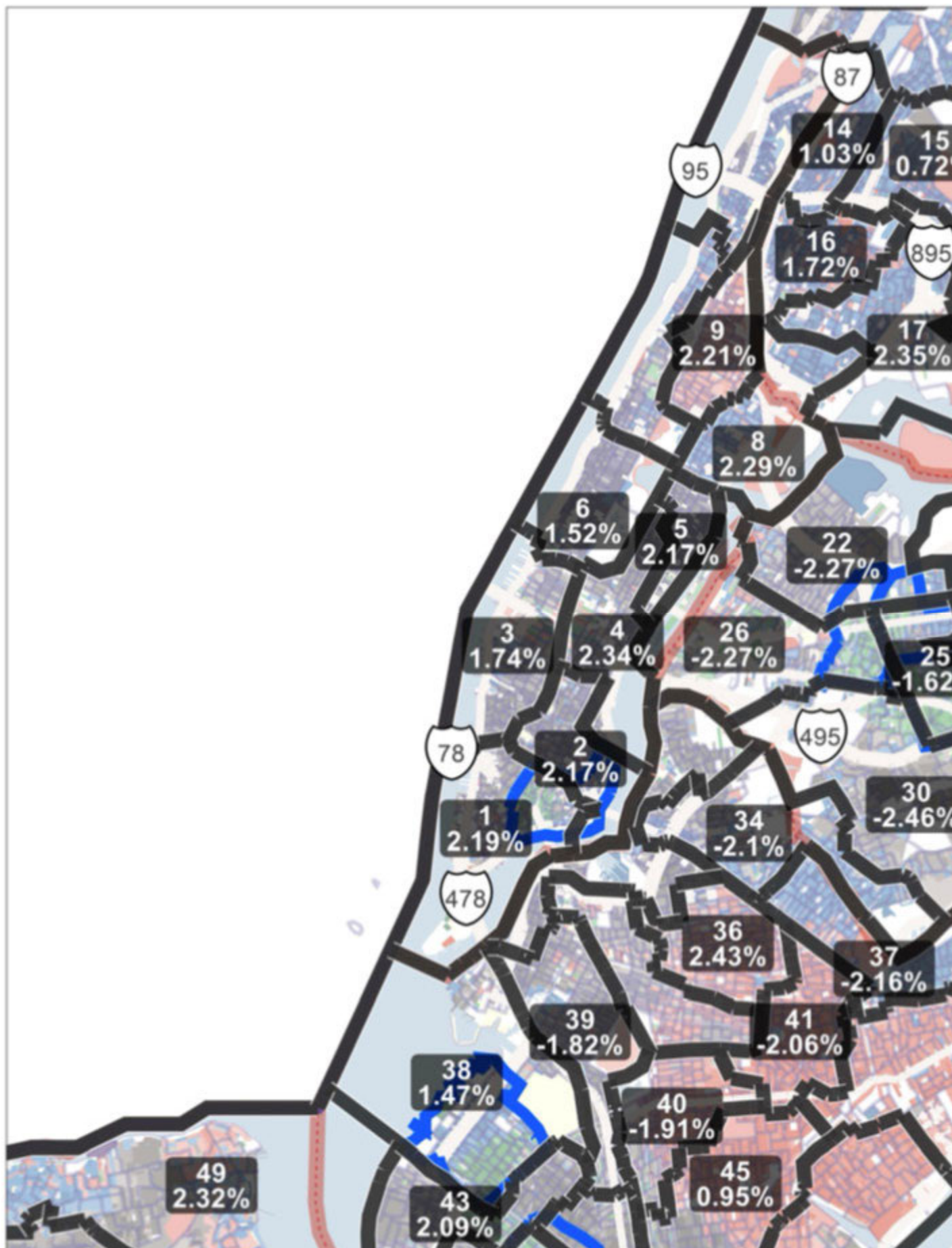
Hell's Kitchen is the most vibrant LGBTQ+ communities in the city and our needs are best addressed by a single representative. You can see this with COVID and Monkeypox.

Our neighborhood under the Unity Map is preserved, represented and heard. It would be an abomination to split this neighborhood into 3 districts. Please use the "Unity Map" and keep Hell's Kitchen whole.

Kasey

Unity Map





--

Kasey Adam Spickard



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Kelly Derauf [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:41 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Kelly Derauf

[REDACTED] W 55th Street, NY, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Kevin Corte [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:27 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] SAVE THE 160'S

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Forward suspect email to [phish@oti.nyc.gov](mailto:phish@oti.nyc.gov) as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a resident of District 7, and I am requesting that the redistricting commission SAVE THE 160's. Saving the 160's means that the lower 160's remain part of District 7 and do not become part of District 10. District 7's northern border should, at least, extend to 165th Street, West of Fort Washington Avenue and to 163rd Street, West of Broadway.

I am advocating for the map linked here: <https://districtr.org/plan/138688>.

In the last election, voters in the 160's cast their vote for our current council member, Shaun Abreu. Because the Washington Heights community makes up a meaningful percentage of the vote, they have been able to ask our council member for meaningful investments in our community. These investments include:

- \$1.2 million dollars to upgrade and revitalize Lily Brown Playground, located between 162nd and 163rd and Riverside Drive.
- Nearly \$1 million for P.S. 4 on 160th and Amsterdam to upgrade the auditorium, gymnasium, and library.
- Over \$50,000 to Riverstone Senior Life Services at 99 Fort Washington, where he has also fought for senior traffic zones.
- Working with the Parks Department and Department of Transportation to make desperately needed repairs to the sidewalks and implement loading zones for deliveries between 160 to 165 and Riverside.
- A massive block party on 161st Street where people from the lower 160's came together to enjoy one another's company

As a hispanic resident of District 7 I understand the importance of Majority-Minority Districts. As you know Council District 7 incorporates sections of both Community District 7 and 9. While Community District 9 is a Majority-Minority District, Community District 7 is NOT. We need the votes from the predominantly Hispanic 160s to ensure that parts of Community District 7 are represented by a Council Member who needs to earn the Hispanic vote to be elected.

I beg you - please do not tear apart what we have worked so hard to build. **Do not weaken representation of New York's Latino community.** Do not dilute the Latino vote or pack Latinos into a single district. Let the 160's continue to stand strong, hold our elected officials accountable, and have a voice in our local government.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kevin Corté  
[REDACTED] W. 102nd Street APT 3ER  
NY, NY 10025

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:30 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms Kristi Evans  
[REDACTED] E 69th St New York, NY 10021-5414  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Kristin Politi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:13 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted, as the attached table shows.

For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map, which was developed by a coalition of leading legal voting rights advocacy organizations representing Hispanic, Black and Asian communities. The Unity Map will preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole.

We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C905353e1fa3e4500b4b008da846dd792%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967905749159821%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=mWCzHH3KTzoEhPnxACDA1%2FrI2wHY5w8Fuk02pzqvJfw%3D&reserved=0>

Here's a little bit about my personal story and why I feel so strongly that Hell's Kitchen is one, very cohesive community that should not be broken up.

I first moved to New York City in 2011 and lived in Washington Heights for five years. Then Park Slope for two and a half years. It was not until I moved to Hell's Kitchen in late 2019, just three years ago, that I felt I was living in a true COMMUNITY. I immediately felt it as soon as I moved here, and throughout the pandemic. Neighbors started talking to

me on the street, and I've gotten close with business owners as well. I became aware of our many local community organizations, and am now an active member on the board of Hell's Kitchen Democrats, a political organization, and we have many more very active community betterment organizations, for example Hell's Kitchen Litter Legion, helping to keep our streets clean, and Hell's Kitchen Free Store for neighbors helping neighbors, and many traditions such as the 9th Avenue Food Festival. I talked to a family this year who travels in from New Jersey every year with their kids to attend this food festival. We even have several Facebook groups for the community, including Hell's Kitchen Neighbors and The Real Dogs of Hell's Kitchen for local dog owners.

I have also become close with local businesses. They had unique needs during the pandemic. For example, the owners of a Hell's Kitchen Thai restaurant with two locations in Hell's Kitchen told me they had to close one because they were no longer getting business from theater goers, sending some employees back to Thailand.

Hell's Kitchen also faced some serious concerns when a disproportionate number of homeless were relocated to very concentrated areas in our district compared to other districts, which created a poor situation for Hell's Kitchen residents and shelter residents alike. Residents banded together and were able to push back and work to expedite the return of residents back to shelters where they can get better medical and social services than the temporary solution offered by hotels (this complex issue discussed well in this article

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fw42st.com%2Fpost%2Fcheckout-watson-skyline-hotel-homeless-shelter-hells-kitchen%2F&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C905353e1fa3e4500b4b008da846dd792%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967905749316063%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=F4ACvrSqKCgznANuB9Zctx78GoD3TRxuqdwYObJ5VXw%3D&reserved=0>).

In my short time here I've made so many connections with neighbors, organizations and feel I am fully integrated into this vibrant community. For the first time in New York City I feel I am part of a neighborhood and a community of people who truly band together to celebrate our community, and when needed, fight for our unique needs and those of our many local businesses up and down 9th and 10th avenues. I know you will hear from people who have been in Hell's Kitchen 20-30 years, so I wanted to offer this unique perspective of someone who was recently an outsider, and now as a resident has been fully embraced by this neighborhood and its amazing community. I was shocked at the level of community engagement and involvement this neighborhood has. This was completely unexpected and has changed me from someone who did not actively engage in my local neighborhood, to someone who is eager to be involved, talk to neighbors, and support local businesses.

Hell's Kitchen acts as one, and I strongly believe our vibrant and cohesive community needs to be represented within one district.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kristin Politi

■ West 56th Street Apt 11N

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Kristopher Kelly [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:30 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,

Kristopher Kelly  
[REDACTED] West 44th Street  
New York, NY 10036



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Kristy Gerry <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:17 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Sincerely,  
Kristy Gerry  
[REDACTED] W 43rd Street  
Apt 2  
NY, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 11:40 AM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lauren Dukes

[REDACTED] 3rd Ave Apt 18K New York, NY 10128-3006 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Lauren Lavitt [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:41 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Manhattan Council District 5

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Hi,  
I have lived in Manhattan since 1995. I have been on the Upper East Side for 19 years. I have seen a large variety of changes but the latest ones are most concerning. This change is a bad idea.

I was under the impression the District Commission must follow a series of criteria per NYC Charter. This draft violates four of them by (1) proposing a very oddly shaped district; proposing a district that (2) is not compact; and (3) results in an extreme crossover between boroughs; and most importantly (4) DOES NOT KEEP NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST INTACT!

Isn't that what NYC is all about? Neighborhoods and communities, that is the backbone of NYC.

PLEASE DO NOT SEPARATE THIS DISTRICT!!!

--  
Lauren Lavitt  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Earthlink <k[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 7:29 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** susan ameel; Gordonmstanley Stanley; Renee Lutz; Elke Fears; Micheline Grigot; Wilmer Hernandez; Umberto Melchor; Adele Bove; Kevin Sutorius; Vincent Fanwick; Angelina Joyce; Catherine Hartwell; Jason Baker; Ingrid Levia; Christian Duque; Johanna Fabre; Kathleen Treat; martin treat  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

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We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

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As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

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Thank you,  
Leslie Johnson  
[REDACTED] W 43rd St  
Apt 4RE  
New York, NY 20036

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Lilian Zenteno [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:45 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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C4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fo730ikYvDHMPd  
r33%2BtQFq%2FWXM2D6QzwPzT2bQ5UFIU%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

<< Insert FirstLilian NAME and ZentenoLast NAME >> << Insert your Building [REDACTED] w 47staddress >>

Sent from my iPhone



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Lisa Carrara [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:32 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ce797e67036dc4832b58b08da845bf95d%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967827829127962%7CUnknown%7CTWfpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoi>



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OLKh85qQfli8Dxhq7EKS2iSN9Pd2Xlk%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Lisa Carrara


■ River Place, Apt 2922

\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Districting Commission,

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C639e4173e6584757f59e08da847e2682%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cadc1%7C0%7C0%7C637967974619010149%7CUnknown%7CTWFPbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJlQjIoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6lk1haWwLiLCJXVCIMn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=n4JUMErkD3JiRZyVj5x0F1SdTbn37k4Q4U02kLsj4IA%3D&reserved=0

Maki Nanatawara  
 W 48 Street, #2E  
 New York, NY 10036

**Emailed testimony on Redistricting, Aug. 22, 2022**

**Christine Gorman**

My name is Christine Gorman. I live at [REDACTED] West 55<sup>th</sup> Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues. I have lived in Hell's Kitchen for more than 30 years. I am the president of Hell's Kitchen Democrats, president of the West 55<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association and a founding member of the Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Coalition.

There are a lot of people who couldn't get a speaking time tonight either in person or on Zoom and who are here in the room with me at the Schomburg Center and I want to take a moment to recognize them.

I would also like to acknowledge our City Council Member, Erik Bottcher, who is standing in solidarity with us tonight.

You will hear many reasons tonight why Hell's Kitchen is a special place that deserves to be kept whole. You will also hear that ALL of us support the Unity Map for City Council District 3 as a way to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole.

Hell's Kitchen is a historic district, dating from the 1880s. An attempt in 1959 to rename the neighborhood "Clinton" after a New York State governor never really took off.

Hell's Kitchen runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street. Community Board 4 uses these boundaries, tourism guidebooks recognize these boundaries, the NYTimes, NY Daily News, NY Post and our own West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Magazine all use these same boundaries.

I love how diverse my neighborhood is: in race and ethnicity, age and economic status, sexual orientation and gender identity.

We have come together tonight as a community to keep Hell's Kitchen whole. Just like we did back in the 1970s when we worked to create the Special Clinton district, which to this day preserves the low-rise residential character of Hell's Kitchen and allows our small businesses to thrive.

The 2013 City Council map placed most of Hell's Kitchen in one district – CD-3. The Commission's preliminary map, however, slices Hell's Kitchen into three major chunks.

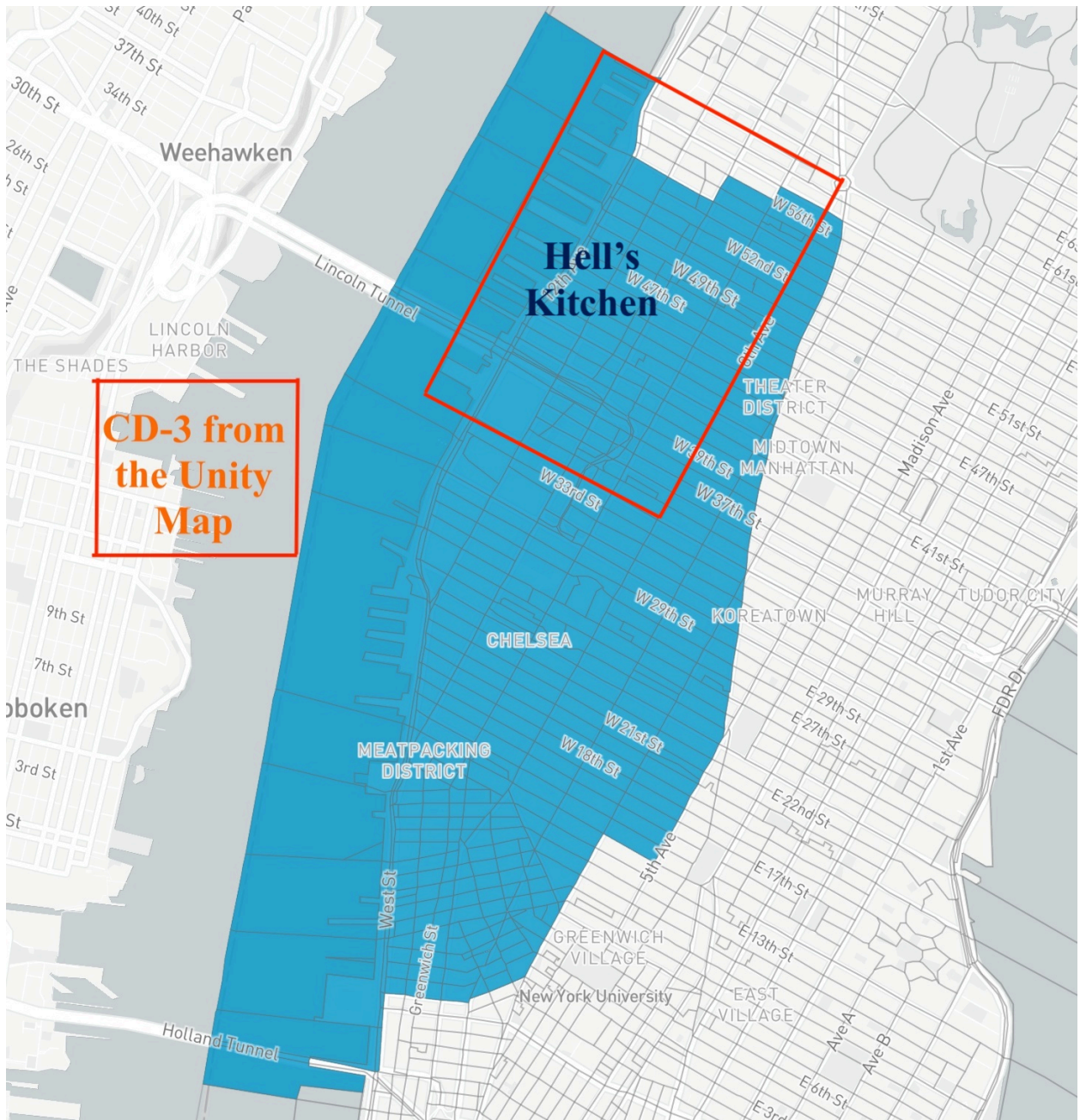
This would be like taking a giant wrecking ball to our community. The Special Clinton District won't be the main focus of any single City Council member, making it easier for developers to pick it apart.

The Unity map for CD-3 runs from West 57<sup>th</sup> in the north with a couple, small southward jogs to the Hudson River, along Broadway and parts of Fifth and Sixth Avenues to the East and Clarkson Street in the South.

It would include most of Hell's Kitchen as well as the Special Clinton district.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>



**Diversity.** We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population. But the preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting our political voice in direct violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map **keeps ALL of Chelsea** in CD-3 but **splits up Hell's Kitchen** into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted, as the following tables show.

## Demographic Trends for CD-3 (2013 Boundary Lines)

	2010 Census	2020 Census
Population	168,489	202,572
Hispanic (any race)	13.1 %	14.6 %
White non-Hispanic	67.6 %	59.7 %
Black non-Hispanic	4.7 %	5.6 %
Asian non-Hispanic	11.8 %	15.2 %
Other non-Hispanic	0.5 %	0.9 %
2 or more races Non-Hispanic	2.3 %	4.0 %

Source: NYC Department of City Planning

# Demographic Comparison of Hell's Kitchen, Chelsea and Proposed CD-3

	Hell's Kitchen	Chelsea	Commission CD-3	Unity CD-3
Population	74,621	63,039	173,586	175,888
Hispanic (any race)	18.2 %	18.2 %	13.6 %	15.4 %
White non-Hispanic	48.1 %	57.5 %	62.7 %	58.2 %
Black non-Hispanic	7.5 %	6.6%	5.2 %	6 %
Asian non-Hispanic	21.4 %	13.0 %	13.4 %	15.5 %

Sources: <https://districtr.org/edit/137381?event=nyc2022>; <https://districtr.org/COI/138335>; <https://districtr.org/edit/135300?event=nyc2022>; <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

# Demographic Comparison of Current vs Proposed CD-3 maps

	Current CD-3	Commission CD-3	Unity CD-3
Population	202,572	173,586	175,888
Hispanic (any race)	14.6 %	13.6 %	15.4 %
White non-Hispanic	59.7 %	62.6 %	58.2 %
Black non-Hispanic	5.6 %	5.2 %	6 %
Asian non-Hispanic	15.2 %	13.4 %	15.5 %
Other non-Hispanic	0.9 %	n/a	n/a
2 or more races Non-Hispanic	4.0 %	n/a	n/a

Sources: NYC Department of City Planning, NYC Districting Commission, Unity Coalition

**Small Business.** Ninth and Tenth Avenues from the West 30s to the West 50s are the main commercial thoroughfares of Hell's Kitchen. A variety of



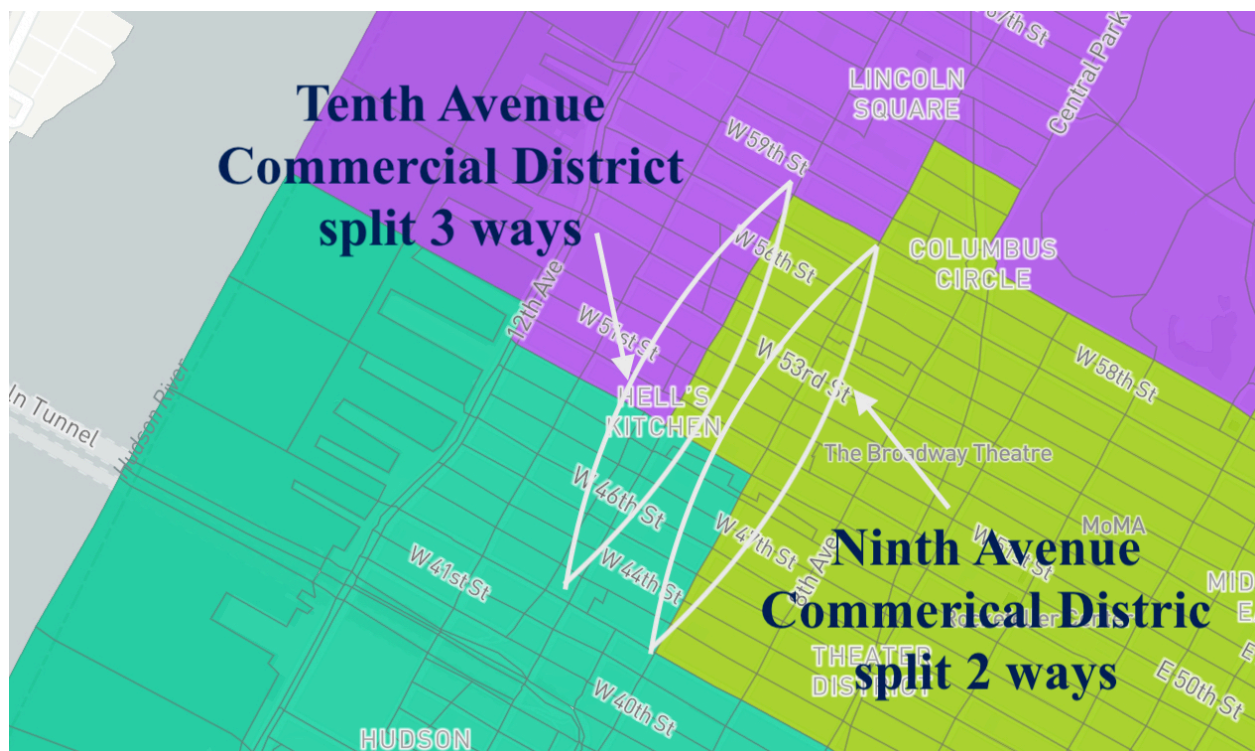
small businesses thrive along these two broad avenues, including restaurants, bars, hardware stores and lots of mom-and-pop shops.

There are many issues that we have worked on together as small businesses. We are more effective because we can bring our concerns to a single City Council member and come up with effective solutions together.

The preliminary map would devastate our thriving small business community. Tenth Avenue would get split right up the middle. Businesses on the west side of Tenth Avenue above West 49th would be in CD-6. Those on the east side of Tenth Avenue would land in CD-4 and all businesses on Tenth Avenue south of West 49th would be in CD-3.

Meanwhile businesses on Ninth Avenue would be split between two City Council Districts.

The preliminary map would decimate the ability of our small businesses to work together with City Council.





**Special Clinton District.** Splitting Hell's Kitchen into three parts will make it easier for real estate developers to chip away at the Special Clinton District, which was created in 1973 and



“designed to promote and protect public health, safety, general welfare and amenity. Because of the unique geographical location of the Clinton community, situated between the waterfront on the west and a growing central business district on the east, it is necessary to provide specific programs and regulations which will assure realization of community and citywide goals.”


Chief among these goals, as stated in [City Zoning laws](#):


- a) “to preserve and strengthen the residential character of the community”
- b) “to permit rehabilitation and new construction within the area in character with the existing scale of the community and at rental levels which will not substantially alter the mixture of income groups currently residing in the area”
- c) ” to preserve the small-scale character and variety of existing stores and activities and to control new commercial uses in conformity with the existing character of the area”


We need to keep Hell's Kitchen whole in order to protect the Special Clinton district. See map of Special Clinton District below.





 *Special Clinton District Boundary*  
 *Area Boundary*

 **A** Preservation Area

 **B** Perimeter Area

 **B** Portion of Perimeter Area B also subject to additional 42nd Street Perimeter Area regulations. (**See map below**)

 **B** Portion of Perimeter Area B also subject to Article VIII, Chapter I (*Special Midtown District*)


 **C** Other Areas

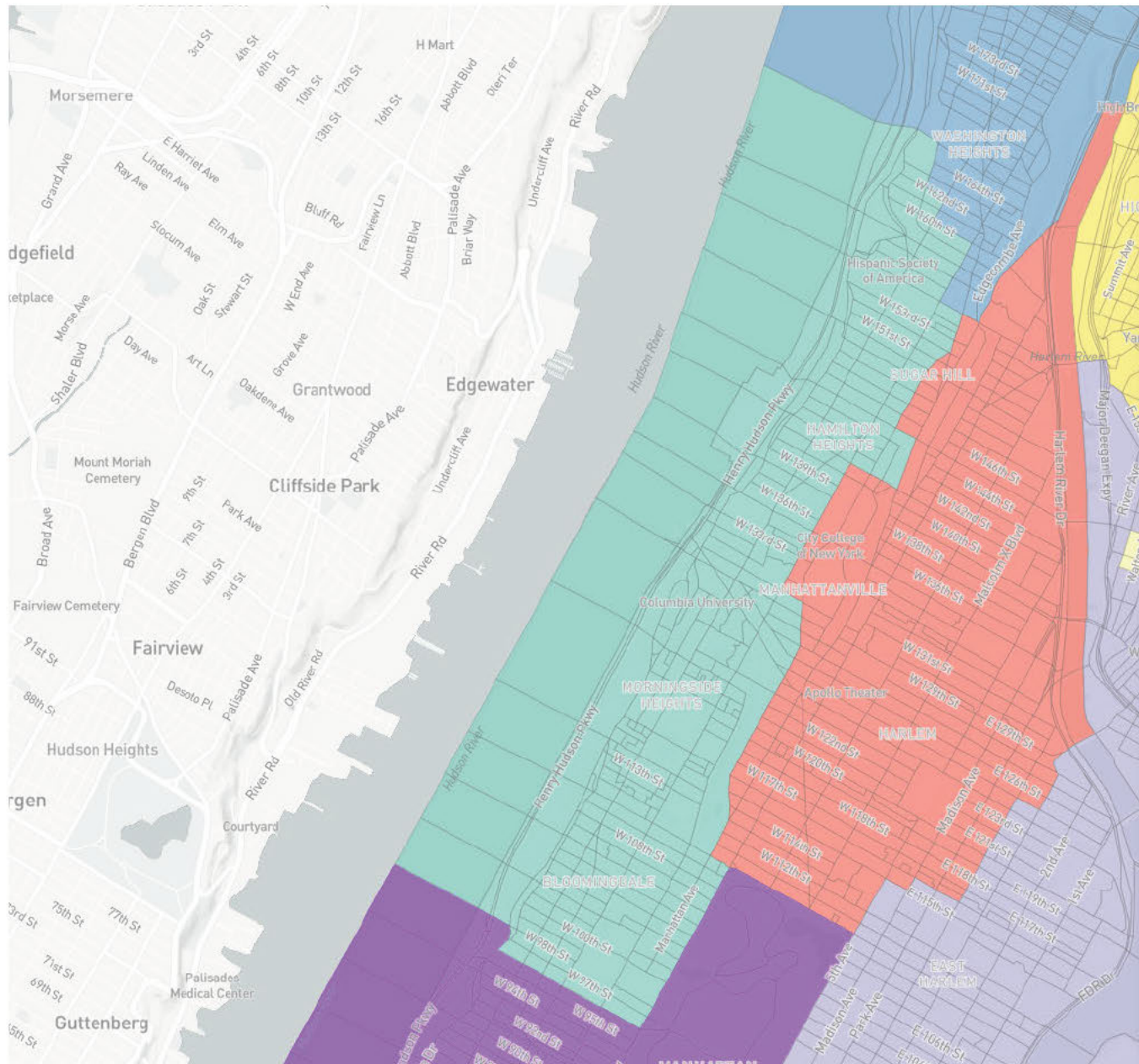
C1 Northern Subarea

C1-1 Special Use Regulations Area

C1-2 Special Use Regulations Area

C2 Western Subarea

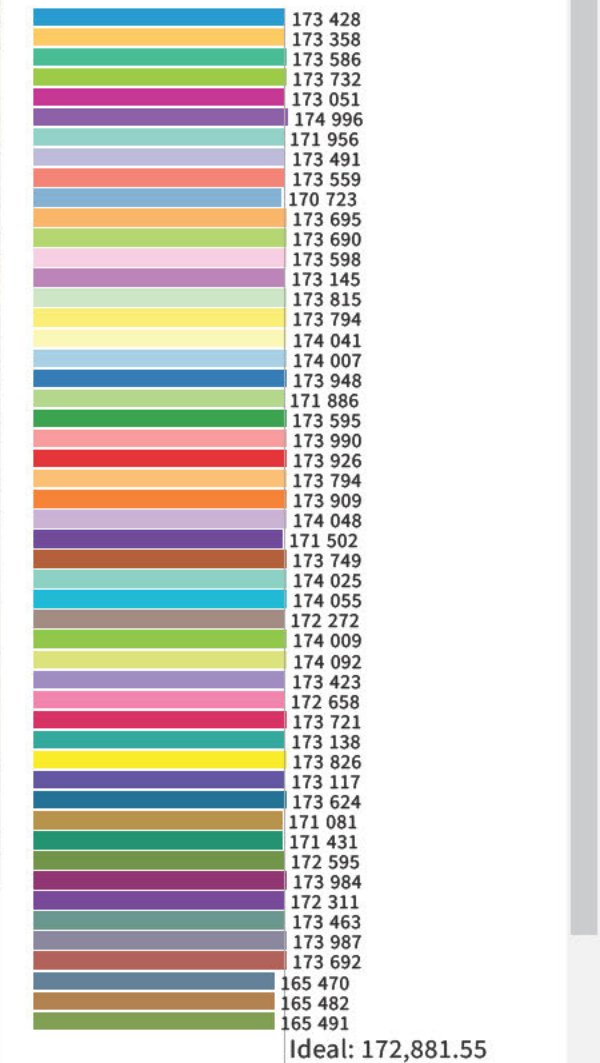
 Excluded Area



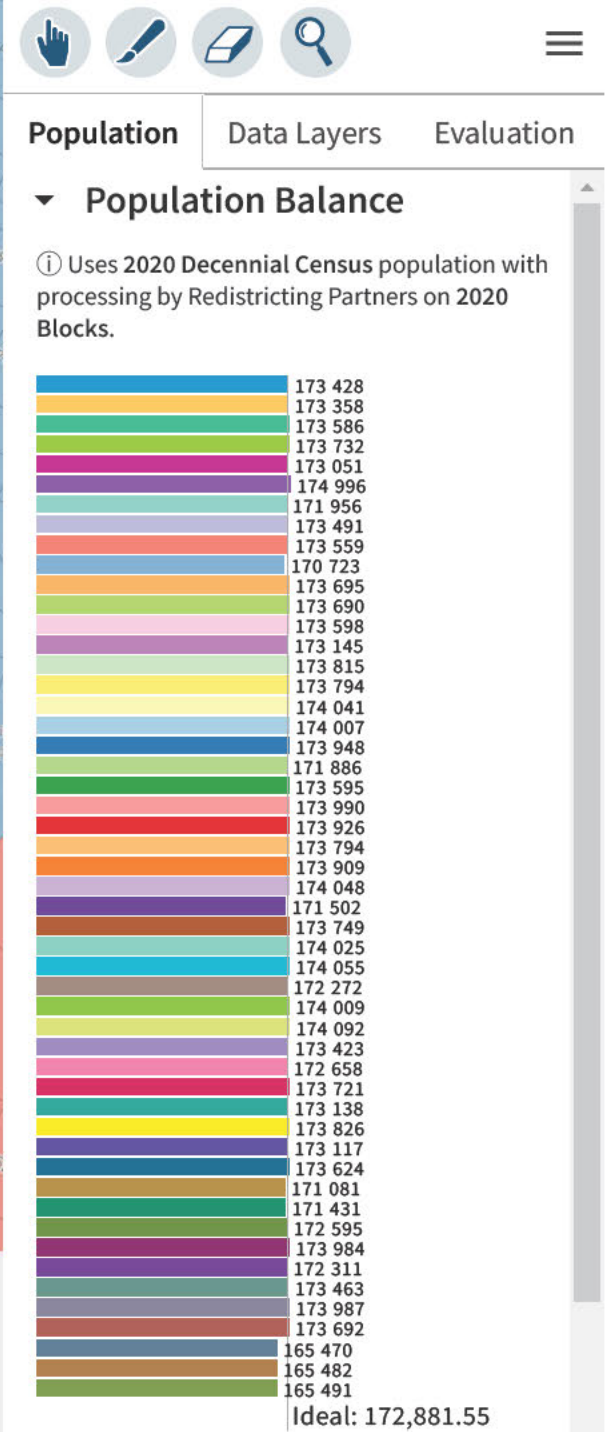
Population Data Layers Evaluation

## Population Balance

Uses 2020 Decennial Census population with processing by Redistricting Partners on 2020 Blocks.







[REDACTED]

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**From:** Marc Haves [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:14 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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Please stop the redistricting of Sutton Place. Queens has nothing to do with Manhattan. Whoever put you in charge of this position needs to rethink this action.

Marc W. Haves  
Haves, Pine & Seligman



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** margo cates [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 1:41 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony re the Unity Map. Hearing on Aug22 at the Schomburg Library. Cannot attend in person, submitting letter instead. thank you. mcates

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Hello, my name is MARGO CATES. I reside in the Hudsonview Apartment at 747 10th Ave.  
I have been a Hell's Kitchen resident for 36 years, and for a dozen of them I was also a CB4 member.

I am committed to having one strong unified district that in spite of the renovation and gentrification of this area, will continue to reflect any diversity in the neighborhood.  
I believe this land should be kept whole (as seen in the UNITY MAP), and doing so is my request of the Commission.

I recall with affection just how diverse this neighborhood used to be -- a chunky mix of industrial, retail, service, and residential buildings, often side by side.  
Although the 'hood has gotten sleeker over the years, the grit of some of its long time residents is stuck between the stones and bricks of the older buildings.

This area has the small off-off Broadway theaters where you as just an ordinary person might see the development of the most worthwhile audience-connected theater.  
And the restaurants, that are still open, that have been here a long time (not just the ones that fill in the spaces) were places for every occasion, or as a single person for a cheap meal with a book as companion.

Yes, there have been many changes over my three dozen years of being here, and yes, many that I don't agree with, however we still held together.  
Our needs were OUR needs, not this faction or that, or an elected official getting around to answer some pocket of their constituency.

From our north to south and our east to west there are different textures, complexions, ages, of the buildings, the pavements, the people and the parks.  
We all want, need to be seen. And our HOOD -- HELL'S KITCHEN -- needs to continue to be seen and heard, in and with all our wonderful differences.

The Unity Map was released on July 18 by a coalition of the leading legal voting rights advocacy organizations representing the BIPoC community.  
I am white (although I prefer to identify more particularly as being of Eastern European Ashkenazic Jewish) and I am committed to a diversity of our population and its representation, our numbers correctly reflected in Council.

Combining Hell's Kitchen into one city Council District rather than dividing the neighborhood into three parts will bring this minority representation into better balance across the entirety of City Council District 3.  
From 34th to 59th Streets and from Eighth Ave to the Hudson River, those are our true borders, hewn over time and history. There are times for changes, but not at this time and not at the expense of who and what we are.

And so, I ask you to adopt the Unity map for City Council District 3 to keep Hell's Kitchen whole and preserve our diversity.

Thank you.

*margo cates*

*kindly confirm receipt of this email testimony.*



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Marion Michaels [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 9:34 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,

<<NAME>>Marion Mooney

<<ADDRESS>> [REDACTED] W 43rd St #19F, NYC 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Mark Steven Robinson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:48 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Dear Redistricting Commission:

Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street. The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen. The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member. We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3. The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but arbitrarily splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts. As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted. Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2% of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4% of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0% of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5% of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6% of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1% of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular. That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole!

Thank you.

In Service,

**Mark Robinson**

**Founder Hell's Kitchen Democrats**

[REDACTED] West 46<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Dee Pifer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:40 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Roosevelt Island Redistricting

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>  
> Dear Gentlepeople, I write to you as a resident of Roosevelt Island since 1985.. I worked in Manhattan until my retirement a few years ago. I remain connected to Manhattan for connection with former colleagues and friends, shopping, entertainment, dining out and worshiping at my church. I do not head out to Queens for any of these things. The tram is my preferred transport. Would a Queens rep prioritize it? I'm not sure.  
>  
> I am concerned about the redistricting draft map that would have Roosevelt Island become affiliated with Queens. I urge you to re-examine the plan and secure our island's continued relationship with the Manhattan local and state leaders who have guided us so well over the years.  
>  
> Sincerely,  
> Mary Dee Pifer, [REDACTED] Main St, NY 10044  
>  
> Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Matt Fox <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:01 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

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Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C5496bb5743074353444608da8489d79e%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968024826113137%7CUnknown%7CTWFPbGZsb3d8eyJWljo>

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PJdpW28lsdTYzEVoumJpJTiqiSQ9I%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Matt Fox

■ West 50th Street

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Matthew Aparicio <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:24 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C36f541b50123456423cb08da848d10bd%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968039710741162%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DwNsTCUoIYT e9%2F%2BfEPH1YSPiWkMA8OMUfn4znxhivRQ%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Matthew Aparicio  
[REDACTED] W50th St, Apt 2W, New York, NY 10019

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Maurice Boothe Jr. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:45 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Maurice Boothe Jr.

[REDACTED] W 55<sup>th</sup> St Apt 9A  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Maya H [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:02 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C076a8e1fbf234264082b08da84818e6e%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967989232241902%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xgv7NjSTIIOWu5by%2BbHRs8FWutsxuC90codPmF6g9Rk%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Maya Hernandez  
[REDACTED] w 43rd St



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Meaghan McElroy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:09 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Meaghan McElroy  
[REDACTED] 11th Ave  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Melanie LaPatin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:22 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Sincerely,  
<Melanie LaPatin  
[REDACTED] west 43rd street

Please...

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Melanie Rose [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 9:21 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Changes to the City Council District Lines

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Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Melanie Rose

Melanie Rose

Cell: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:24 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Sincerely,  
Meredith Mazzotta  
[REDACTED] w 42nd street

**Testimony of Meryl Brodsky, District Leader**  
**73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District, Part A, to the New York City Council Districting Commission, to Amend the Proposed City Council District Lines to include at least East 60<sup>th</sup> to East 63<sup>rd</sup> Streets, from Lexington to Third Avenues in the 4<sup>th</sup> Council District, August 22, 2022, 5:30-9:00 p.m.**

I. I am Meryl Brodsky, district leader in the 73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District, Part A, that extends from East 63rd Street to East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and comprises both Council Districts (CD) 4 and 5. The proposed lines, however, take me and parts of my district in the East 60s out of the 4<sup>th</sup> and into the 5<sup>th</sup> CD, which extends only to East 59<sup>th</sup>-60<sup>th</sup> Streets. This creates a cul-de-sac limiting access to Community Board (CB) 6 for those residing in CB 8 and limits access to CB 8 for those residing in CB 6. Historically, both council districts have shared open space, joint task forces and mutual concerns, including the overdevelopment of a tower at East 58<sup>th</sup> Street, the tramway, Manhattanhenge, expansion of the FDR highway, pocket parks and the East 50s-60s esplanade.

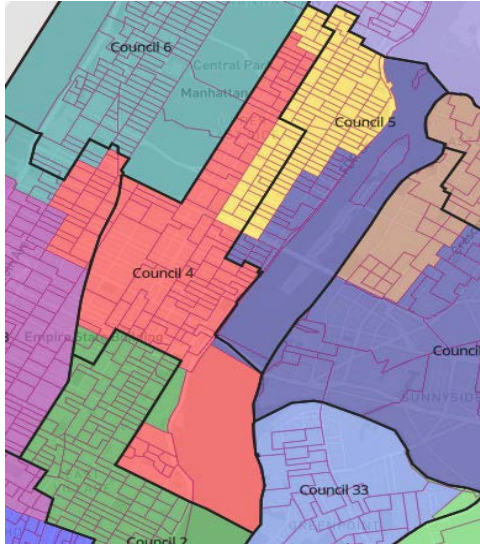


My district includes an intriguing mélange, unique commercial and residential venues, an array of UN emissaries consulates and embassies from 193 member states, restaurants of every ethnicity, taste or fancy, and Grand Central Station. I happily serve on the boards of the Turtle Bay Association (TBA) and Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza (“Friends”) for more than 20 years. We share outdoor park events, block fairs and regularly testify before committees and subcommittees of the Council as well as CB 6 and 8. We work alongside the East Midtown Partnership (BID), and groups including the Sutton Place Community (SAC), and Murray Hill.

I request, at least, that my current election district, ED 36 (1,104 pop.) (12<sup>th</sup> Cong. Dist., 73<sup>rd</sup> AD, 4<sup>th</sup> CD), as well as many other EDs, remain in the 4<sup>th</sup> CD. Any ED lower than East 59<sup>th</sup> Street could be switched. For example, the 28<sup>th</sup> ED (1,275 pop.), encompassing Sutton Place, could be switched to the 5<sup>th</sup>, in exchange for the 36<sup>th</sup> ED in the 4<sup>th</sup>, thus extending the district to East 57<sup>th</sup> Street which covers community board 6 as well as 8. Here, the example adds 171 persons to district 5, with fewer persons, to meet the criteria of equal numbers.

II. See <https://davesredistricting.or./maps#viewmap::c0daf44c-24ac-4216-93a1-0dbaecfffb37>.

**MAP 1** There follows the reasons for my request for ED<sup>1</sup> changes. They are based on the



**City Districting Commission’s criteria in the New York City Charter, Chapter 2-A, Sections 50, 51, 52,** or guidelines for evaluating “one person, one vote.” Such parameters require equal numbers per district (172,882, 5% margin of error); racial equity; proportional partisan representation, etc. Further, each district must be (i) reasonably compact; and (ii) not oddly shaped, a red

flag for gerrymandering. Due east, running south from 59<sup>th</sup> Street along the East River to 14<sup>th</sup> Street, we have an “oddly-shaped” trapezoid including Peter Cooper Village and Stuyvesant Town, home to the current councilmember, which lacks “compactness.” The western portion, extending from Central Park South to West 50s or loosely, Hell’s kitchen, if taken together with the long extension running roughly from the Apple store at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 59<sup>th</sup> Street to East 95<sup>th</sup> near the Central Park entrance, resembles a firearm, with cylinder, barrel and grip. If changes cannot be made, the whole configuration could be shot down.

I attend meetings of the CB#8 Voting Reform Task Force which deserves credit for putting redistricting on the front burner and a great resolution, keeping much of districts 4 and 5 intact. A similar resolution was approved by the CB#6 Budget & Governmental Affairs Committee.<sup>2</sup>As an East Sixties Neighborhood Association member, I am pleased to hear advocacy for the East 60s as well as that of Chris Collins for the Sutton Place Conservancy in the East 50s. Note without the amazing assistance of Dan Kaminsky, Citizens Union Policy Manager, we would not have state-of-the-art instruction or interactive maps. Many thanks to everyone whose testimony we hope will have auspicious results.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments, [REDACTED]

---

<sup>1</sup> In a nationwide cooperative program for the 1980 census, the Census Bureau gave States the opportunity to request use of these election precinct boundaries as the boundaries of census enumeration districts (EDs) or, in some areas, census blocks. <https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/reference/GARM...>

<sup>2</sup> See CB #8 Resolution against the proposed lines, <https://www.cb8m.com/event/23792/> and CB #6 Resolution in opposition, <https://airtable.com/shrrsHSVp9yX9GALs/tblztcUPiopggeJAc?backgroundColor=blue>.



## HYPOTHETICAL REVISION TO COUNCIL DISTRICTS 4 AND 5

**MAP 2**



**MAP 3**



**KEY** – Council district 2 – green  
Council district 4 – red  
Council district 5 – yellow  
Council district 6 – aquamarine  
Council district 26 – blue

### **Proposed Revisions**

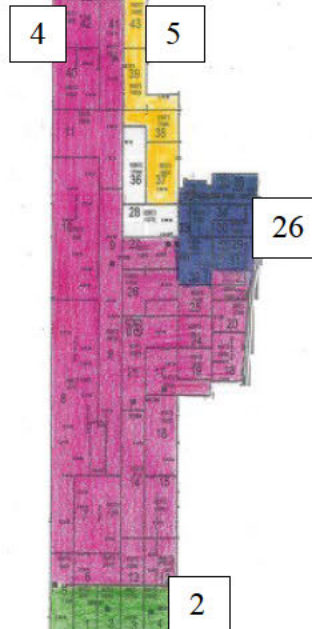
The blocks and precincts comprising Election Districts (EDs) 36 and 28 reflect the changes if ED 36 becomes District 4 and ED 28 becomes District 5:

1,104 persons in ED 36 (pink) are added to the 4<sup>th</sup> council district;

1,275 persons in ED 28 (yellow) are added to the 5<sup>th</sup> council district, a net gain of 171.



**73<sup>rd</sup>  
Assembly  
District**



### **MAP(S) 4 Council Districts in the 73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District**

**KEY** – Council district 2 – green  
Council district 4 – purple  
Council district 5 – yellow  
Council district 26 – blue

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District lines may be redrawn for election year 2024. Switching two EDs, for example, 36 and 28, would continue to give Sutton Place and Turtle Bay communities access to both community boards 6 and 8 as well as to council members, districts 4 and 5.





[REDACTED]

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**From:** Michael Danz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:43 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Sincerely,  
Michael Danz  
[REDACTED] W42nd St.  
--

**Michael Danz**  
Art Director  
[LinkedIn](#)  
[Portfolio](#)



A Not-for-Profit Corporation  
east sixties neighborhood association, inc.  
**P.O Box 1855**  
**New York, NY 10021**  
**Tel 212-713-5826 • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)**

TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

FROM: Name

Address:

DATE: July 27, 2022

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

VIA EMAIL TO: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

Good day Chair Walcott,

The plan presented for 54 blocks of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island is not acceptable to the residents of the East Sixties. We believe it violates the charter requirements of keeping neighborhoods compact and in tack This plan would make CD26 an oddly shaped district with practical difficulties: they are - would the Council Member have a district office in Manhattan as well as on Roosevelt Island; would the Council Member cover Community Board meetings in Board 8 & 6 and have full membership on both Borough Boards, and finally we believe this part of Community District 8 would have a diminution of representation. While other Districts have physical boundaries in more than one borough, they are directly adjacent to one another. They do not have a river separating them as in this proposed plan. The issues in CD26 are not the same as in CD5. There are several well-established neighborhood associations whose membership would be torn asunder.

The issues that involve City Agencies such as Transportation, Sanitation, Parks etc. are different in the two council districts. Then there are two other major issues that would tear our community apart. The **first** is the hospital corridor with their buildings for the major institutions many of which would be in CD26 under the new plan. But many of their offices and allied buildings and staff and doctors would be located in/or live in CD5 making it difficult for discussing issues constantly arising. The **second** is Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 51 Districts for the least amount of park space in the city. This plan would remove: 24 Sycamores Park; ¾ of Honey Locust Park—with ¼ remaining in D5; most of our East River Esplanade and Andrew Haswell Green Park Phase 1 & 2A—2B is under construction at this time. Phase 3 has not yet started and will likely cost \$25 Million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the voters in her/his District? Most of the funding will probably be spent in the Queens part of the district. **This would result in CD 5 having the least amount of Park space in NYC.**

We strongly recommend that you study and implement Community Board 8's resolution and plan, as it takes into account the number of residents in all the adjourning districts.

Our Neighborhood Association depends greatly on our Council Member and her office staff, which is easy to reach by a short bus ride. I strongly urge the New York City Districting Commission to reconsider this ill-conceived plan and not divide an indivisible and cohesive neighborhood.

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Michael William G [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:45 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Michael Garcia  
[REDACTED] 10th Avenue

--

MICHAEL WILLIAM G.  
| FOUNDER + OPERATOR |

HOME'EDGED NYC

MAN'EDGED MAGAZINE

MWG CREATIVE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Michael Papirmeister <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:22 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Sincerely,  
Michael Papirmeister  
[REDACTED] W 45th St, Apt. 5RE  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Michael Sherling [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:37 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C1d65c677910e4a65625308da848ed67a%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968046314318693%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljo>

MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XqL8fKXIpuT3wuOb37z8uby5Xa3mr2rnklzanhdKuMk%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

<< Insert First NAME and Last NAME >>

<< Insert your Building address >>



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:36 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Monica Gerard-Sharp  
Sutton Pl S New York, NY 10022-2493  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** MONICA MORANTE <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:05 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen whole

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Want Hell's kitchen to stay whole.

Monica Morante

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Monique Sanchez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:04 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cdd859c9d97a24408083d08da8468a85a%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967882287655615%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljo>

MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5PhdO1f4fN7N  
2QIpgEwXf0R%2BSYMdYaNn82dyk%2BcFrXM%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,  
Monique Sanchez  
■ 8th Ave  
New York, NY 10019

Sent from a far-off, distant land

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Nelida Morales <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:46 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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C4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xKic7DDptU7r80  
3BFnUk3XCJgGMbVi6JnDloDoYeZ9g%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

<< Nélida Morales Hernández >>

<< [REDACTED] 10th Ave. New York, NY 10019>>

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Nick Petrovich [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:21 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

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Sincerely,  
Nick Petrovich

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Nicolas Leeper [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:34 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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The preliminary plan for City Council districts denies residents of Hell's Kitchen that representation, splitting the neighborhood across three districts (3, 4, and 6).

This proposal violates the New York City Charter. Chapter 2-A, Section 52(c) requires that the NYC Districting Commission "keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other." Hell's Kitchen is undeniably a neighborhood with established ties of common interest for its residents and business community.

There is no justifiable reason that the NYC Districting Commission has to split Hell's Kitchen. The NYC Charter ranks the importance of the districting requirements and only two are more important than the requirement that neighborhoods be kept together: population equality and fair and effective representation of minorities. Population equality does not require the splitting of Hell's Kitchen—there are a multitude of district configurations that would leave Hell's Kitchen intact while ensuring population equality. And far from ensuring fair and effective representation of racial and language minorities, the splitting of Hell's Kitchen's minority community into three whiter districts where they have less of an opportunity to influence elections *undermines* their representation.

The NYC Districting Commission must reverse course and make Hell's Kitchen whole in order to comply with the NYC Charter and allow the people of Hell's Kitchen to have a representative who will look out for the interests of this community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Nicolas Leeper  
[REDACTED] W 48th St Apt 34

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Nicki Lindheimer [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:57 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony; Luisa Cerutti  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,

Nicole Lindheimer  
Luisa Cerutti

■ w 44th st  
NY, NY 10036



August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

RE: Redistricting 71<sup>st</sup> AD 31<sup>st</sup> Senate District

I'm appreciative of this opportunity to express concerns related to the redistricting proposal. As a long time resident (more than 30 years) living in the Hamilton Heights area represented in the 71<sup>st</sup> AD & 31<sup>st</sup> Senate District.

My name is Patricia Scarborough, with extremely strong ties in the communities, effectively partnering and collaborating with others, residents and city agencies alike improving the quality of life for everyone, specifically, seniors and youths.

It's imperative that as a diverse community, with significant demographic changes in the past decade and longer that we are transparent and committed to doing the work for the constituents. Our community is stronger than ever, with representation from the current members of New York State Assembly and Senate. In addition, the Assemblyman ensures that our diverse communities are represented in its legislative bodies and constituents concerns are addressed and resolved.

A major concern for me if there's a redistricting, is this move political or is it what's best for the community/constituents. With multiple representations, there will be multiple platforms, which can exclude others from having a seat at the table. Proper representation ensures that everyone have a fair shot at electing candidates who are represented at all levels of government and will effectively and efficiently address relevant issues and concerns.

Re-districting is another distraction for non-voters to not trust our political process and system. This process appears to be an opportunity for our political parties to create desired results that helps them or hurt the opposing group who is against them. The drawing of electoral district lines seems to be to the advantage of a party or group. (Gerrymandering)

An Independent Commission is needed to draw boundaries / redistricting free from political control. Equal representation and compromise is required to strike an acceptable balance.

In these very critical times, it's extremely important for funding to be appropriately allocated in all communities. The needs and concerns of the community are in alignment with our representatives.

Thank you,  
Patricia Scarborough



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Patrick Daley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 1:02 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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C4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gUCMI9GR8O5y87SBmcztE8%2FX%2FSsv9BHZDCtXGgfeReY%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Patrick Daley

■ West 48th St #3FW NY,NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Patrick McNally [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:50 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Sincerely,  
Patrick McNally  
[REDACTED] W 47th

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Paula Jaslow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:53 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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When I moved onto W. 45th Street in 1991 at the age of 35 I was well accustomed to adapting to new environments, I'd lived in 13 different towns or cities, plus Manhattan in two other locations. In Hell's Kitchen I found a community for the first time in my life. And miraculously the community is diverse in terms of age, race, ethnicity, and economic levels. This is a rare and wonderful phenomenon! An urban planner's dream, and mine, too, coincidentally. I have no illusions that this vibrancy happened by accident, it is the direct result of the Clinton special zoning district. The fact that Hell's Kitchen buildings have remained at relatively low density and as largely affordable housing stock is undeniably a consequence of zoning restrictions against high rise development that would have displaced longtime residents and driven up housing prices to astronomical heights years ago.

It is crucial to keep the Clinton special zoning district in a single city council district, District 3, to protect and nurture it. And I would hope the city council cares about New York City's theater industry: prime tourist attraction, money-maker, point of pride. Don't underestimate how important it is for there to be a place close to Broadway where people in all aspects of the theater can afford to live and work and corroborate. There's a symbiotic relationship here that merits consideration.

Fortunately we don't have to start the redistricting process over from scratch - the Unity Map already shows city council districts designed to preserve our neighborhood diversity and the Clinton special zoning district, and also fits into a jigsaw puzzle of surrounding districts that accomplish similar aims. I strongly encourage adoption of the Unity Map plan instead of the preliminary redistricting proposal before the city council.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.

Respectfully yours,  
Paula Jaslow  
[REDACTED] W. 45th St  
New York, NY

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Paul Ard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:07 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,  
Paul Ard  
[REDACTED] W 54th St  
NY NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Paul Rogers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:09 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C897e8b3bb6644c79626d08da848296ea%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967993671672612%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljo>



MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UqS5OXM0sGd  
OakmVYGalJBqNeZG4ITFWVMEleWwpBGE%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Paul Rogers  
[REDACTED] W 44th St

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jone Noveck [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:19 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Hell's Kitchen is a Landmark area in New York City by worldwide reputation. As a segment of NYC it is as famous as Greenwich Village and the Lower East Side. Hell's Kitchen gives NYC character and recognition. Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole.

I have been a Hell's Kitchen resident for 40 years and I do not wish to see my community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Paul Yurt  
[REDACTED] West 47th St.  
New York, NY 10037  
<<>>

J.N

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Peter Shankman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:43 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Peter Shankman

[REDACTED] West 42nd Street

--

Peter Shankman Global: +1 [REDACTED] Sent from a small device, probably while trying to walk down a crowded street.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ralph Tamlyn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:23 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Shifting part of Manhattan to join a district in Queens - seems silly or worse

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Greetings,

I don't understand why part of Manhattan would be added to a district in Queens AND part of upper Manhattan would be lumped with part of the Bronx.

Why not keep the East Side of Manhattan together with more from Manhattan and "take" less of the Bronx?

What is going on? Why is this even being considered?

Ralph

[REDACTED]  
Personal email [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ray S. [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:54 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hells Kitchen Redistricting -- Support for Hells Unity Map

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My name is Ray Shirazi.

I live at [REDACTED] West 44, on 44th St b/t 9th and 10th Ave and have lived in HK for over 10 years.

I agree with all the reasons detailed in the One Hells Kitchen platform. Namely, the fragmentation of the district will break up a thriving minority-populated district into 3 white majority districts and disburse the residents' voting power leading to a lack of governmental accountability for Hells Kitchen. This is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Ray Shirazi

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Rebecca Jones [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:58 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C50459f44553e40a2081b08da8478b0e3%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967951140979831%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikh1aWw%7C%7C%7C&sdata=00GOqocBn5FXiUDs9cve%2FAovg5eom4MUbu08HR72V28%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Jones  
[REDACTED] w 51st st  
Apt 2c  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Rebecca Weintraub [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:40 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony from UES District Leaders

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To whom it may concern,

Our names are Rebecca Weintraub and Ben Wetzler. We are the Democratic Party District Leaders for the 76th Assembly District, Part A, which covers the southern portion of the Assembly District, including the Lenox Hill and Roosevelt Island neighborhoods. We are writing to express frustration and opposition to the draft map released by the New York City Districting Commission, which would divide our neighborhood between two council districts, compromising our constituents' ability to participate fully in the democratic process and potentially harming the quality of the public services they enjoy.

For the last ten years, and as long as either of us can remember, the 76th Assembly District has been almost entirely contained within the 5th Council District and Community Board 8. This continuity has worked well for the neighborhood, allowing both political party officials such as ourselves and State-level elected officials to build close working relationships with City-level officials. These relationships have translated into highly responsive representation at all levels of government.

The new proposed district boundaries for Council Districts 5 and 26 undermine those relationships, placing Roosevelt Island and a significant portion of Midtown East and Lenox Hill within the predominantly Queens-based District 26. The resulting lines are a mishmash of overlapping divisions: Council District 5 contains substantial portions of Assembly Districts 73, 76, and 68; Senate Districts 28 and 29; and Manhattan Community Boards 8, 5, and 11, while Council District 26 contains part of Assembly Districts 73, 76, 36, and 37; Senate Districts 28 and 59; Congressional Districts 12 and 7; Manhattan Community Boards 8 and 6; and Queens Community Boards 1 and 2. While we understand it is impossible for districts to always line up in their entirety, this level of incongruity will confuse voters and compromise elected officials' ability to build partnerships at different levels of government.

Less importantly, but still significant for us as party officials, this new arrangement will make it difficult for candidates for office to petition onto the ballot and campaign as a slate, therefore significantly increasing the demands on voters, volunteers, campaign staff, and the Board of Elections. This burden will be felt most by the least well-funded campaigns, who already struggle to reach voters and will not have the option to build economies of scale by partnering with other candidates.

Most importantly, these new boundaries will compromise public services by creating ambiguity as to which elected official is responsible for addressing resident's complaints along the new border. Many neighborhood schools will have catchment areas that cross district boundaries, and may end up deprioritized relative to schools serving only a single district when the Council allocates discretionary funds. Bus stops, bicycle safety improvements, and other transportation infrastructure that has been a high priority for neighborhood advocates will be split between the two districts, as the proposed boundary moves between York, 1st, and 2nd Avenues. The three stops on the F train closest to Roosevelt Island will each be located in a different Council District - as will the two stops on the Roosevelt Island Tramway - adding to the current struggle to get the City and State to address the Island's unique transportation needs.

Actions taken by the City that go through the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) will be unnecessarily confusing, leading to arbitrary and uncoordinated planning decisions. Because the boundaries do not line up with the very neat and ordered street grid of the Upper East Side, it is likely that planning actions undertaken by the City will cross multiple Council Districts and leave community members without a single representative as point of contact on the Council. Similarly, Council Members may find themselves receiving duplicative, incomplete, or potentially contradictory input from multiple groups of community stakeholders.

We believe that the boundaries need to be reassessed, with Lenox Hill and Roosevelt Island placed squarely in one or the other of the two districts - ideally the 5th, where we have been for decades and which most closely aligns with the neighborhood's representation at other levels of government. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rebecca Weintraub, *Female Democratic District Leader for the 76th AD Part A*  
Benjamin Wetzler, *Male Democratic District Leader for the 76th AD Part A*



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Reina de Beer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:10 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ca85f3a82e0d343be554a08da8458caaf%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967814151328785%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=S69R%2FJ7UHEg3ovO99sZfS9J9zZ4nCmn9C%2BmrLsgOg1Y%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Reina de Beer  
[REDACTED] W 43rd st

August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

To the Redistricting Committee:

My name is Renee Stanley. I have been a resident of Hell's Kitchen for 45 years, presently residing at [REDACTED] West 44<sup>th</sup> St, between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> avenues. I am a professional stage manager, a vice-president of the West 44<sup>th</sup> St Better Block Association, and a past -president of the West 45<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association.

Hell's Kitchen is undeniably a cohesive, unique, and vibrant community. We are identified from 41<sup>st</sup> to 59<sup>th</sup> as the Special Clinton District Zone, and from 40<sup>th</sup> to 35<sup>th</sup> at the Paddy's Market Historic District. The Special District Zone recognizes the area as unique with its heavy concentration of low-rise brownstones, history of immigrant settlement, and the need for strong protection against excessive and destructive development. The Paddy's Market Historic District recognizes lower Hell's Kitchen rich history of immigrant influence, still in evidence today, and showcases the vernacular 1850 and 1860 brownstones that line 9<sup>th</sup> avenue.

Hell's Kitchen now serves as the 'backyard of Broadway' with its extraordinary concentration of actors, stagehands, designers and ancillary theatrical support services, and dozens of restaurants for theater goers. The present plan to divide this thriving community into three districts eviscerates the protections that are desperately needed to prevent over-development and to keep the irreplaceable character that makes Hell's Kitchen legendary around the world. We must maintain a single strong, persuasive voice in the City Council, not one distracted by far-flung district borders, to protect this one-of-a-kind district.

I respectfully urge you to rethink the present ill-conceived three district proposal and adopt the much more realistic Unity Proposal. All of Hell's Kitchen for generations will thank you.

Sincerely,  
Renee Stanley  
[REDACTED] West 44<sup>th</sup> St  
NYC, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Richard Dinh [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:56 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Richard Dinh  
[REDACTED] w 42nd St apt 36G  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Richie Vitale [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:26 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do NOT wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Richard Vitale  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street  
New York, NY 10036  
Apt 8F  
Home: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**DeCillis, Michael**

---

**From:** Rita Hirsch [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:38 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting east midtown, upper east side with parts of Queens

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With respect, who thought up this gerrymandering of our district?  
Could someone explain to us the rationale for combining these two areas?

If I lived in Queens I would want my representative working on issues for my community. How could that same person work on issues for the east side of Manhattan?? Where would that person's office be located?

The draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Please reject this plan.

Yours sincerely,  
Rita Hirsch  
[REDACTED] East 57th St.

cc: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair

---

**MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK CITY  
DISTRICTING COMMISSION**

Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 3rd Floor  
New York, New York 10007  
212-676-3090  
[NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov)

Dennis M. Walcott, Chair  
Hon. Marilyn D. Go  
Maria Mateo, Esq.  
Joshua Schneps  
Lisa Sorin  
Msgr. Kevin Sullivan  
Kai-Ki Wong  
Maf Misbah Uddin  
Michael Schnall  
Kristen A. Johnson  
Yovan Samuel Collado  
Gregory W. Kirschenbaum  
Marc Wurzel Kevin John Hanratty  
Dr. Darrin K. Porcher

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Michael Schnall  
Kristen A. Johnson  
Yovan Samuel Collado  
Gregory W. Kirschenbaum  
Marc Wurzel Kevin John Hanratty  
Dr. Darrin K. Porcher

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Sample Letter to Districting Commission - to all of the above members (you can use the above link)

Dear Commissioner

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan

Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Rita Lavitt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:28 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Manhattan Council District 5

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We have lived on 79th Street between York and First Avenue for eight years. We have loved living in Manhattan and never would have dreamed such an issue would actually be on the drawing boards. To consider moving 55 blocks within the Upper East Side and Sutton Place, plus Roosevelt Island to Queens for "numbers" without any consideration for the people living in these areas is heartless and a political stunt!

We were under the impression the District Commission must follow a series of criteria per NYC Charter. This draft violates four of the them by (1) proposing a very oddly shaped district; proposing a district that (2) is not compact; and (3) results in an extreme crossover between boroughs; and most importantly (4) DOES NOT KEEP NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST INTACT!

Isn't that what NYC is all about? Neighborhoods and communities, that is the backbone of NYC.

PLEASE DO NOT SEPARATE THIS DISTRICT!!!

Sincerely,  
Rita Lavitt

[REDACTED]  
0

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Robert Bianco [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 10:01 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** district3@council.nyc.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Testimony - City Council Redistricting

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Good morning.

My name is Robert Bianco and I live at 312 West 49th Street. I have worked in Hell's Kitchen for over 14 years. Since I moved to the neighborhood 3 years ago, my daily routine consists of walking 5 blocks to my Architectural design office located in the historic Film Center Building, grabbing lunch or a coffee at one of so many wonderful small business along 9th Avenue, and picking up fresh groceries on my way home at the Amish Market between West 49th and 50th streets. If the Commission's proposed map is adopted, this daily routine (which all takes place within a 5 block radius) would be split between THREE separate council districts!

My experience is not unique. Our neighborhood is full of artists who live within walking distance of their jobs. My neighbors are actors, musicians, stage managers, designers, and technicians who work at one of the many arts organizations in the area like Ars Nova, Ensemble Studio Theatre, or on Broadway, just steps away from Hell's Kitchen. What happens in the surrounding arts districts directly impacts our community and we should be included in the same Council District.

The city has recognized our community as unique in the past for its small scale character and for its close proximity to the theatre district. The **Special Clinton Zoning District** was established in 1973 with the following goals quoted from the city's Zoning text:

- to preserve and strengthen the residential character of the community;
- to permit rehabilitation and new construction within the area in character with the existing scale of the community at rental levels which will not substantially alter the mixture of income groups currently residing in the area;
- to preserve the small-scale character and variety of existing stores and activities and to control new commercial uses in conformity with the existing character of the area;

This Zoning text has worked. Each day, I look out from my office windows on the 12th floor of the Film Center Building to unobstructed sky and the collection of low-rise residential buildings where my friends, neighbors, and favorite local businesses reside. Our neighborhood remains the last affordable and truly diverse neighborhood in midtown Manhattan. Carving up this important district into three sections will dilute our representation and leave us vulnerable to the up-zoning and overdevelopment that has decimated other neighborhoods throughout the city.

I urge you to adopt the Unity Map for City Council District 3 to keep Hell's Kitchen whole and to preserve our diversity and our identity.

Sincerely,  
Robert A. Bianco



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Robert Gilbo <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:59 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting | Keep HK Whole!

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Forward suspect email to [phish@oti.nyc.gov](mailto:phish@oti.nyc.gov) as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your efforts in redrawing the City Council district map. I have been a Hell's Kitchen resident for more than three decades and I do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Everyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

Splitting up this community would be deleterious to HK residents' access to city services and funds, fragment and dilute our municipal representation and pave the way for big real estate interests to decimate the last remaining low-rise parcel of Manhattan: the Special Clinton District. Our neighborhood leaders, including CB4, have labored for decades to ensure that our vibrant community has a full range of low- and middle-income housing to balance all the market-rate buildings that continue to crop up all over the city.

Further, the district lines proposed by the Commission split up this predominantly minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

For these reasons, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Robert Gilbo  
[REDACTED] West 50th Street  
NYC 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Robyn Carroll [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:53 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ca30c701dfc044ed2525708da84805edf%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967985321159189%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uX6blbZ1a%2FRNxcRluTFpetNLbBGXzRChAgnWq4ZCEg8%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
<<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>  
<<BUILDING STREET ADDRESS>>

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 1:51 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] A crazy notion!

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Adding parts of Manhattan to another borough, in this instance Queens, is truly one of the nuttiest ideas to come along yet! - And having lived and worked in Manhattan since the late 1970's, I've seen quite a few nutty ideas!

Allow Queens council people to look after their own local interests, ditto those council people in Manhattan. Each borough has it's own entirely local problems.

The East River divides us geographically, and I feel quite confident in writing that neither borough's politicians or residents truly knows much about the local problems of the other borough.

It's my hope that practical, common sense will prevail, and this loony notion of placing Queens and Manhattan into one district will be quickly and entirely abandoned!

Yours Sincerely, Romanie Baines.

Sent from my iPad



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Rooshi Patidar [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:49 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Rooshi Patidar  
[REDACTED] W 51st St.

--

Best Regards,  
Rooshi Patidar

Ph [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Rosemary Lebron [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:12 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ce62ba10e048a47f3be4408da8469e165%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967887566317788%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljo>

MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ba4yej%2Bygo  
1NlYlCjY2yF7pNpmvvtuNxbQt23sL14%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Rosemary and Henry Lebron  
[REDACTED] West 47 Street

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Rudi Papiri [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:38 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

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Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,

Rudi<< Insert First NAME and Last NAME >Papiri

█ Apt 5G< Insert your Building address >>west 44 street NYC 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Rusty [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:59 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C927b733377104944823408da843e1916%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967699504188847%7CUnknown%7CTWfpbGZsb3d8eyJWljo>

MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BX8oO%2FS9%2FLfKBMAPZv0hE8oRtQBaNj7X9ccbckMZu4%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

<< Insert First NAME and Last NAME >>

<< Insert your Building address >>

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Saadi Zain [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:07 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,

Saadi Zain  
[REDACTED] West 56th Street, Apt. 1114  
New York, NY 10019



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Samuel Carnicelli [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:08 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a fifth year Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C31768d9017d64d01530508da8450192f%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967777239491338%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=CQViq5YE81FjGt0UzQGKNHF%2F6qghQGlbXONzeb%2BGzhQ%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,

<<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>  
<<BUILDING STREET ADDRESS>>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sarah A. [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:56 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Sarah Arvizo

[REDACTED] W. 51st Street #4C

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sarah Ellison [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:48 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C5565fed1bf7c4572042f08da84774d4e%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967945192479013%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cYTnKPu60o4bcqLr3Frr5En%2FGn2KG53ByS5jqTf71ic%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Sarah Ellison  
[REDACTED] W 43rd St

**From:** Sarah Mejia [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:31 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Save the 160s

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I am a resident of District 7, and I am requesting that the redistricting commission SAVE THE 160's. Saving the 160's means that the lower 160's remain part of District 7 and do not become part of District 10. District 7's northern border should, at least, extend to 165th Street, West of Fort Washington Avenue and to 163rd Street, West of Broadway.

I am advocating for the map linked here: <https://districtr.org/plan/138688>.

Washington Heights has always been at the heart of District 7. Those of us who live in the lower 160's have formed our own small community—and together, we have a strong voice. United, we have been able to elect representatives who recognize our collective power and focus their attention on our needs. Divided, our community will be overshadowed by the communities just north of us.

In the last election, voters in the 160's cast their vote for our current council member, Shaun Abreu. Because our community makes up a meaningful percentage of the vote, we have been able to ask our council member for meaningful investments in our community. These investments include:

- \$1.2 million dollars to upgrade and revitalize Lily Brown Playground, located between 162nd and 163rd and Riverside Drive.
- Nearly \$1 million for P.S. 4 on 160th and Amsterdam to upgrade the auditorium, gymnasium, and library.
- Over \$50,000 to Riverstone Senior Life Services at 99 Fort Washington, where he has also fought for senior traffic zones.
- Working with the Parks Department and Department of Transportation to make desperately needed repairs to the sidewalks and implement loading zones for deliveries between 160 to 165 and Riverside.
- A massive block party on 161st Street where people from the lower 160's could come together, as we always have, to enjoy one another's company and show our kids a good time.

The 160's can't compete for attention with Inwood. The borders of any district are always at risk of being left out in the cold, but that isn't the case in District 7 because our northern border stands strong and united. I beg you - please do not tear apart what we have worked so hard to build. Do not weaken representation of New York's Latino community. Do not dilute the Latino vote or pack Latinos into a single district. Let the 160's continue to stand strong, hold our elected officials accountable, and have a voice in our local government.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sarah E Mills [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 9:49 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ccf7000b8fd33408727b208da8445257b%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967731018879490%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WMR0BmAqJp01djs1B7OnL8pd5TL7Z%2FngyVT6UYXESGk%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Sarah Mills  
[REDACTED] W 43rd St  
Apt 19E  
NY, NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone

## Testimony for the New York City Council Re-districting Commission

Sheila O'Connor

████ 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 3RS  
New York, NY 10036

Good evening, my name is Sheila O'Connor and I live at █████ 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, between 45<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> Streets in Hell's Kitchen. I have lived in Hell's Kitchen for 15 years.

I am asking the Commission to keep Hell's Kitchen whole. What I love most about Hell's Kitchen is that we are neighborhood in which neighbors support each other, and work together to benefit our neighborhood. The traditional boundaries of Hell's Kitchen are 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Hudson River from 34<sup>th</sup> to 59<sup>th</sup> Streets. The current City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member while the Commission's preliminary map divides our neighborhood into three major chunks so that we would be represented by three different City Council members.

This would be a disaster for our neighborhood.

Fifteen years ago, I was drawn to Hell's Kitchen because it is a diverse community with affordable rents. It is my home. Over that time, I have gotten to know the neighborhood by getting involved in many ways. Examples include volunteering to organize compost collection at Matthews Palmer Park, providing regular maintenance to the Hell's Kitchen Free Store on 45<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, joining the Hell's Kitchen Litter Legion, picking up trash throughout our neighborhood and supporting events organized by our block associations.

This is a vibrant community that would be adversely impacted by the proposed City Council lines. In fact, these lines would dilute the racial/ethnic diversity for which this neighborhood is known by splitting us into three districts. There is a better map that preserves our diversity and keeps our neighborhood together.

I support the Unity Map was released on July 18 by a coalition of the leading legal voting rights advocacy organizations representing people of color in New York City. The Unity Map reflects the fact that the White population of City Council District 3 overall, and Hell's Kitchen in particular, has decreased in percentage

terms compared to the 2010 Census. Meanwhile, the Lantinx, Black and Asian populations in City Council District 3 have grown, not declined.

The preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of our diverse community in direct violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

## Demographic Comparison of Hell's Kitchen, Chelsea and Proposed CD-3

	Hell's Kitchen	Chelsea	Commission CD-3	Unity CD-3
Population	74,621	63,039	173,586	175,888
Hispanic (any race)	18.2 %	18.2 %	13.6 %	15.4 %
White non-Hispanic	48.1 %	57.5 %	62.7 %	58.2 %
Black non-Hispanic	7.5 %	6.6%	5.2 %	6 %
Asian non-Hispanic	21.4 %	13.0 %	13.4 %	15.5 %

Sources: <https://districtr.org/edit/137381?event=nyc2022>; <https://districtr.org/COI/138335>; <https://districtr.org/edit/135300?event=nyc2022>; <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

In addition, splitting Hell's Kitchen into three parts will make it easier for real estate developers to chip away at the Special Clinton District, which was created in 1973 and "designed to promote and protect public health, safety, general welfare and amenity. Because of the unique geographical location of the Clinton community, situated between the waterfront on the west and a growing central business district on the east, it is necessary to provide specific programs and regulations which will assure realization of community and citywide goals."

Chief among these goals, as stated in [City Zoning laws](#) (resolution chapter 6):

- a) "to preserve and strengthen the residential character of the community"
- b) "to permit rehabilitation and new construction within the area in character with the existing scale of the community and at rental levels which will not substantially alter the mixture of income groups currently residing in the area"





Combining Hell's Kitchen into one City Council District rather than dividing the neighborhood into three parts, will address all of these issues.

I ask that you adopt the Unity Map for City Council District 3 to keep Hell's Kitchen whole and preserve our diversity. I've included a copy of the map with my written testimony.

Thank you.

Sheila O'Connor



[REDACTED]

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**From:** shirley wright [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:50 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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My name is Shirley Wright and I live East of 132nd St, during the last primary election I was notify at the polling place that I now have to vote on the west side of 128th St. I was only notify the day I went to vote at the school on 5th Ave @ 131st St, since I received the information on the new voting site.

When the City Council propose these changes, what was the rationale for the change, redistricting or voter enfranchisement. They don't take in account of a person age, disability or convenience for voters. I feel they only take into account of the person voting history. I have been a registered voter since age 18, now 64, active in the voting election process and this is the third time my voting place has changed.

Who can provide an answer or solution to this issue? Absentee voting is something I have not done and won't consider. I feel this is not an effective way to exercise my right to vote.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Sylvie <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:26 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C37f8bfd91ce84896c18608da8452a898%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967787798310661%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Iik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Fl6%2FyNNBxAnVJRdQq6At7d%2FIpPzGzQpCOaMjMKVl5Rc%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Sylvie Preston Gordon— lifelong Manhattan Plaza resident

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Sowjana Siva [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:56 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cb88f7690c33f4887da4308da84a24d17%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968131030033576%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yhy4gV92IC2bLle69Ss%2BRzGYW6KtwuY7e4KqzPQjq84%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Sowjana Siva  
[REDACTED] W49th Street, Apt 5DD  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Stephanie Sellars [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:54 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] testimony from longtime HK resident

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My name is Stephanie Sellars and I have been a resident of Hell's Kitchen since 2000. I have seen the neighborhood evolve in many ways— new businesses have opened while others have closed, community gardens, parks and playgrounds have been beautified, real estate prices have escalated while property values fluctuated, new communities of residents have emerged and tourists have migrated over from Times Square, intrigued by the variety of restaurants, bars, and shops. Yet, throughout all these changes, the diversity and vibrancy of the neighborhood has remained. The many cultures of Hell's Kitchen spanning 34<sup>th</sup> St to 59<sup>th</sup> St and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Hudson River is what makes this neighborhood so great, why Hell's Kitchen represents a world of culture yet feels like a small community.

If Hell's Kitchen is broken into three parts, we won't have a single City Council member to fight for our schools, parks, small businesses, public safety, LGBTQ+ rights and the Clinton Special District that preserves Hell's Kitchen from avaricious real estate developers.

Our wonderfully diverse neighborhood, in which Black and Brown people are now the majority, will be broken into three majority white districts—in direct violation of the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965.

I respectfully submit this testimony to urge the New York City Districting Commission to reconsider the redistricting map by keeping the boundary lines as they are.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Sellars

--

Stephanie Sellars  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Steph sullivan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 10:43 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Hello,

My name is Stephanie Sullivan Stavrides, I live at 347 West 55th St between 8th and 9th Ave. I have lived here since 1994, 29 years. I'm an active member in the community and our block association. My husband and I moved to Hell's Kitchen because of its diversity and sense of inclusion and community that we fear is at risk by the proposed changes. We stand in strong support of the Unity Map

Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why I support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,

Stephanie Sullivan-Stavrides  
[REDACTED] West 55th Street (between 8th & 9th Ave  
Ny, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Steven Harvey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:38 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole - SH

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Steven Harvey  
Hell's Kitchen Residents & COOP Board Member  
[REDACTED] West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036



[REDACTED]

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**From:** steven sandoval <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:58 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

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Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.


That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C5938497faeb54ec431cb08da84a2895f%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968131169600096%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiM>

C4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Y4iRWjTElSe5cU  
5k1v7bFsaJOkemlZLReKLRie4%2FrHc%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Steven Sandoval  
 10th Avenue

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** susan ameel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:29 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

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As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

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That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C2876b5321e484945347008da845b7fe1%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967825765084197%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljo>

MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=p%2Bc3oRj6B%2FyJ3B75UxCxEwBbiOq7ls%2Bv4w87Nc%2FAJAc%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

<< Insert First NAME and Last NAME >>

<< Insert your Building address >>

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Susan Tang [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:48 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Susan Nowak Tang  
[REDACTED] West 58th Street

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Tamara Flannagan [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:54 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C8f72fdab282c4c392c5708da847827e3%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967948837805352%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vNFJzXig8HeGpX78%2BxrajcHVs9Qksl2rXKN7SSo7twY%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Tamara Flannagan  
Manhattan Plaza  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street  
NYC, NY 10036

Good evening. My name is Taylor Pullinger. I live on West 53<sup>rd</sup> St between 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and previously lived at [REDACTED] West 44<sup>th</sup> St. I am a Ph.D. candidate at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and have lived with my boyfriend in Hell's Kitchen since 2019.

I attended the NYCDC's public hearing on the evening of Monday August 22<sup>nd</sup>, but the meeting concluded at 10PM before I had been asked to give my oral testimony. I'm submitting this written testimony in its place.

Hell's Kitchen is a cohesive neighborhood, with a distinct character and many long-term residents and businesses. To retain this character, it needs to remain whole.

Residents of Hell's Kitchen and visitors alike can feel the shift in atmosphere that defines the neighborhood beginning west of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue through to the Hudson River and from West 34<sup>th</sup> Street in the south up to West 59<sup>th</sup> Street in the north.

Until now almost all of Hell's Kitchen was enclosed in City Council District 3, and so was represented by a single City Council member. This created a unified block for making decisions that would affect the community.

The Commission's preliminary map divides our neighborhood into three parts, particularly affecting the northern and eastern parts of the neighborhood, where I live. We would be represented by 3 different City Council members each with only a small interest in Hell's Kitchen.

Our neighborhood would undoubtedly suffer as a result. Convincing these three Council members to work together on neighborhood-wide decisions would be almost impossible, and the voices of all residents would be diminished as tiny fractions of their new districts.

One of my favorite things about living in Hell's Kitchen is the thriving small business community packed down 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues and dotted along many of the cross-streets. This neighborhood home to abundant unique restaurants and bars, many serving cuisines from cultures that are quite rare to find in the city. We also have a variety of independent shops such as hardware stores, laundry services, pharmacies and grocers, which make daily life in Hell's Kitchen quite self-sufficient.

One thing that allows these small businesses to succeed is their ability to unite their voices when bringing their concerns to City Council. The preliminary district boundaries cut our business throughfares into shreds, repeatedly separating small businesses that share the same concerns.

Dividing up the district will also make it more difficult to coordinate the neighborhood-wide events that make life in Hell's Kitchen fun and bring its residents together, such as the annual 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue International Food Festival.

For such a tight-knit and co-operative community, Hell's Kitchen residents are remarkably diverse. According to the 2020 Census, the majority of our population is comprised of Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial residents. We also have greater socioeconomic diversity compared to the more expensive neighborhoods that surround us. Hell's Kitchen is notably home to many LGBTQ residents, and to many of the events and venues that serve this community. I believe it is important that these diverse voices remain united rather than being diluted by being divided into multiple less diverse districts.

I moved to Hell's Kitchen 9 months before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time I've seen the neighborhood pull together and become stronger and more cohesive than before. Without tourists drifting in from the theater district, the bond between local businesses and local residents became critical for day-to-day life. I got to know the people running the small businesses I frequented every day, since they supplied me with everything I needed—we supported each other. Now that tourism is gradually returning to the city, Hell's Kitchen has retained the enhanced cohesion we developed over the past few years. I feel a strong allegiance to Hell's Kitchen, and to have my interests lumped in with Council District 4, a part of the city I have no ties to and seldom visit, would be extremely disheartening.

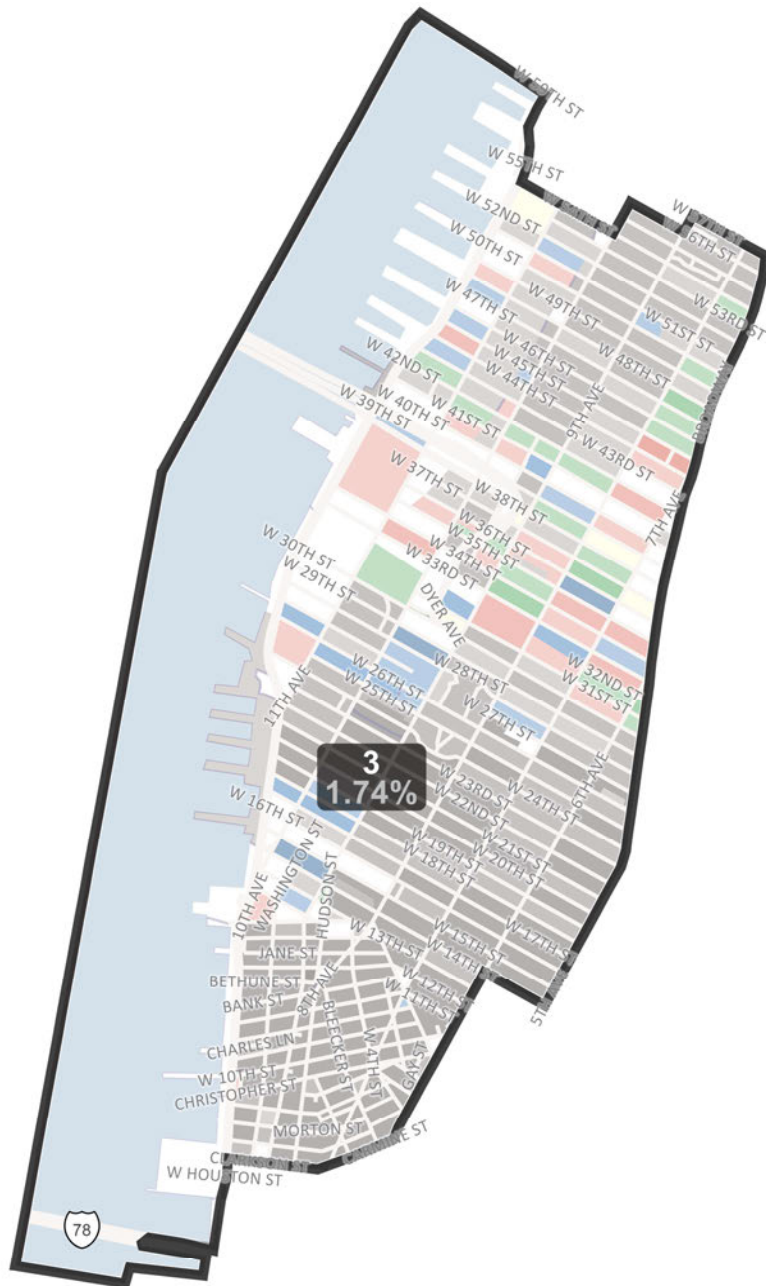
I'm speaking today to implore the Commission to adopt the City Council District 3 boundaries proposed in the Unity Map—an alternative put together by a coalition of leading legal voting rights advocacy organizations representing Hispanic, Black and Asian communities. A copy of the Unity Map's proposal for District 3 is appended to this written testimony. This map will keep Hell's Kitchen intact and preserve our diverse yet cohesive neighborhood.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Taylor Pullinger', with a stylized, cursive script.

Taylor Pullinger



**District: 3**

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Field	Value
District	3
Adj_Population	175,888
Deviation	3,006
% Deviation	1.74%
ernate Schwartzberg	1.41
Polsby Popper	0.5
Perimeter	10.05
Reock	0.38
Adj_Hispanic Origin	27,107
% Adj_Hispanic Origin	15.41%
Adj_NH_DOJ_Wht	102,430
% Adj_NH_DOJ_Wht	58.24%
Adj_NH_DOJ_Bl	11,548
% Adj_NH_DOJ_Bl	6.57%
Adj_NH_DOJ_Ind	658
% Adj_NH_DOJ_Ind	0.37%
Adj_NH_DOJ_Asn	29,920
% Adj_NH_DOJ_Asn	17.01%
Adj_NH_DOJ_Hwn	139
% Adj_NH_DOJ_Hwn	0.08%
Adj_NH_DOJ_Oth	2,913
% Adj_NH_DOJ_Oth	1.66%
Adj_18+_Pop	160,602
% Adj_18+_Pop	91.31%
Adj_H18+_Pop	23,767
% Adj_H18+_Pop	14.8%
Adj_NH18+_DOJ_Wht	95,493
% Adj_NH18+_DOJ_Wht	59.46%
Adj_NH18+_DOJ_Bl	9,934
% Adj_NH18+_DOJ_Bl	6.19%
Adj_NH18+_DOJ_Ind	592
% Adj_NH18+_DOJ_Ind	0.37%
Adj_NH18+_DOJ_Asn	27,166
% Adj_NH18+_DOJ_Asn	16.92%
Adj_NH18+_DOJ_Hwn	122
% Adj_NH18+_DOJ_Hwn	0.08%
Adj_NH18+_DOJ_Oth	2,538
% Adj_NH18+_DOJ_Oth	1.58%

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 9:28 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Tina Wyman  
[REDACTED] E 74th St New York, NY 10021-3339  
t [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Brunette, Tom <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 3:36 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Tom Brunette

[REDACTED] W 54<sup>th</sup> Street

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** Travis Rodgers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:22 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C29a768c4cecd4180e2c408da849d7eb4%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968109328322520%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=3ZdKZ1etw7IPnlvL98w4Y53A5aqbdDZapzSJUc6mT1U%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,

Travis Rodgers  
[REDACTED] W 42nd St

22 August 2022

To: Redistricting Commission  
PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

Re: Testimony – Proposed Redistricting of Hell’s Kitchen

My name is Trina Semorile. I live on 46th Street, between Ninth and Tenth Avenues, in Hell’s Kitchen, and have done so for 31+ years. I care a great deal about this neighborhood and its value not only historically, but as a diverse and interesting community, and ensuring that it remains intact; cutting it into three pieces represents the intent to dismantle both place and people—and is a form of politically-based environmental destruction of an ecosystem, which has been under attack for years.

Hell’s Kitchen is an historic district, and its boundaries are from 34th Street to 59th Street and the West side of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River. Any redistricting which occurs should require and ensure that Hell’s Kitchen is kept intact and strengthened, not subdivided like political spoils, to further weaken, then destroy it altogether.

The “Unity Map” should be adopted to ensure fair representation and equity, and to prevent diluting our right to be represented by one person who also cares about Hell’s Kitchen, rather than seeing it as an “add on adjunct” to their “real” district and protects the integrity of an important historic district.

Created in 1973, the Special District was “designed to promote and protect public health, safety, general welfare and amenity. Because of the unique geographical location of the Clinton community, situated between the waterfront on the west and a growing central business district on the east, it is necessary to provide specific programs and regulations which will assure realization of community and citywide goals.”

Our “public health, safety, general welfare and amenity...” have been severely compromised, with malice aforethought, and this plan seeks to be the denouement.

Chief among these goals, as stated in the City Zoning Laws:

- a) “to preserve and strengthen the residential character of the community”
- b) “to permit rehabilitation and new construction within the area in character with the existing scale of the community and at rental levels which will not substantially alter the mixture of income groups currently residing in the area”
- c) ” to preserve the small-scale character and variety of existing stores and activities and to control new commercial uses in conformity with the existing character of the area”

I also question the timing of these hearings—when people are least likely to be available, and with a single hearing for Manhattan on 135th Street. At the very least, two hearings or, better, three for Manhattan, providing hearings throughout the borough, to ensure attendance, and with better notice, to promote the ability to participate and include everyone.

I believe that part of the goal of redistricting is to create a “gated community” at the southern end of the neighborhood, to encompass not just Hudson Yards, but to facilitate destruction of the area around Penn

Station with the proposed over-sized mammoth buildings, which will provide extreme short-term profits to developers, but do great harm to the area. This would also create a “personal” council member to this area, with no interest or concern about the rest of Hell’s Kitchen. Politicians and media have already waged a PR campaign of calling the area “Hudson Yards”—ugly architecture which has also created untenable wind tunnels, as have other over tall structures along Tenth Avenue and the West end of 42nd Street, freezing in the winter, and strong enough to knock some people to the ground. The Penn development is equally ugly, too tall, and will create the same problems, in addition to destroying the neighborhood.

The Districting Commission’s preliminary map **keeps ALL of Chelsea** in CD-3 but **splits up Hell’s Kitchen** into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to majority-white City Council districts.

That the proposed redistricting leaves Chelsea intact is not accidental; I believe they are perceived as better able to fight back, and have less in the way of “spoils” to be divided, politically, and in favor of developers.

Hell’s Kitchen should not be subdivided into three parts, fracturing the neighborhood (and, I believe, the intended goal), which will directly—and indirectly—harm the people who live and have businesses here. Most disturbing is that it is a form of very local gerrymandering, in pursuit of denying residents of Hell’s Kitchen the value of our votes and is calculated to undermine our voting, political rights, voice, and is an assault on the integrity of our historic neighborhood. There is a history of this neighborhood receiving voting machines that do not work; of disregard for residents’ needs, of ignoring Hell’s Kitchen, when not abusing it. We should not be forced to try to persuade three different council members to protect our interests, and those of preservation which, given the proposed triad, would be nearly impossible—as intended.

Creating three majority white districts also perpetuates racism through structural means, by disenfranchising voters and diluting their ability to address concerns related to discrimination—an ongoing problem. And it smacks of the tactics of Robert Moses—a man who was never elected to any office, yet wielded, and abused, enormous power.

In this aspect, it also mirrors and seems to be “inspired by” the practices of Southern states, North/South Carolina, Georgia, etc., and Texas, which is an amalgam of Southern/Southwestern, in seeking to dilute votes to ensure white control of any interests. As such, it follows a shared and deeply racist history (and political/economic relationship) with the South; sexism is also a favored practice here. New York City retains one of the most segregated school systems in the country; the City simply ignored *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling of 1954, and uses segregated housing to continue this ugly legacy.

I have seen a great many changes in Hell’s Kitchen, not least the efforts, by the real estate industry to change our name (to “Clinton”), then again by Bloomberg, when mayor (to “Midtown West”)—the former in pursuit of profiteering through gentrification; the latter to further his goal of wholly destroying Hell’s Kitchen and building high rise office towers to the Hudson River for his “dream” of a central business district. Both were efforts to destroy Hell’s Kitchen and displace residents and small businesses, in favor of high rises and national chain retailing (turning New York into a strip mall), both piecemeal and as a sweep. Bloomberg spent a great deal of time and public money personally, and through his mouthpiece, Dan Doctorow (unsurprisingly, privately hired later by Bloomberg) claiming Hell’s Kitchen should be “redeveloped” (code for clearance); that no one lives or works here. That failing, he tried to shoehorn a stadium onto the north end of Javits Center (which he intended to hand over, gratis, to the owner of the Jets, while billing New Yorkers for the costs, initial and ongoing). In

retaliation for losing that gambit, he “punished” Hell’s Kitchen by canceling a needed subway stop and extension for the 7 line. Then allowed hotels to be located here, rather than desperately needed affordable housing, which continues to create quality of life problems for residents. There seems to be some confusion as to whether we should become “Times Square West” or another pocket of the privileged wealthy.

The last four, and now fifth (Mayor Adams) mayoral administrations have ignored the requirement that new buildings conform to the character of the neighborhood, and height limits are also being ignored. The buildings most often resemble the worst of neo-1960s or unpainted/unsurfaced grey poured concrete boxes.

Equally problematic during the Giuliani/Bloomberg administrations (and ongoing during De Blasio’s) was permitting the creation of bar corridors—including illegal permissions, with multiple bars literally next door to each other. This has resulted in the loss of local service businesses (bodegas, dry cleaners, laundromats, etc.) and encouraged people to travel to the neighborhood with the sole purpose of getting as drunk as possible, bar hopping, and subjecting residents to drunken screamers at all hours, and men urinating on buildings. Building owners have contributed to this problem in warehousing retail spaces and preferring bars to other retail. This has destroyed any ability to sleep through the night, and many other “quality of life” problems.

Both Bloomberg and Giuliani before him, invited vehicle traffic into this neighborhood, and sought to make us a “parking lot”, resulting in uncontrolled traffic and some of the worst air pollution in New York City. They did this by changing parking regulations and ignoring enforcement of all vehicle regulations: double parking, illegal parking; blocking bus stops, and idling. Giuliani told the NYPD that they were “not to interfere with commerce”—which means that the NYPD ignores parking/idling regulations and charter/tour buses and trucks (including 18-wheel semis) routinely using residential side streets illegally as shortcuts, and use city bus stops for “layovers”; this continues to date. Bloomberg continued and worsened this practice, and De Blasio allowed it to continue by ignoring conditions. I have repeatedly had police flatly refuse to tell bus and truck drivers to turn their engines off or to move from city bus stops. The nightmare of bar/restaurant sheds run amok has worsened the traffic situation, further eroding conditions in Hell’s Kitchen.

I don’t have standard dust on my windowsills/apt; I have black soot from the excessive traffic and incessant, uncontrolled idling. We have chronic problems of gridlock and blocked intersections; it’s unsafe to cross the street with the light, due to careless drivers and bicyclists. Mayor Adams keeps trying to claim that the pandemic is over, yet Ninth Avenue “bus only” lanes continue to be blocked by bar/restaurant sheds, worsening already severe traffic problems. I was one of the initial members of the Hell’s Kitchen Traffic Task Force, which sought cooperation between residents, police and politicians to address traffic problems; that effort was abandoned by Christine Quinn when her ambitions were to be Council Speaker, then Mayor with, she hoped Bloomberg’s backing.

In consequence, we have some of the worst air quality in New York City, after the Bronx. This pollution, most of it generated by vehicles, takes three to five years off the lives of every New Yorker, causes and worsens asthma, lung cancer, emphysema, other respiratory diseases, heart attacks and other health problems.

The goal of the Koch, Giuliani, and Bloomberg administrations was to empty Manhattan of all but the very wealthy, following a European model of turning suburbs into slums and forcing workers to travel long distances, while the rich are able to walk everywhere conveniently, and use public transport when

wanted. I will note here that Giuliani's housing abuses were legion; Bloomberg tripled homelessness, and engaged in unconstitutional abuses toward the homeless, while forcing up rents. Mayor Adams has gone a step further, and violated the rights of homeless people by using the NYPD (then DHS!) to force disperse them, and while destroying personal belongings—notably tents for shelter from weather. Not only overreach and abuse, but contempt in treating homeless as less than residents (and citizens) and violating their constitutional rights. His attack on renters will create more homeless people. If the mayor doesn't want homeless people living the streets, he needs to ensure that they have safe, healthy, and adequate housing.

Bloomberg manipulated "affordable housing" by making it available to people with six-figure salaries, and providing nothing for those earning \$30,000 or less. Most listings I see for "affordable" housing require income floors of mid-\$70k and up—another tactic for removing the unwanted. This creates secondary discrimination against women in housing. The poverty rate for women in New York City is five times higher than the national average. And I remind you that women, and women with children continue to face housing discrimination, along with people of color; for women of color, there is a double jeopardy.

Hell's Kitchen has been alternately, sometimes simultaneously, treated as a dumping ground and a land grab "bonanza".

When I first moved to Hell's Kitchen, a police officer was stationed at all times, on the northwest corner of 46th Street—apparently to prevent any hapless tourist(s) from "accidentally" wandering into our neighborhood; he (it was always he) never looked anywhere but east, down 46th street, toward Restaurant Row, and occasionally south.

I lived here during the "drug and prostitution wars"; my building was one of the last two on the block with severe drug dealing and prostitution—one of the drug dealer/pimps was the then building super, left in place by the building owners to help "clear" the building for gentrification. My life was threatened regularly. Many tenants, as hoped for by the owners, moved in fear of their lives—both rent controlled and stabilized. I was active in efforts to address these problems, both in my building and neighborhood-wide.

When I moved here, almost all my neighbors worked in theatre, and could walk to work; they can no longer afford to rent the apartments which have been destabilized. For most of my tenure here, I knew everyone in the building, then people were moving in and out so fast that I had no idea who was actually living here. Several tenants told me they were moving as the rent had become prohibitive.

Market rate tenants in my building are, at present, facing eviction, at the behest of predatory equity. I became a tenant advocate/activist from living in my current building—and know more about tenant/landlord law than I ever wanted to, consequent on dealing with building conditions.

I provide this history as a reminder that we have been battling to protect and maintain our tenancies and the integrity of our historic neighborhood for years, and this proposal seeks to undermine not only those efforts, but to finally create a context in which Hell's Kitchen may be destroyed with impunity, in a tactic of divide and conquer.

Hell's Kitchen is best served by designating the entire area of the special district as part of a single political district as well, with a single council member accountable to us and with whom we are able to



work without being hobbled by the conditions which would result from being split into three districts, two appended to other districts.

The Redistricting Commission needs to do what is right, just and ethical, and keep Hell's Kitchen intact and protected.

Trina Semorile  
Resident, Hell's Kitchen

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Frisson Espresso [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:12 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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My name is Tulian. Me & Robert

Minority business owner and we decline the propose map that divide Hell's Kitchen map into 3 council districts. We have 8 years we chose Hells Kitchen for its diversity.

We believe that unity map best perceivers that diversity & character of our community.

Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://distrctr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,

<< Insert First NAME and Last NAME >>

<< Insert your Building address >>

Sincerely,

Tulian.S

Frisson Espresso

Hells Kitchen

■ w47th st

New York,Ny 10036

■



Experience the difference

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Wacey Turner [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:07 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C84192fb1ee3c4d8115ba08da84500b58%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967777300912568%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEkaWwWLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=z%2BD4YZw60YqROm2xVL0%2FODKy4A1xHAUEg4v42eeJpiU%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,

-Wacey S. Turner  
(he/him/his)

[REDACTED] W 48th, 4L  
NYC, NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Bill Morton [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:57 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony; NYC Redistricting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Extremely Strong Opposition to Moving Midtown East and Upper Eastside to be Part of Queens!

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Dear Commission Members,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact, • the proposed district is not compact, • the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and • the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

William A. Morton

[REDACTED]  
E 57th Street - Apt 16A  
New York, NY 10022

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Bill Stabile [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 1:43 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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William Stabile Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C563ac5a611ed4b81af3a08da8465c6ec%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967869907297430%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fqJpN5XoCqgXjPrN6%2F6pQ6yUG45TPX33xF4djyVUG4A%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely, William Stabile  
[REDACTED] W 35th St New York NY 10001

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Bill Strzempek <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 10:59 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Breaking Up of Hells Kitchen

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As live speaking slots were unavailable due to public demand, I would like to offer written testimony in opposition to the proposal to break Hells Kitchen up into three council districts.

My name is William Strzempek. I have lived in Hells Kitchen for several decades, first on West 46th Street and currently for more than 30 years at 301 West 45th Street. I have always devoted a lot of time and energy to this neighborhood. I served a term on Manhattan Community Board 4. I spearhead the tenants association of my building which has over 170 units. I am a member of two Hells Kitchen block associations. I even joined other neighbors to sue in New York State Supreme Court (in *Fisher v. Giuliani*) to stop the redistricting of Hells Kitchen to permit theatre owners to rezone our neighborhood for their financial gain. That suit took years of hard work and tons of fundraising in order to keep Hells Kitchen Hells Kitchen, as it deserves to be.

I have learned from these experiences how hard it is for Hells Kitchen residents to preserve the quality of life of our neighborhood against the constant onslaught of commercial and luxury real estate, tourism and political forces who want to usurp our residential neighborhood for their commercial gain. I have also seen how complicated it is to "fight city hall". Because of my experience over the decades living here, I am strongly opposed to the proposed redistricting which would break up Hells Kitchen into three council districts. Members of our tenants association of 130 members (the 301 West 45th Street Tenants Association) are also adamantly opposed to this redistricting, and some of them will be offering in person testimony.

Cleaving Hells Kitchen into pieces will make it even more arduous for residents of this district to have their voices heard in order to protect the character, quality of life and diversity of our community. Instead of having to meet with one council member to press any cause, we will have to coordinate three council members. Hells Kitchen needs to speak with one voice, and needs to be preserved as one district.

This is not a new idea.

As way back as late 1960s, New York City's Planning Commission realized that Hells Kitchen was such a unique New York neighborhood that they decided it must have extra protection to preserve the character, low scale housing, locally owned businesses and the residential mix of middle and lower class and multi-ethnic and multi-cultural families that make Hells Kitchen a special place. The City, rightly, realized Hells Kitchen was ripe for the encroachment of big developers and commercial interests in Midtown that about Hells Kitchen to the east of Eighth Avenue. In 1974 New York City codified The Clinton Special District as the area west of 8th Avenue to the Hudson between West 41st and West 59th and created stringent stipulations for what can and cannot be done in this area. The special district the city deemed worthy of extra protection is being undermined by the proposed redistricting. And the commercial forces of Midtown, Times Square, Hudson Yards and the proposed reimagining of Penn Station are only going to make preserving the totality of Hells Kitchen - and the



Clinton Special District - much harder to do. We need to remain one unified district in order to have a chance at preservation.

It is a common war time strategy for enemies to attempt to cut a major force into smaller groups in order to make it difficult for the force to act as one unit, and to make it therefore easier to dispense with the smaller groups. This proposed redistricting will do the same thing to the political force that Hells Kitchen residents currently have as one large group.

I urge the Redistricting Committee to keep Hells Kitchen whole when redrawing the council map -- and to please honor the spirit of the Clinton Special District so that we who live here will continue to have a unified and potent voice in government via our dialogue with one council member.

Sincerely,

William Strzempek  
as an individual, and as a member of the Steering Committee of the 301 West 45th Street Tenants Association

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Yolanda Hornedo-Brooke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:33 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Yolanda Hornedo-Brooke  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street, apt.35M  
New York, New York 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 1:50 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C89ff6d51de2d46207a8e08da84670289%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637967876289279157%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gP6n%2BcmfUabc3lIza9045E3G8uuEqVaFBIGSbhBqw3A%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Zoe Stryker  
[REDACTED] West 46th st

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ana Camacho [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 7:12 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cc9ce64220a3c41cf3af708da84f854ce%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968499373478519%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Iik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PacDsivX%2FBXSasZfpDFImPsp0%2BE1XbqVo6I4J1aasyQ%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Ana Camacho  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street 20D  
New York, NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone

# 16 SUTTON PLACE APARTMENT CORPORATION

16 Sutton Place, New York, NY 10022

Dear Chair Walcott,

As a resident of 16 Sutton Place, I write to ask that you **DO NOT ADOPT** the preliminary district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, notably splitting the Sutton Place community of interest between multiple districts and combining representation for a portion of our Manhattan community with Queens. Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to represent and serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two or more additional Manhattan Community Boards or hold full membership on multiple Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting, creating significant disparities among neighbors who share the parks and access to the new Greenway from Sutton Place? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Will the interests of Manhattan residents be served by a Council Member who serves a majority of constituents in Queens?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. Keep the Sutton Area neighborhood intact and with representation in Manhattan! If a redistricting is necessary, I would suggest and support the proposed district lines set out in the Community Board 6 Resolution of August 10 as an alternative. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sutton Place Resident:

**Ayrton V Salerno**

PRINT NAME

*A Salerno*

SIGNATURE

16 Sutton Place, Apartment [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Korin Blake-Chung <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 5:39 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ca5820f568f3a4d9c19a608da84eb495b%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968444379515523%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hZxG5AD0pfMgN%2FOCbOxU0ET3521DkzQ%2FOjd092JxevU%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Blake Chung  
[REDACTED] Manhattan Ave  
apt 2B  
ny,ny 10026

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** bob mate <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 6:15 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Redistricting

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Dear Mr. Walcott,  
Chairman of the NYC Redistricting Commission  
And the rest of the Commission

We are writing this because we are very upset about the fact that you are even thinking about putting Sutton Place in a Queens District.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in the City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, it is ridiculous to think that a district in Queens would have the same needs and concerns as would our district. We have nothing against Queens but look at the map, **it's across the East River from Sutton Place! We're in Manhattan!** Why are you trying to diminish what is a wonderful, charming historic neighborhood (and lower our real estate values)? How could we expect proper representation?

Please take all these concerns into consideration and decide against the redistricting that moves Sutton Place into Queens

Sincerely  
Bob Mate  
[REDACTED] east 58th Street  
7D  
New York, NY 10022

Send by my iPad

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** David Studinski <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 7:05 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Input - Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

David Studinski

[REDACTED] W 51 #7, 10019



**From:** Diego Urcola [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 11:52 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,

Diego Urcola

[REDACTED] West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street #20d

New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Dionne Dilks <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 3:37 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C3024ec3949e64fc060d708da84da635d%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968371958926897%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yVmkGspD5Ivc5TCfEJD%2FeH87ZYDxcDSDxHJtwp2Mt4%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
DIONNE DILKS  
[REDACTED] West 42nd Street. #1514  
New York, NY. 10036

Sent from my iPersonalised

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** beth roberts <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 7:37 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Redistricting NYC - Council Districts 26 & 5

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Dear Chair Walcott,

As a resident of [REDACTED] Sutton Place South, I write to ask that you **DO NOT ADOPT the preliminary district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5** which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

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- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, notably splitting the Sutton Place community of interest between multiple districts and combining representation for a portion of our Manhattan community with Queens. Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to represent and serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two or more additional Manhattan Community Boards or hold full membership on multiple Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting, creating significant disparities among neighbors who share the parks and access to the new Greenway from Sutton Place? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Will the interests of Manhattan residents be served by a Council Member who serves a majority of constituents in Queens?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience in addressing the

compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. Keep the Sutton Area neighborhood intact and with representation in Manhattan! Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Final point - I have been listening to the testimony at the public hearing tonight and every single person I have heard has made a compelling case to reject this proposal; reasons have varied but all relate to preserving/protecting the communities they are currently in.

Thank you.

N Elizabeth Roberts, ■ Sutton Place South, NY, NY 10022

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[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ezra Cohen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 1:15 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]

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Dear Districting Commission,<BR><BR>Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. <BR><BR>The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community. <BR><BR>Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3. <BR><https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022><BR><BR>Sincerely,<BR><<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>><BR><<BUILDING STREET ADDRESS>><BR>

Ezra Cohen,  
life-long Manhattan plaza resident [REDACTED] w 43rd st #38-s

--  
Sent from Gmail Mobile

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Felice Seeman [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 2:19 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Sutton Place and Upper East Side

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I am a longtime resident of the UES and Sutton Place area and am vehemently opposed to the redistricting of our area to be combined with Queens.

Please give it reconsideration and DO NOT do this.

Felice Seeman  
[REDACTED] East 58th Street Apt 16H  
New York, NY 10022



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Frank Farance [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 2:49 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony; Frank Farance  
**Cc:** Rasoulinejad, Ali; Goodwin-Raab, Miranda; NYC Redistricting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony: Frank Farance (Roosevelt Island), maps violate a dozen redistricting criteria

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To the Commission:

I am Frank Farance, I have lived on Roosevelt Island for 42 years, I'm a community leader, and I write in opposition of the CD 5 boundaries in the proposed plan. I request that Roosevelt Island, along with the East Side hospitals and parks return to CD 5. There should be no CD 26 (Woodside-Sunnyside) on Roosevelt Island nor the East Side.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: There are almost a dozen violations of the District Plan Criteria, which could easily be fixed by moving Roosevelt Island back into CD 5.,**

Here are my concerns, all citations refer to the City Charter, Chapter 2-A, Section 52.

**Point #1: Roosevelt Island Should Get Same Consideration As Staten Island**

According to the current plan, significant variances were agreed upon in Staten Island to remain 3 Council Districts, even though their districts are smaller than the standard size of 172,882 persons per district. In total, the Staten Island districts are 22,000 persons smaller - in theory, giving more weight to each Staten Islander's vote and, in practice, avoiding a Staten Island district being shared with Manhattan, Brooklyn, or Queens.

**Roosevelt Island should get a similar variance** (allowing our 12,000 residents to be part of Council District 5), but this would have the opposite effect than Staten Island: by making RI part of Council District 5 (CD 5), it will lose voting strength, but that is counterbalanced by the other important criteria for Roosevelt Island remaining in CD 5.

**Point #2: Improper Mapping Over Body of Water, Violation of §52(2)**

In the current plan violates §52(2), which states:

"Each district shall be contiguous, and whenever a part of a district is separated from the rest of the district by a body of water, there shall be a connection by a bridge, a tunnel, a tramway or by regular ferry service [emphasis added]".

**It is abundantly clear that with only ONE Tramway in New York City, and the statute explicitly calling out a "tramway" is a key element of contiguity.** That implies Roosevelt Island belongs in CD 5. The Roosevelt Island Bridge does not connect to CD 26 (it connects to CD 22). The Ferry NYC service is limited capacity and not regular service, nor does it provide senior nor other discounted rates nor free transfers necessary for travel.

**Point #3: Keeping Roosevelt Island Population Within CD5 Satisfies §52(1)(a)**

Roosevelt Island remaining in CD 5 would satisfy the §52(1)(a) criteria:

"The difference in population between the least populous and the most populous districts shall not exceed ten percentum (10%) of the average population for all districts"

By adding Roosevelt Island's 12,000 residents, it would only add 7% above the average, which satisfies this criteria.

**Point #4: Additional Rationale Satisfies §52(1)(a)**

Restoring Roosevelt Island to CD 5, as explained below, satisfy the remaining §52(1)(a) criteria:

"Any such differences in population must be justified by the other criteria set forth in this section".

**Point #5: Breaking Historical Ties Violates §52(1)(c)**

Roosevelt Island is a unique community with longstanding close transportation, employment, and housing ties. The §52(1)(c) criteria states

"District lines shall keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other"

The present plan violates this criteria. Since the 1970s when Roosevelt Island was created, it has been promoted as "Manhattan's Other Island" and the Island's residents are strongly affiliated with CD 5, including:

- Roosevelt Island residents are part of School District 2, which completely covers CD 5.
- For residents, most culture, school, and employment ties are on the Manhattan side (not the Queens CD 26) as an overwhelming number of residents commute via the Tram, F train, and Ferry take residents to the Manhattan side, not Queens CD 26 (Woodside, Sunnyside, LIC, Astoria Heights) - there are few community ties to CD 26, especially with a river in between.
- The NYS agency Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC), which has leased Roosevelt Island from the City via a 99-year lease, also has tram operations in CD 5 (the Manhattan side of the tram), and this operation also involves a franchise with the City, which involves negotiations and coordination. It makes no sense to split this into two districts.
- The Master Lease between NYS (RIOC) and NYC involves a General Development Plan (GDP - our zoning document), of which changes are negotiated between the State and the Mayor, which relies upon the local council member, which has a 52-year history with CD 5, i.e., the institutional memory is in CD 5, with no knowledge within CD 26 (as proposed). Changing the district with 52 years of history, would harm this important representational aspect for Roosevelt Island residents.
- Manhattan CB8M (along with the GDP) determine zoning issues for Roosevelt Island, but with the new plan CB8M's efforts on the Master Lease (and GDP) efforts would be split across multiple council districts, thus remaining in CD 5 makes more sense.
- Two apartment buildings on Roosevelt Island (475 Main St, 465 Main St) were built purposely for staff and students at Memorial Sloan Kettering (MKS) and Weill Cornell (WC) hospitals across the East River and these residents primarily use the Tram for transportation, which is in CD 5.
- Roosevelt Island has long ties with the United Nations on the Manhattan side, as much of their staff lives on Roosevelt Island, including former Secretary General Kofi Annan who was a resident of Roosevelt Island.

**Point #6: Present Map Is Oddly Shaped, Violates §52(1)(d)**

The current geometry of the proposed district ( $2.01 \text{ mi} / .87 \text{ mi} = 2.4$  ratio) violates the §52(1)(d) criteria

"Each district shall be compact and shall be no more than twice as long as it is wide"

By adding Roosevelt Island, the geometry is  $2.35/1.23 = 1.9$  ratio, which satisfies the criteria. Furthermore, because Roosevelt Island is now included in CD 26, now CD 26 also violates the §52(1)(d) criteria. The obvious solution is to move Roosevelt Island back to CD 5.

**Point #7: Crosses County Boundaries, Violates §52(1)(e)**

The current plan violates the §52(1)(e) criteria for three adjacent districts

"A district shall not cross borough or county boundaries"



In the current plan, Roosevelt Island is in New York County and the rest of CD 26 is in Queens County. Ditto for CD 8 (Manhattan-Bronx) and CD 34 (Queens-Brooklyn), all three are adjacent districts. Roosevelt Island should be returned to CD 5.

**Point #8: Sutton Place Is Completely Disconnected from CD 26, Violates §52(1)(c) and §52(2)**

The Sutton Place portion of the new plan is in CD 26, which is completely disconnected from the balance of CD 26 in Sunnyside, Woodside, etc.. This violates §52(1)(c) (no historical connection) and violates §52(2)

"Each district shall be contiguous, and whenever a part of a district is separated from the rest of the district by a body of water, there shall be a connection by a bridge, a tunnel, a tramway or by regular ferry service"

There is no such connection as the nearest bridge, Queensboro, is not part of the Sutton Place area in CD 26.

**Point #9: Two Boroughs Problem, Possible Violation of §52(3)**

The current plan might conflict with §52(3), which states

"If any district includes territory in two boroughs, then no other district may also include territory from the same two boroughs".

In the present plan, CD 26 (Manhattan-Queens), the adjacent CD 8 (Manhattan-Bronx), the adjacent CD 34 (Queens-Brooklyn), all cover two boroughs, it is unclear the status of Marble Hill (Manhattan-Bronx). It is unclear if the two borough criteria §52(1)(e) is violated.

**Point #10: Minimizes the Length of Boundaries, violates §52(1)(g)**

The current plan violates §52(1)(g), which states

"The districting plan shall be established in a manner that minimizes the sum of the length of the boundaries of all of the districts included in the plan"

By merging Roosevelt Island (and Sutton Place) back into CD 5, the extra length of extending CD 26 to Manhattan would be removed and, thus, would reduce district boundary length. Mathematically provably, just looking at the boundaries of CD 5 and CD 26, this is NOT minimizing lengths as a smaller boundary length is possible. Thus, CD 5 should include Roosevelt Island and Sutton Place.

**Point #11: Violates Maximum Extent Practicable, §52(1)**

The displacement of Roosevelt Island causes the districting plan to violate most of the statutory criteria, which also violates the first criteria §52(1):

"In the preparation of its plan for dividing the city into districts for the election of council members, the commission shall apply the criteria set forth in the following paragraphs to the maximum extent practicable".

Clearly, the current plan violates "maximum extent practicable". However, Roosevelt Island remaining in CD 5 causes the districting plan to come into compliance with the districting criteria.

**In summary, return Roosevelt Island to CD 5 and avoid these dozen violations of District Plan Criteria.**

Frank Farance

m: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Garrett Rosso <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 10:51 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NYC Council Redistricting

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NYC Council District 4 should not extend below 42nd.

Everything between 42nd & Houston street on the east side should be included in District 2.

There is no way Murray Hill, Peter Cooper & Stuytown are part of the Upper East Side

As is, District 2 is largely dysfunctional with the last 4 decades of candidates being elected by the Spanish speaking community in NYCHA leaving the bulk of our neighborhoods under represented — and it glaringly shows

—Garrett Rosso  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Gorana <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 1:27 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Sincerely,  
Gorana Dasic  
[REDACTED] w 48th str  
10036 NY, NY

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jennifer Canter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 8:08 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ce9161f535cbb45957ecd08da85002398%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C63796853288573541%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEkaWw%7C%7C%7C%7C&sdata=MHKC4dG8yo%2BooQH4Z1M6we%2FrUDbPDB2943qNwYiP6qg%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
<<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>  
<<BUILDING STREET ADDRESS>>

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jennifer Van Dyck [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 10:15 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map / Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission -

I have lived in Hell's Kitchen since 1987. My first apartment was a sublet from the Actors Equity bulletin board, and I have lived in this neighborhood ever since. I still know shop owners and neighbors from that first sublet across from the International Grocery by Port Authority. Now I live in a different part of Hell's Kitchen and feel strongly that the diversity and close-knit community that make up this entire neighborhood are vital to its survival.

Hell's Kitchen must be kept whole. Dividing it into 3 smaller districts is a bad idea. It is bad for our community and the generations of families and neighbors that have come together time and again to fight for our schools, our parks, our businesses, our public safety, and the Clinton Special District, that preserves our neighborhood from greedy real estate developers.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we **support the Unity map**, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and **keeps Hell's Kitchen whole**.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,

Jennifer Van Dyck  
[REDACTED] W. 55th St.

**Jennifer Van Dyck**  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jonathan/John Walker [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 9:36 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming less diverse and inclusive than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
John B. Walker  
[REDACTED] west 55th St. NYNY 10019

Jonathan Walker  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Judi Mate <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 6:05 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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Dear Mr. Walcott,  
Chairman of the NYC Redistricting Commission  
And the rest of the Commission

We are writing this because we are very upset about the fact that you are even thinking about putting Sutton Place in a Queens District.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in the City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, it is ridiculous to think that a district in Queens would have the same needs and concerns as would our district.

We have nothing against Queens but look at the map, **it's across the East River from Sutton Place! We're in Manhattan!** Why are you trying to diminish what is a wonderful, charming historic neighborhood (and lower our real estate values)? How could we expect proper representation?

Please take all these concerns into consideration and decide against the redistricting that moves Sutton Place into Queens.

Sincerely,  
Judith Mate  
Sovereign Apartments  
7D

Sent from my iPad



[REDACTED]

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**From:** Karen Winer [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 2:26 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** District3@council.nyc.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Unity Map

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am a long-time resident of Hell's Kitchen. In 1976 worked my first job in New York City at The Playhouse, now repurposed as an apartment building, on West 48th Street. Eighteen months later, I moved into my current home at 316 West 51st Street, where I hope to comfortably live out the rest of my days, now that I have retired from a long career in theatre and the arts. I moved here because the building was because it was close to work, affordable, and populated mostly by artists and other arts professionals, in a neighborhood, Hell's Kitchen, that fostered diversity. Has my block and the neighborhood changed in the ensuing 46 years? Most definitely. But it is arguable more diverse now than it ever has been and that is why I write, belatedly, today, to urge you in the strongest possible terms to uphold the Voting Rights Act of 1965, to preserve the Special Clinton District and protect it from the encroachment of rapacious developers, and to adopt the Unity map for City Council District 3 to keep Hell's Kitchen whole and preserve our diversity.

Thank you for your attention in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Winer  
[REDACTED] West 51st Street, Apt 3F  
New York, NY 10019  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Katherine Chala [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 9:38 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Katherine Chala  
[REDACTED] w 50th street

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Krista Ellis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 9:36 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cf41972b7dc6643b3765f08da850c6ff4%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968585707745821%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoim>

C4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=66T0RGI0AxH7Ki  
8PHCPRSI5I88B6doSAytUxoBSFY2c%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Krista Ellis

■ West 53rd St

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 10:52 PM

**To:** Public Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Thank you! Lauren Moskowitz

Sincerely,

Ms. Lauren Moskowitz

[REDACTED] E 79th St New York, NY 10075-1451



[REDACTED]

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**From:** Leda Hanson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 1:57 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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Manhattan on the upper east side added to Queens does not make sense. Our needs and interests are clearly quite different and must remain separate. I strongly hope that this idea is immediately forgotten.

Manhattan's Upper East side must stay in the district it is currently in and not be affixed to another borough Sincerely  
Leda Hanson

Sent from my iPhone

**August 22,2022: Against Redistricting of Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5**

I am Lori Kupfer, an architect and resident of Sutton Place. I am here to request that the revised district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 **not** be adopted.

I would like to state that the draft proposal violates **four** of the criteria set forth in the City Charter:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

To elaborate on my concerns, the proposed districts located on opposite sides of the East River do not share common urban character based on **zoning or land use**, and therefore do not have common needs or interests. The Sutton Place neighborhood currently in District 5 is primarily zoned for midrise residential as are its adjacent Manhattan neighbors. Its streets are defined by an uninterrupted grid, consistent with the rest of the streets in East Midtown Manhattan, forming a cohesive urban fabric and shared municipal needs. Conversely the Queens District 26 is zoned largely for industrial use with some varied residential use. Each area of the Queens district has its own unique grid of streets of varied residential density and are interrupted by the open rail yards for the Long Island Railroad and Amtrack. The Queens neighborhoods are further divided by throughfares such as Queens Blvd and the Long Island Expressway. Sutton Place shares no urban scale, context, or character with the Queens areas.

Much of Queens District 26 is **miles** away from the Sutton Place neighborhood, and across a body of water. This divide has created neighborhoods that developed to support different types of urban uses on each side of the East River. The Queens neighborhoods in District 26; Hunter's Point, Blissville and large areas of Long Island City are still industrial. The Manhattan East River neighborhoods have dense and cohesive midrise residential with supporting commercial services for the neighborhood. The municipal needs are therefore very different for the Queens neighborhoods and the East Side Manhattan neighborhoods because of their very different urban infrastructure. There will **not** be budgeting, capital investments or development concerns that East Side Manhattan and Queens will share.

Sutton Place has a series of neighborhood parks and will be home to the new East Midtown Waterfront Esplanade running along the East River from 54<sup>th</sup> Street to 61<sup>st</sup> Street, part of the plan to connect all of Manhattan's East waterfront for pedestrian and bike use thus furthering the connections of Sutton Place to its neighboring contiguous districts of Beekman Place and Turtle Bay to the South, Yorkville and the Upper East Side to the North. Sutton Place has clear shared community interests with these neighborhoods regarding the public waterfront completion, continued maintenance, and safety of all the parks.

The proposed sprawling, extreme crossover district will severely limit the provision of municipal services and the political representation of thousands of Manhattan's residents I earnestly request that the Commission revise their re-districting plan, adhere to the criteria of the City Charter and keep the compatible adjacent East Side Manhattan neighborhoods together within in district lines.

I thank you for your consideration.



NYC Redistricting Commission  
253 Broadway, 3rd Floor  
NY, NY 10007

Dear Redistricting Commission:

I am a condominium owner on the Upper East Side and have lived in my current residence since 1999. I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Meena R. Mansharamani". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Meena R. Mansharamani

# ■ SUTTON PLACE APARTMENT CORPORATION

■ Sutton Place, New York, NY 10022

Dear Chair Walcott,

As a resident of ■ Sutton Place, I write to ask that you **DO NOT ADOPT** the preliminary district lines proposed for **Queens Council District 26** and **Manhattan Council District 5** which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, notably splitting the Sutton Place community of interest between multiple districts and combining representation for a portion of our Manhattan community with Queens. Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to represent and serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two or more additional Manhattan Community Boards or hold full membership on multiple Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting, creating significant disparities among neighbors who share the parks and access to the new Greenway from Sutton Place? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Will the interests of Manhattan residents be served by a Council Member who serves a majority of constituents in Queens?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. Keep the Sutton Area neighborhood intact and with representation in Manhattan! If a redistricting is necessary, I would suggest and support the proposed district lines set out in the Community Board 6 Resolution of August 10 as an alternative. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sutton Place Resident:

**Meghann J Hussey**

PRINT NAME



SIGNATURE

■ Sutton Place, Apartment 9/10C

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Milagros Simon [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 9:44 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C45058d0e078440abf28108da850fd038%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968601394449071%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gZx6%2BucdQpoCp%2BHC5yVKwGxk9wocXd%2F%2FzEmPOkPu3V4%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Milagros Simon  
[REDACTED] Broadway NYC, NY 10040

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Nansy Mui [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 12:05 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Petition against re-districting

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Dear NYC Districting Commission members:

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Nansy Mui

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Rita Salzman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 6:44 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Manhattan

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Dear Sirs

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the meeting last night as I was out of the country.  
I want to register my indignation at the idea of uniting Queens and Sutton place and Roosevelt Island.  
There seems to be a conspiracy of crooks who are somehow working consistently to destroy Manhattan.  
We have consistently had one bad mayor after another who seem interested in lining their own pockets instead of attending to the problems of Manhattan such as broken pavements, filthy streets, garbage on the side walks, traffic jams all over the city, no place for off street public parking as do other majors cities and other countries and lack of affordable housing.

**This is my protest. Do not allow this project to go through. Hit the streets.**

Rita Fredrick's Salzman

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Bobby Pearce [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 12:26 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C26b393b6fdd646c9a36708da85241db6%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968688503754012%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=IxKZZQN0OtVQKsDgqlbxzv47Lp%2BrBRPAnzpTIERB53E%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Robert Pearce  
[REDACTED] West 49 Street #3E  
New York, NY 10019



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Robin Berla Meyers [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 2:26 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Robin Berla  
[REDACTED] W. 55 St  
New York, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Seth Jones [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 12:02 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Seth Jones

[REDACTED] W. 50th St #2E  
Ny, NY 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sharon Bowie <sh[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 4:12 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission, Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade. The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community. Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>. Sincerely, <> <>

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Stephen Fascianella [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 9:20 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C79321545103f439cd65d08da850a4987%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968577674699296%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2Fy8LSYZjvEOzVupM%2Fj51i7MUOPPTX8QMswwwwGMK1Zwc%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Stephen Fascianella  
[REDACTED] West 49th Street

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Suzanne Toren [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 12:46 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ca5835f6946bf4cef21f008da852705d3%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968699907836102%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nsSgOZB4J1vWqOnwO%2Fgce259QLKpeOJAxZj9g%2BpeVlo%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Toren  
[REDACTED] West 43 ST

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sylvie <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 1:13 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C56c4844bfcc949ba8c0608da84c618ff%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637968283611870493%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LRwMZ%2BmTPH295XSIUovuqQoUTDuc4Zu0fURcflluU%2FY%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Sylvie Preston Gordon  
Life long Manhattan Plaza resident: [REDACTED] west 43rd street apt 21T NY NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Travis White <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 8:39 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Travis White  
[REDACTED] W 54th St. Apt 2101  
New York, NY, 10019

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Tyler Nagai [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 7:23 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen

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Hello,

I urge you to keep Hell's Kitchen together as one district. The plan to separate us into 3 districts will drastically dilute our voice. We will no longer be unified as the community that we are today. Please consider the Unity Map.

Sincerely,

Tyler Nagai  
(Hell's Kitchen Resident for 3+ years)



# 16 SUTTON PLACE APARTMENT CORPORATION

16 Sutton Place, New York, NY 10022

Dear Chair Walcott,

As a resident of [REDACTED] Sutton Place, I write to ask that you **DO NOT ADOPT the preliminary district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5** which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods, notably splitting the Sutton Place community of interest between multiple districts and combining representation for a portion of our Manhattan community with Queens. Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to represent and serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two or more additional Manhattan Community Boards or hold full membership on multiple Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting, creating significant disparities among neighbors who share the parks and access to the new Greenway from Sutton Place? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Will the interests of Manhattan residents be served by a Council Member who serves a majority of constituents in Queens?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. Keep the Sutton Area neighborhood intact and with representation in Manhattan! If a redistricting is necessary, I would suggest and support the proposed district lines set out in the Community Board 6 Resolution of August 10 as an alternative. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sutton Place Resident:

**Victor E Salerno III**

PRINT NAME



SIGNATURE

[REDACTED] Sutton Place, Apartment [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Wesley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 11:56 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Wesley Westenberg

[REDACTED] 9th Avenue  
2FN

NY, NY 10019  
[REDACTED]

--  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 12:10 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms ann pyne

[REDACTED] Park Ave New York, NY 10065-7313  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Tosh Anderson [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 9:42 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ca4edf2496a1d4905903608da869fab52%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637970318643807402%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=h067tDe11RE6DM3oysanUjEvK7FPcdD%2B%2FLGTeJ4FvEQ%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Brown Anderson

[REDACTED] West 42nd Street

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Catherine Lafferty [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 1:01 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole!

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Dear NYC Districting Commission members:

My name is Catherine Lafferty, and I have lived on W. 48th Street in Hell's Kitchen for 23 years. I'm writing in support of the Unity Map and do not want my Hell's Kitchen neighborhood (which currently is entirely in Councilman Erik Bottcher's District 3) divided among three council districts, as your proposed NYC Council District Map reflects.

I have been on the Steering Committee of the Clinton Community Garden (one of NYC's original Green Guerillas gardens founded in 1979, and located on W. 48th Street between 9th and 10th Avenues) for the past five years; I'm a volunteer gardener in Hell's Kitchen Park (on 10th Avenue between W. 47th/W. 48th); I am an active member of the W. 47th/W. 48th Streets Block Association; I have worked on selecting participatory-budget projects in Council District 3 since 2019; I am a NYC Parks volunteer Super Steward, and during Erik Bottcher's campaign for City Council in 2020-2021, I lead volunteers with Erik nearly every Sunday to reclaim disused tree beds on the traffic medians on 9th Avenue and to plant flowers in under-utilized tree beds in the West Village, Chelsea, and Hell's Kitchen (throughout District 3). I am writing to request that you maintain the integrity of our volunteer efforts to beautify our green spaces in Hell's Kitchen by not dividing our neighborhood among 3 districts. It makes no sense practically or administratively to have Hell's Kitchen Park and DeWitt Clinton Park (which are four blocks away from each other) be in two different council districts. It is important for Hell's Kitchen to continue to have one council person represent our concerns regarding green spaces. We made great strides investing in and maintaining tree beds under Councilman Corey Johnson in District 3, and I would like to see Councilman Erik Bottcher be able to continue to support projects in parks and common green spaces in Hell's Kitchen. Please keep Hell's Kitchen Whole, and do not artificially divide the residential center of Hell's Kitchen into three council districts. The citizens, green spaces, medians, and sidewalks of Hell's Kitchen need ONE strong, receptive leader (Councilman Erik Bottcher), NOT two additional City Council members whose current parks are nowhere near Hell's Kitchen. We have a unified culture of community gardeners, citizen pruners, tree stewards, composters, HK Free Store volunteers, and Litter Legion volunteers — all of whom live and volunteer in various parts of Hell's Kitchen. We want to remain within ONE council district (District 3).

PLEASE HELP HELL'S KITCHEN RESIDENTS TO KEEP HELL'S KITCHEN WHOLE.

I attended the hearings Monday night, and I appreciate your granting residents of Hell's Kitchen the chance to voice our concerns about being divided among three council districts. Please consider our District 3 Councilman Erik Bottcher's reservations about having three different council members try to tackle issues in one neighborhood (Hell's Kitchen). Hell's Kitchen needs the attention of one council member now more than ever before with our public safety, sanitation and illegal Air B and B issues — to name a few — during this crucial time of economic and cultural recovery in NYC.

Respectfully,  
Cat

Catherine Lafferty  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Chase Jones [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 4:02 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Dr. Chase Jones

[REDACTED] W 43rd St

New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Clark Maurer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 6:13 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to redistricting Roosevelt Island

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To whom it may concern:

- All five of New York City's boroughs have a Main Street. Manhattan's Main Street is on Roosevelt Island. Does Queens really need two (2) Main Streets??
- Under NYC's Charter Roosevelt Island is part of Manhattan.
- Roosevelt Island has a Manhattan area code (212) as well as zip code (10044). The public library is part of the Manhattan Library System.
- Roosevelt Island's community needs are very different from the needs of Queens. Roosevelt Islanders are Manhattanites.

Respectfully,  
Clark Maurer  
[REDACTED] Main Street  
New York NY 10044



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Derek Toney [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 3:46 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C7fe736a237b84e5333ef08da86095164%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637969671842515117%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=C2kBOqAfj6Wz1QJPkG25ds%2F4nPjH2TMFly2e3KySEIs%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,

Derek Toney

[REDACTED] West 43rd St, NYC, NY, 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Doug Seidman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 8:05 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Doug Seidman  
[REDACTED] E 10th St  
New York, NY 10003

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jeannette Santos [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 7:15 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C03e3155c620c476d0f6c08da85c1e057%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637969366012973628%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=56QnDm8gB3qgp4B0SiYfQpogONyX%2FLq%2BUE7fMGRaQml%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Jeannette Santos  
Griffin Court  
[REDACTED] West 54th Street  
New York, NY 10019

Sent from my iPhone

## TESTIMONY CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING

August 24, 2022

My name is Jody Hirson. I am a resident of District 7 as well as a member of the Neighbors of Riverside Drive Lower Washington Heights Association. We are a very active group of nearly 50 residents living on Riverside Drive between 158th street and 165th street. Over the past several years, we have been working hard to effect change in our community. A community that has seen 20+ years of neglect is finally having a voice and with the help of our Councilman, Shaun Abreu, our relationship with Columbia Presbyterian, NYC Parks, Department of Transportation and Community Board 12, positive change is happening in our community. I believe it is very important that we remain in District 7 for these reasons and I am requesting that the redistricting commission include the West 160s in the proposed new District 7. District 7's northern border should, at least, extend to 165th Street, West of Fort Washington Avenue and to 162nd Street, West of Broadway.

I am advocating for the map attached to this email and linked here: <https://districtr.org/plan/138462>

In the last election, voters in the West 160s cast their vote for our current council member, Shaun Abreu. Because of our community's relationship with Shaun, we have been able to ask for meaningful investments in our community. These investments include:

- \$1.2 million to upgrade and revitalize Lily Brown Playground, located between 162nd and 163rd on Riverside Drive.
- Working with the Parks Department and Department of Transportation to make desperately needed repairs to the sidewalks and implement loading zones for deliveries between 160 to 165 and Riverside.
- A massive block party on West 161st Street where people from the lower West 160s could come together, as we always have, to enjoy one another's company and show our kids a good time.

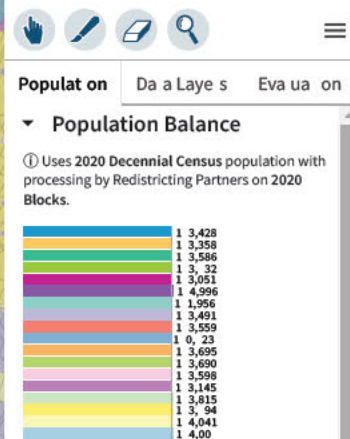
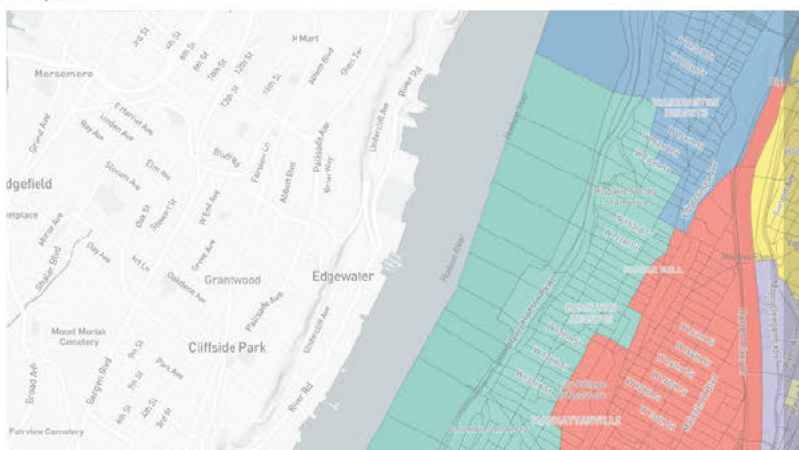
The West 160's can't compete for attention and resources with upper Washington Heights and Inwood. I respectfully urge you to please not tear apart our community and weaken our collective voice. **Do not**

**weaken the representation of our diverse community. Do not dilute our vote or pack us into a single district. Let us continue to stand strong, hold our elected officials accountable, and allow our voices to be heard in our local government.**

Sincerely,  
Laura Gilbert

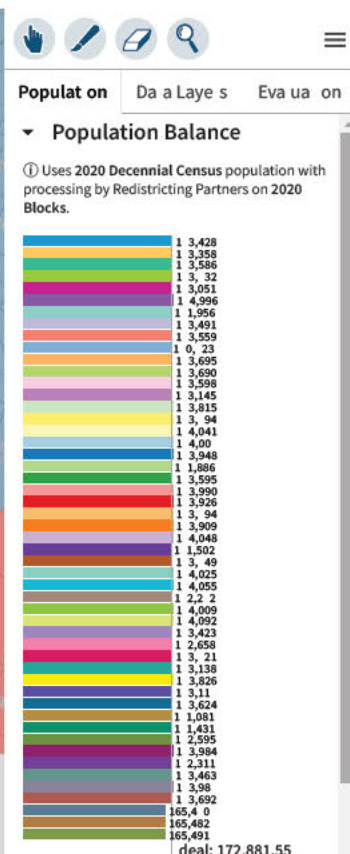
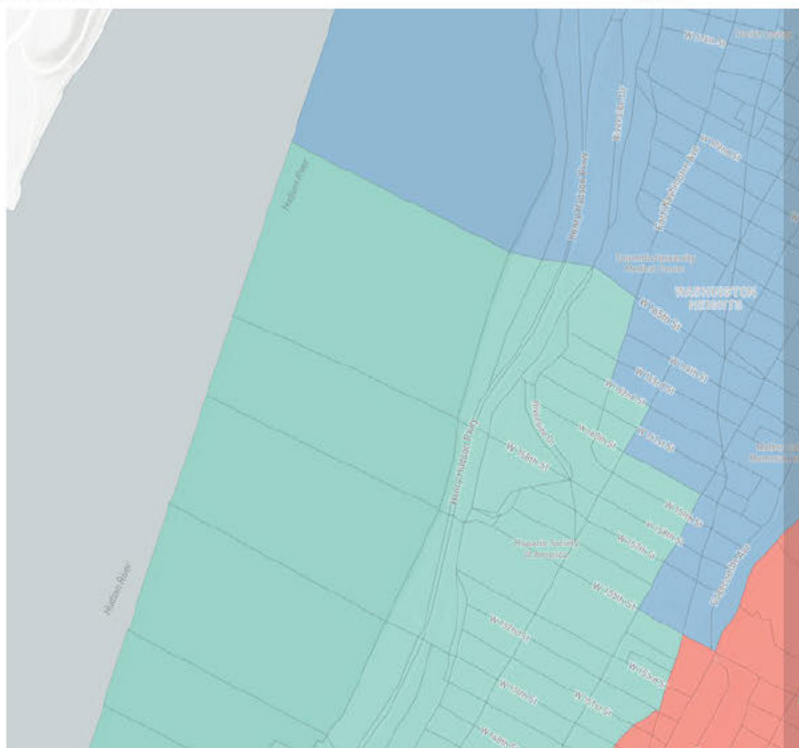
8/19/22, 1:36 PM

Districtr



8/19/22, 1:35 PM

Districtr





[REDACTED]

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**From:** Leslie Woodruff [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 9:29 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your efforts to redraw the City Council district map equitably. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split into three different districts.

Hell's Kitchen stretches west from 8th Ave to the Hudson, between 34th-59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became majority minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter which is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

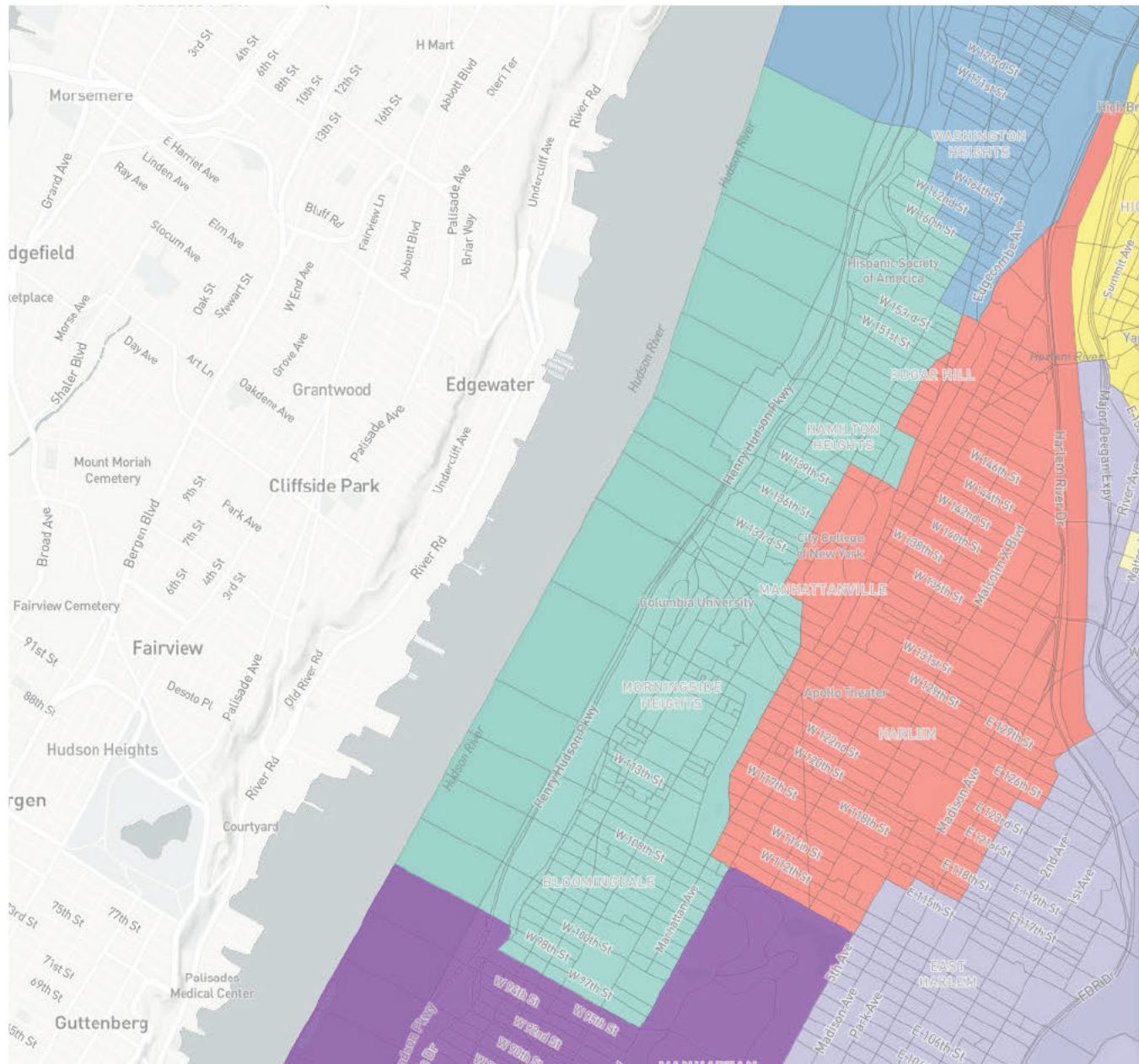
Please support our Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the many issues of our community.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C6960935159014cca234108da86393219%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637969877466324624%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Z6Jyms1moE8P9KwCHSpSYL1VDjG0chfHnXuMlwG3WxU%3D&reserved=0>

Thank you,

Leslie Woodruff  
[REDACTED] W 47 St

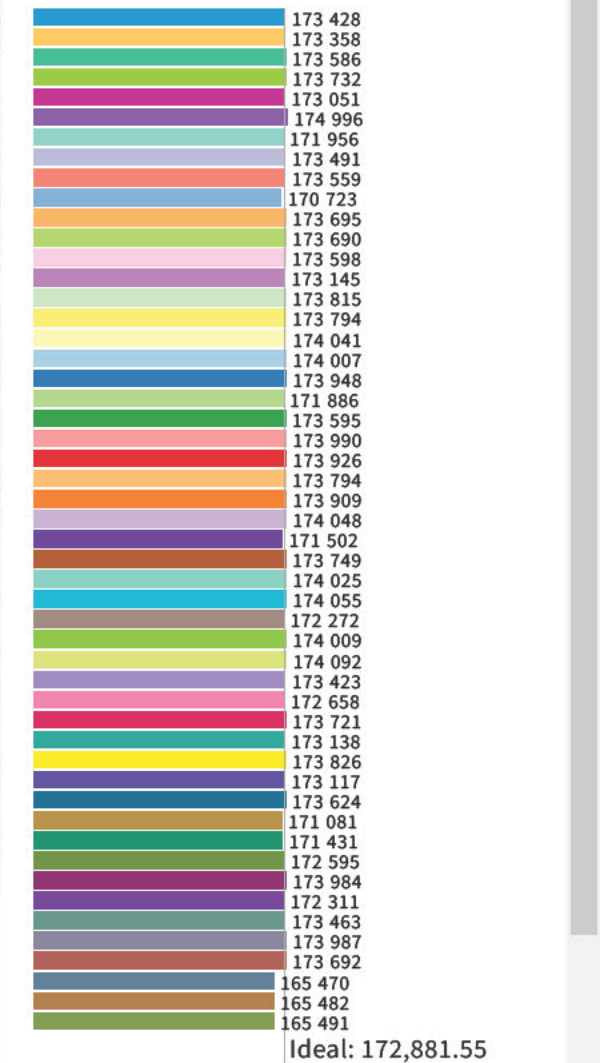




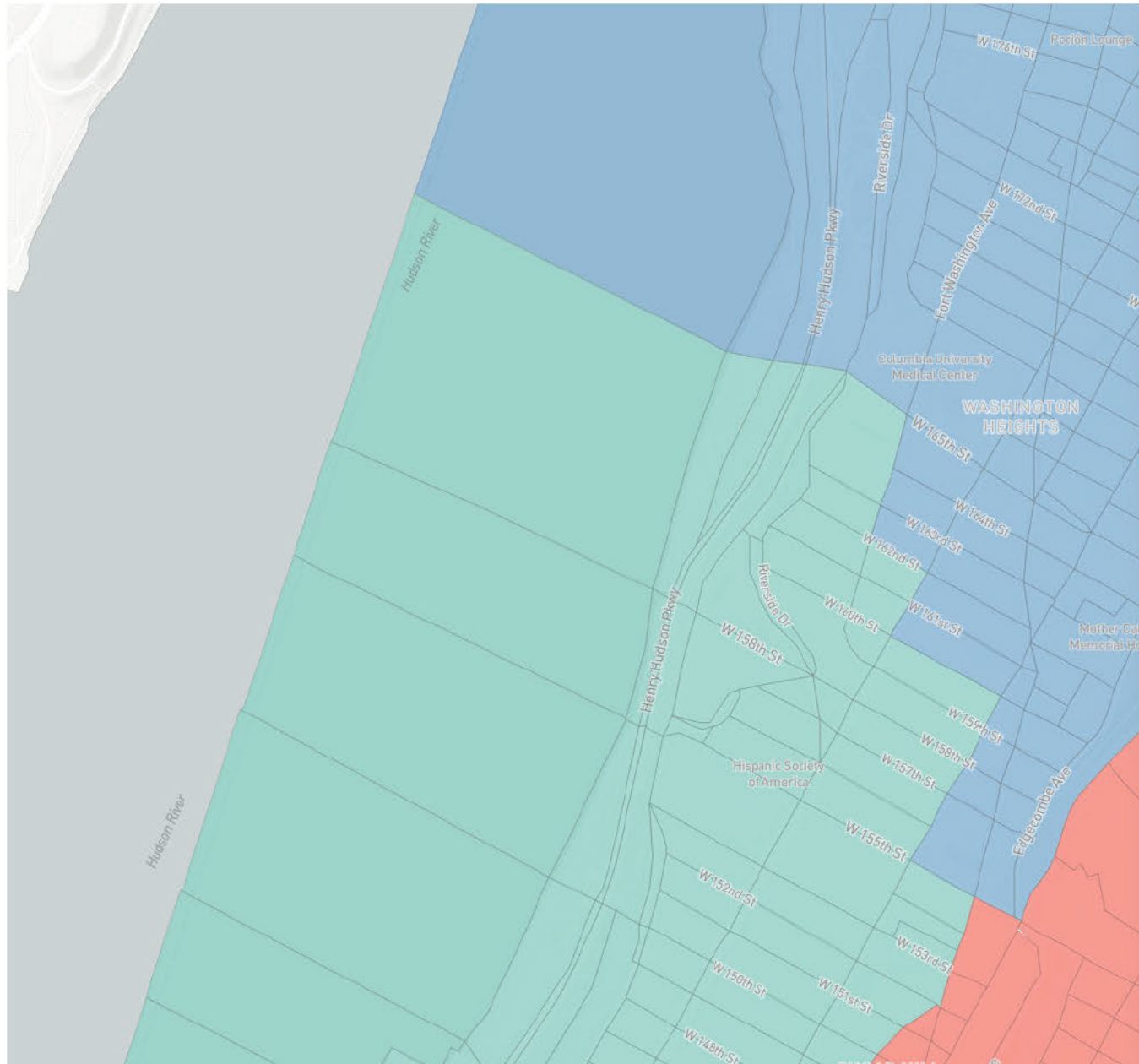
Population Data Layers Evaluation

## Population Balance

Uses 2020 Decennial Census population with processing by Redistricting Partners on 2020 Blocks.







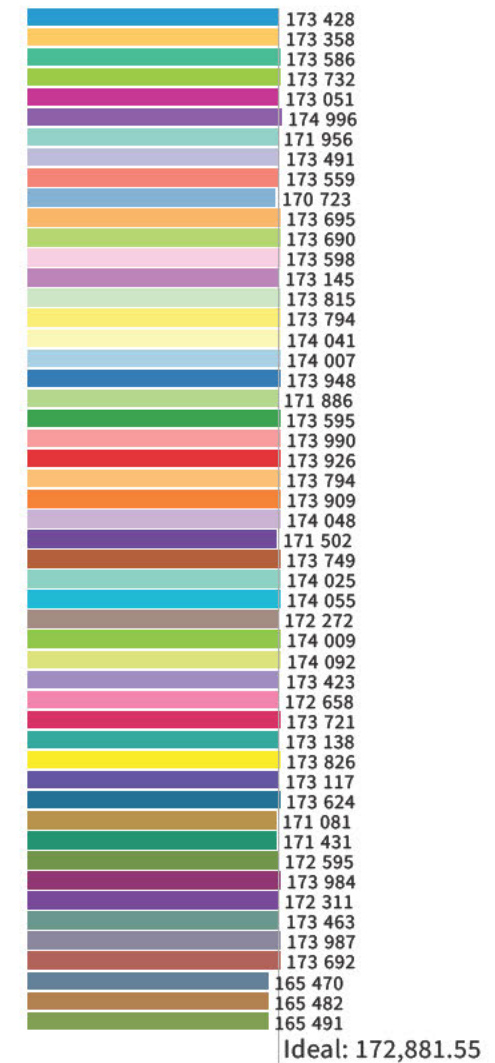
Population

Data Layers

Evaluation

## ▼ Population Balance

ⓘ Uses 2020 Decennial Census population with processing by Redistricting Partners on 2020 Blocks.



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Maria Parchesky [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 4:26 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ce7986ce48e914a7c856d08da860ee79d%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637969695830527849%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BCL%2FLpZ2ne5qrFJmjh3E25sNdAND715NeGGYUIC4ADw%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Maria Parchesky  
[REDACTED] West 45th St  
Apt 309  
New York, NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Michelle Raum [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 9:26 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Ced54d7902cce4648af5508da85d4390e%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637969443789151775%7CUnknown%7CTWfpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoi>

MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bqpkLnX%2Bci  
VF2hFshrAS3ZXLAYa3A81CjaQgl8ukQy4%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,

Michelle Raum

■ West 43rd Street, Apt. 36M  
New York, NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Peter S. Green [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 1:19 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** Julio Batista; Shaun Abreu  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Save The 160s  
**Attachments:** DISTRICT 7 PROPOSED MAP.pdf; D7 NORTHERN BORDER.pdf

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## TESTIMONY ON CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING

August 24, 2022

My name is Peter Green. I am a resident of District 7 as well as a member of the Neighbors of Riverside Drive Lower Washington Heights Association. We are a very active group of nearly 50 residents living on Riverside Drive between 158th street and 165th street. Over the past several years, we have been working hard to effect change in our community. A community that has seen 20+ years of neglect is finally having a voice and with the help of our Councilman, Shaun Abreu, our relationship with Columbia Presbyterian, NYC Parks, Department of Transportation and Community Board 12, positive change is happening in our community. I believe it is very important that we remain in District 7 for these reasons and I am requesting that the redistricting commission include the West 160s in the proposed new District 7. District 7's northern border should, at least, extend to 165th Street, West of Fort Washington Avenue and to 162nd Street, West of Broadway.

I am advocating for the map attached to this email and linked here: <https://districtr.org/plan/138462>

In the last election, voters in the West 160s cast their vote for our current council member, Shaun Abreu. Because of our community's relationship with Shaun, we have been able to ask for meaningful investments in our community. These investments include:

- \$1.2 million to upgrade and revitalize Lily Brown Playground, located between 162nd and 163rd on Riverside Drive.
- Working with the Parks Department and Department of Transportation to make desperately needed repairs to the sidewalks and implement loading zones for deliveries between 160 to 165 and Riverside.
- A massive block party on West 161st Street where people from the lower West 160s could come together, as we always have, to enjoy one another's company and show our kids a good time.

The West 160's can't compete for attention and resources with upper Washington Heights and Inwood. I respectfully urge you to please not tear apart our community and weaken our collective voice. **Do not weaken the representation of our diverse community.** Do not dilute our vote or pack us into a single district. Let us continue to stand strong, hold our elected officials accountable, and allow our voices to be heard in our local government.

Sincerely,  
Peter Green  
[REDACTED] Riverside Drive

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Rene Santos [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 7:16 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C9d44be62e0bf4fcd00ad08da85c211de%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637969365816943545%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xuJdeQSKEm4VnR3BVGdudA9ipwzs0ndntBQhjCmguhU%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Rene Santos  
[REDACTED] West 54th Street  
New York, NY 10019

Sent from my iPhone

## TESTIMONY OF RICHARD MARANS PERTAINING TO THE REDISTRICTING OF COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

Commissioners

The proposed redistricting map for Council District 3 would divide our Hell's Kitchen community into three separate council districts. Our community would be relegated to a minor part of three different Council members and we would not receive the attention or work that is required to deal with issues facing Hell's Kitchen.

I am a member of the West 47/48<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association. My Block Association would be split between two different Council members. Your plan would make it extremely difficult to coordinate Council member response to issues. We have had a continued campaign to try and abate the rat problems in our area. In addition to getting City agencies to react to our problems by enforcement, baiting and changes to garbage pick up, we would now have to coordinate responses with two different Council members, substantially increasing our work and resulting in confusion over who is doing what, resulting in a less effective program to deal with this problem.

On a larger community wide scale, three Council members will not be able to devote the time necessary to work with us to preserve our housing stock and the Clinton Special District when we are only a small part of their district. We are under constant attack from developers trying to destroy buildings by neglect or worse in order to be able to demolish them and build larger buildings. Without a Councilperson dedicated to working with us on this issue, developers will be able accomplish their destructive goals while the three Council members representing us delay their responses and advocacy while trying to coordinate or simply not paying attention to Hell's Kitchen because it is such a small portion of their district.

Finally, I want to point out that this is not just about one or two blocks of a community, you are dismembering all of Hell's Kitchen. If you pursue this course of action, you will be sounding a death knell for our neighborhood, as we lose cohesion and are no longer a force to contend with, since we would have no power in the three districts to which we will be consigned.

I honestly believe that the gerrymandered Hell's Kitchen in which we will have to live is an assault on our democratic rights.

I urge you to discard your disastrous maps and adopt the Unity map to at least give us a fighting chance at protecting our Hell's Kitchen.





[REDACTED]

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**From:** Ruth Browne, SD [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 1:56 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting a Portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write in support of the resolution of Manhattan Community Board 8 recommending that the narrow area east of First Avenue within Council District 5 slated to be moved into Queens Council District 26 remain in Council District 5. Ronald McDonald House New York® is located on East 73rd Street between First and York Avenues and will be directly affected by this proposed re-districting. The House provides temporary housing for children and their families while the child is undergoing treatment for cancer or other diseases at any one of our 11 partner hospitals. We also operate in cooperation with the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation two Ronald McDonald Family Rooms®, staffed hospitality rooms available to the families of admitted children for rest and reflection, at Kings County and, very shortly, Elmhurst Hospitals. We are proud that these two Family Rooms are the first Ronald McDonald Family Rooms® in the United States to be located in public hospitals. Discussions are underway at a number of other hospitals in all boroughs.

While we extend our services City-wide, our only facility is in Manhattan. We share the community's concern that such significant portions of the East Side would be moved to an overwhelmingly Queens-centered district. The affected neighborhoods are part of a single community of interest with the Upper East Side, and are deeply tied to the area through history, long standing personal and institutional relationships, and simple geography. We are also concerned that the City agencies with which we have regular operational contact . . . NYPD, FDNY, DOB, DSNY and DEP . . . are organized around a Manhattan-centric borough structure, and that it would serve our interests to have as a Council member an official more fully integrated into the Borough regulatory environment.

Thank you for taking our views into consideration.

Sincerely,

Ruth C. Browne  
President and CEO, Ronald McDonald House New York

Ruth Browne, SD (she/her)  
President & Chief Executive Officer



t [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[www.rmh-newyork.org](http://www.rmh-newyork.org)  
Annual Report | Get Updates

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 12:58 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Sheila Glass

[REDACTED] E 79th St Apt 12D New York, NY 10075-1440 s [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** steven Silverstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 1:06 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7C5f1b6a6ddc8c4fbce03208da858e5d77%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637969143752698382%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BZH41EieYa3GpE3JGOjvg9S13UJHf2wzxJ5gINsnb7w%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Steven Silverstein  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Zach Peletz [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 3:52 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen Redistricting

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity Map for CD-3. <https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>.

Sincerely,  
Zachary A Peletz  
[REDACTED] W 48th St

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Caroline Rhoad [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 1:25 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Caroline Rhoad  
[REDACTED] River Place Apt 3413  
New York, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

Please forgive typos- sent from 

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jarrett Cobbs [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 2:57 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Everyone who lives in Hell's Kitchen knows that our community runs west of Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River between West 34th Street and West 59th Street.

The first mention of Hell's Kitchen in print dates back to the 1880s. But even today, tourist guides use these same boundaries to refer to Hell's Kitchen.

The 2013 City Council map included most of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in City Council District 3, which allowed us to be represented by a single City Council member.

We are an incredibly diverse neighborhood. The 2020 Census shows that the Hispanic, Asian-American, Black and multi-racial communities now make up the majority of the population in Hell's Kitchen. But the City's preliminary map would split us up into three different majority white City Council districts, diluting the political voice of Hispanic, Black and Asian communities in Hell's Kitchen.

Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

The Districting Commission's preliminary map keeps ALL of Chelsea in CD-3 but splits up Hell's Kitchen into three large chunks with two of those parts attached to two other majority-white City Council districts.

As a result of splitting up Hell's Kitchen in this way, the representation of Hispanic and Black populations in both Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea and of the larger Asian population in Hell's Kitchen are significantly diluted.

Currently, according to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.2 % of both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Asians make up 21.4 % of Hell's Kitchen and 13.0 % of Chelsea, Blacks make up 7.5 % of Hell's Kitchen and 6.6 % of Chelsea, whites make up 48.1 % of Hell's Kitchen and 57.5% of Chelsea.

Meanwhile the Commission's preliminary map would DECREASE the representation of Hispanics, Asians and Blacks in the proposed City Council district 3 while INCREASING the proportion of whites in comparison to both the CURRENT City Council generally and Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in particular.

That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3:  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Thank you,  
Jarrett Cobbs  
[REDACTED] west 43rd street

NY,NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Asia Nowak-Gaikwad <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 3:51 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

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Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria outlined in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8 and Roosevelt Island? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

2

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Community District 8 ranks 47 th out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park , most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would

result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.  
In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not  
adopt the proposed districts referenced above.  
I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

Joanna Nowak- Gaikwad  
■ East 64th Street #PHB  
New York, NY 10065

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Kendra Stensven [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 12:21 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Kendra Stensven

--

Kendra C.M. Stensven  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Kirsten Cobbs [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 2:54 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hell's Kitchen supports the Unity Map

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Hell's Kitchen, with a population of 74,621 people, is the largest neighborhood in the current City Council District-3, followed by Chelsea, with 63,039 individuals. Together, these two neighborhoods make up more than two-thirds of the current CD-3. They are also the most diverse neighborhoods in CD-3.

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That is why we support the Unity map, which preserves our neighborhood's diversity and keeps Hell's Kitchen whole.

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cdf6bb2dbb5d9459180ca08da86cb2c38%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637970504435902910%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljo>

MC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WKr6hqqMjd%  
2BDbGNxlOaZelrfog%2FGBB2h3PRtHuSaQgl%3D&reserved=0

Thank you,  
Kirsten Cobbs  
[REDACTED] west 43rd street  
NY,NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Leslie Santiago <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 11:53 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole!

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your initial work on redrawing the City Council district map. I'm a Hell's Kitchen resident and would hate to see our community split among three different districts. It's common knowledge that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that deserves sensible representation. The current proposal for district 4 is particularly absurd and real intact neighborhoods like Hell's Kitchen shouldn't be broken up to preserve that Frankenstein district. Let Stuytown be in a district with their actual neighbors. Let the East Side be reunited too.

For these reasons, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Leslie Santiago  
[REDACTED] River Pl. NY, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Neil Santiago <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 11:43 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole!

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your initial work on redrawing the City Council district map. I'm a Hell's Kitchen resident and would hate to see our community split among three different districts. It's common knowledge that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that deserves sensible representation. The current proposal for district 4 is particularly absurd and real intact neighborhoods like Hell's Kitchen shouldn't be broken up to preserve that Frankenstein district. Let Stuytown be in a district with their actual neighbors. Let the East Side be reunited too.

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Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,

Neil Santiago

[REDACTED] River Pl. NY, NY 10036

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Polyanna Shayne [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 5:45 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cf0e4cc6034aa40a6c14e08da86e31cbb%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637970608471855359%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=c%2BbbowQZmDThvCDX11sT604pJziK%2BsNiB7SggTPVLhU%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Polyanna Shayne  
[REDACTED] west 42nd st  
NYC NY 10036

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** R [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 3:52 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

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Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria outlined in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8 and Roosevelt Island? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

2

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Community District 8 ranks 47 th out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park , most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would

result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.  
In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not  
adopt the proposed districts referenced above.  
I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

Rahul Gaikwad  
■ East 64th Street #PHB  
New York, NY 10065

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 6:53 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fedit%2F137926%3Fevent%3Dnyc2022&data=05%7C01%7CPublicTestimony%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cf6cbe24ac40f498ef66908da86ec8f9c%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637970649182263673%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6ImN0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=blmu5qFAcVPGUD%2BxTViiScG9We%2BVw1qSjb%2BO7OSvwc%3D&reserved=0>

Sincerely,  
Thomas Naudus  
[REDACTED] W 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10036



A Not-for-Profit Corporation  
east sixties neighborhood association, inc.  
P.O Box 1855  
New York, NY 10021  
Tel 212-713-5826 • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)

TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission  
FROM: (name) HOBBIE GROSS (address) YORK AVENUE, New York 10065  
DATE: July 27, 2022 apt 3 W  
RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26  
VIA EMAIL TO: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)  
MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

Good day Chair Walcott,

The plan presented for 54 blocks of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island is not acceptable to the residents of the East Sixties. We believe it violates the charter requirements of keeping neighborhoods compact and in tack. This plan would make CD26 an oddly shaped district with practical difficulties: they are - would the Council Member have a district office in Manhattan as well as on Roosevelt Island; would the Council Member cover Community Board meetings in Board 8 & 6 and have full membership on both Borough Boards, and finally we believe this part of Community District 8 would have a diminution of representation. While other Districts have physical boundaries in more than one borough, they are directly adjacent to one another. They do not have a river separating them as in this proposed plan. The issues in CD26 are not the same as in CD5. There are several well-established neighborhood associations whose membership would be torn asunder.

The issues that involve City Agencies such as Transportation, Sanitation, Parks etc. are different in the two council districts. Then there are two other major issues that would tear our community apart. The **first** is the hospital corridor with their buildings for the major institutions many of which would be in CD26 under the new plan. But many of their offices and allied buildings and staff and doctors would be located in/or live in CD5 making it difficult for discussing issues constantly arising. The **second** is Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 51 Districts for the least amount of park space in the city. This plan would remove: 24 Sycamores Park;  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Honey Locust Park—with  $\frac{1}{4}$  remaining in D5; most of our East River Esplanade and Andrew Haswell Green Park Phase 1 & 2A—2B is under construction at this time. Phase 3 has not yet started and will likely cost \$25 Million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the voters in her/his District? Most of the funding will probably be spent in the Queens part of the district. **This would result in CD 5 having the least amount of Park space in NYC.**

We strongly recommend that you study and implement Community Board 8's resolution and plan, as it takes into account the number of residents in all the adjoining districts.

Our Neighborhood Association depends greatly on our Council Member and her office staff, which is easy to reach by a short bus ride. I strongly urge the New York City Districting Commission to reconsider this ill-conceived plan and not divide an indivisible and cohesive neighborhood.

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*



**BRANTLEY B. KNOWLES**  
**Chairman Museum Committee**  
**Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden**  
**■ E. 61<sup>st</sup> ST**  
**New York, NY 10065**

August 26, 2022

Mr. Dennis M. Walcott  
Chair  
NYC Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

VIA EMAIL: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

Dear Mr. Walcott,

I write in opposition to the proposed redistricting that would move the narrow area east of First Avenue that is currently in Council District 5 to Queens Council District 26. That area should remain within Council District 5.

The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden (MVHM&G) is housed in a 1799 building, the 8th oldest historical structure still standing in Manhattan, and offers considerable and vital links to the immediate area's long history as a vibrant part of Manhattan. In addition to being part of the community and building strong relationships with our neighbors, the Museum has also benefitted enormously from close relationships to our past Council District 5 representatives; the discretionary funding at the council representative's disposal has supported cultural institutions in the district, such as the MVHM&G, that are making important cultural contributions to the immediate community as well as to the larger NYC population. Were the Museum to move to Queens Council District 26, this much-needed funding would be in even shorter supply, which would translate to less city-sponsored financial assistance going to institutions that directly support their local communities. In the case of the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden, that means school visits for children to learn about New York City history, including the long role of immigrants in our city's evolution, members of the public coming for tours and to enjoy public programs about New York City across centuries, and other types of programming for a variety of audiences to help engage them about New York's history in the 1820s and 1830s and the parallels to today.

We share the community's concern regarding such significant portions of the East Side possibly being moved to a Queens-centered district. The impacted neighborhoods comprise a singular

community with the Upper East Side, and are deeply tied to the area through history, geography, and personal and institutional relationships. We are also concerned that the City agencies with which we have regular contact are organized around a Manhattan-centric borough structure, and that it would serve our interests to have a Council member more fully integrated into and deeply knowledgeable of the Borough's operational and regulatory systems.

I strongly urge the Commission not to adopt the proposed redistricting.

Respectfully,

*Brantley B. Knowles*

Brantley B. Knowles  
Chairman Museum Committee  
Mount Vernon Hotel Museum  
■ East 61<sup>st</sup> ST  
New York, NY 10065

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Christine Rother [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 27, 2022 8:30 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistributing Proposal

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Dear Mr. Walcott,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed redistributing that would move the area east of First Avenue that is currently in Council District 5 to Queens Council District 26. That area should remain in District 5..

The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden ( MVHM&G) is one of the oldest historical structures in Manhattan and has earned its reputation as a vital productive non profit institution in the community. It is one of the important cultural institutions which is partially supported by discretionary funding which is at the Council Representative's disposal. Moving it to the Queens Council could seriously compromise this source of support.

We as a non profit institution agree with our community that the Commission should not adopt this proposed redistricting.

Best regards,  
Christine Y. Rother  
Member Museum Preservation Committee  
Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden  
417 East 61st Street  
New York, NY 10065

Sent from my iPhone

Dianne Alley Robinson  
[REDACTED] Broad Sound Place  
Mooresville, North Carolina 28117-6050  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

August 26, 2022

Mr. Dennis M. Walcott  
Chair  
NYC Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

VIA EMAIL: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

Dear Mr. Walcott,

I write in opposition to the proposed redistricting that would move the narrow area east of First Avenue that is currently in Council District 5 to Queens Council District 26. That area should remain within Council District 5.

The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden (MVHM&G) is housed in a 1799 building, the 8th oldest historical structure still standing in Manhattan, and offers considerable and vital links to the immediate area's long history as a vibrant part of Manhattan. In addition to being part of the community and building strong relationships with our neighbors, the Museum has also benefitted enormously from close relationships to our past Council District 5 representatives; the discretionary funding at the council representative's disposal has supported cultural institutions in the district, such as the MVHM&G, that are making important cultural contributions to the immediate community as well as to the larger NYC population. Were the Museum to move to Queens Council District 26, this much-needed funding would be in even shorter supply, which would translate to less city-sponsored financial assistance going to institutions that directly support their local communities. In the case of the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden, that means school visits for children to learn about New York City history, including the long role of immigrants in our city's evolution, members of the public coming for tours and to enjoy public programs about New York City across centuries, and other types of programming for a variety of audiences to help engage them about New York's history in the 1820s and 1830s and the parallels to today.

We share the community's concern regarding such significant portions of the East Side possibly being moved to a Queens-centered district. The impacted neighborhoods comprise a singular community with the Upper East Side, and are deeply tied to the area through history, geography, and personal and institutional relationships. We are also concerned that the City agencies with which we have regular contact are organized around a Manhattan-centric borough structure, and that it would serve our interests to have a Council member more fully integrated into and deeply knowledgeable of the Borough's operational and regulatory systems.



I strongly urge the Commission not to adopt the proposed redistricting.

Respectfully,

Dianne Alley Robinson

North Carolina CDA State President

Member of the Board Of Directors

Colonial Dames of America/Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden

417-421 East 61<sup>st</sup> Street

New York, NY 10065

**MARIA A. LUNA**  
**DEMOCRATIC DISTRICT LEADER AND STATE COMMITTEE**  
■ **RIVERSIDE DRIVE #4A**  
**NEW YORK, NY 10032**  
■

**TESTIMONY CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING**  
August 22, 2022

My name is Maria A. Luna, I am a resident of District 7, and requesting that the redistricting commission include the West 160<sup>th</sup> in the proposed new District 7. This area is unique and shares little characteristic to District 10. District 7's northern border should, at least, extend to 165<sup>th</sup> Street, West of Fort Washington Avenue and to 162<sup>nd</sup> Street, West of Broadway.

I am also speaking as an elected New York Democratic District Leader and State Committee Member representing the area impacted, the 71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District.

I am advocating for the map attached to this email and linked here: <https://districtr.org/plan/138462>

Washington Heights has always been at the heart of District 7. Those of us who live in the lower West 160<sup>th</sup> have witnessed over the years how distinct our community is North of West 165 Street, the community makeup has shifted. You have more institutional and affluent residents as opposed to the south of West 165 Street, where residents' income, characteristics, and challenges are like the rest of District 7. Keeping this area unified will continue to provide one voice to deal with similar issues. United, we have been able to elect representatives who recognize our collective power and focus their attention on our needs. Divided, our community will be overshadowed by the communities just north of us.

Because our community makes a meaningful percentage of the vote in the West 160<sup>th</sup> our voters have requested from City Council representatives important and necessary investments for our area such as, and including:

- \$1.2 million to upgrade and revitalize Lily Brown Playground, located between 162<sup>nd</sup> and 163<sup>rd</sup> and Riverside Drive.
- Nearly \$1 million for P.S. 4 on 160<sup>th</sup> and Amsterdam to upgrade the auditorium, gymnasium, and library.

- Over \$50,000 to Riverstone Senior Life Services at 99 Fort Washington, where he has also fought for senior traffic zones.
- Working with the Parks Department and Department of Transportation to make desperately needed repairs to the sidewalks and implement loading zones for deliveries between 160<sup>th</sup> to 165<sup>th</sup> and Riverside Drive.
- A massive block party on West 160<sup>th</sup> Street where people from the lower West 160<sup>th</sup> could come together in unity with NYPD 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct, as we always have, to enjoy one another's company and show our kids a good time.

The West 160<sup>th</sup> can't compete for attention and resources with upper Washington Heights and Inwood. The borders of any district are always at risk of being left out without a voice, but we hope that this isn't the case in District 7 because our northern border will stand strong and united. I respectfully urge you, Commissioners, to please not tear apart our community and weaken our collective voice. **Do not weaken the representation of our Latino community.** Do not dilute our vote or pack us into a single district. Let us continue to stand strong, hold our elected officials accountable, and allow our voices to be heard in our local government.

I urge you Commissioners give high consideration to my appeal.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Rivera", with a stylized flourish at the end.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** ellen wachtler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 26, 2022 3:34 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NYC Council District 5

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I urge the commission to consider amending their preliminary maps to ensure that District 5 will remain in a Manhattan District. We will be underrepresented if this goes through and our voices will not be heard by our representatives because as much as they say they will represent us we all know they will vote for the needs of the majority which will be Queens based.

Thank you for your consideration  
Ellen Wachtler

August 26, 2022

Mr. Dennis M. Walcott  
Chair  
NYC Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

VIA EMAIL: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

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The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden (MVHM&G) is housed in a 1799 building, the 8th oldest historical structure still standing in Manhattan, and offers considerable and vital links to the immediate area's long history as a vibrant part of Manhattan. In addition to being part of the community and building strong relationships with our neighbors, the Museum has also benefitted enormously from close relationships to our past Council District 5 representatives; the discretionary funding at the council representative's disposal has supported cultural institutions in the district, such as the MVHM&G, that are making important cultural contributions to the immediate community as well as to the larger NYC population. Were the Museum to move to Queens Council District 26, this much-needed funding would be in even shorter supply, which would translate to less city-sponsored financial assistance going to institutions that directly support their local communities. In the case of the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden, that means school visits for children to learn about New York City history, including the long role of immigrants in our city's evolution, members of the public coming for tours and to enjoy public programs about New York City across centuries, and other types of programming for a variety of audiences to help engage them about New York's history in the 1820s and 1830s and the parallels to today.

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I strongly urge the Commission not to adopt the proposed redistricting.

Respectfully,

Nancy Hinkel  
Director, Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden  
  
New York, NY 10065

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Patricia Spadavecchia <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 26, 2022 12:14 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Patricia Spadavecchia  
[REDACTED] Jones St  
New York, NY 10014

**TESTIMONY OF FORMER MANHATTAN DISTRICT 2  
COUNCILWOMEN MARGARITA LOPEZ & ROSIE MENDEZ  
TO THE NEW YORK CITY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
August 21, 2022**

We are the Former Councilwomen who served Council District (CD) 2 in Manhattan, collectively, for 20 years from January 1, 1998 until December 31, 2017. We are both concerned about the proposed district lines that would remove several blocks south of Delancey Street and place it in the neighboring district of CD1.

During the redistricting of council districts in 2001, we saw CD2 lose Seward Park Housing Cooperatives, and a portion of East River Houses. A change that was championed by then Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver who resided CD2 and preferred to be in CD1. Vladeck Houses has always been located within the CD2 boundaries and, in the future, should continue to be located in CD2. Likewise, additional buildings that comprise East River Houses should be added back to CD2.

CD2 has always been east side district, except for four (4) small and mostly irregular triangular and quadrilateral partial blocks that were added to the CD2 in 2013. Those city blocks are located from West 24<sup>th</sup> to West 28<sup>th</sup> Street and from 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Broadway. The current proposal would extend CD2 further into the west side by doubling the blocks located in the west side to a total of eight (8) blocks extending from the current northern boundary of West 28<sup>th</sup> to West 32<sup>nd</sup> Streets to capture Koreatown within the CD2 boundaries.

Additionally, the proposed district lines would capture Veterans and Bellevue Hospital, the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Men's Shelter (commonly referred to as the Bellevue Shelter), and NYU Langone Medical Center. While the men's shelter and the hospitals are important institutions to Manhattan's East Side, it has always been located in CD4. Removing it from CD4 and coupling Koreatown leaves CD2 with a constituent base that is very different than the residents of Vladeck Houses in demographics and income bands.

As the Former Councilwomen who live in and represented this district with much love, sweat and tears, we ask that the Commission keep CD2 located in its current boundaries. Please do not remove Vladeck Houses from the district that it is currently located in and has always been located in.

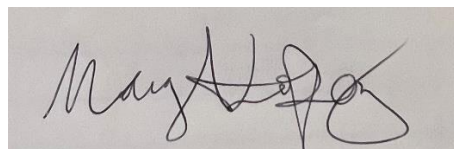
Councilmember Christopher Marte states that people in the community are confused as to who represents them. This was not a problem we ever encountered. Residents knew if we represented them or whether it was Katherine Freed, Alan Gerson or Margaret Chin. Whenever we encountered a problem in our southern borders, we rolled up our sleeves and worked alongside the CD1 Councilmember. We suggest the CD1 and CD2 Councilmembers do the same for the benefit of the Lower East Side.

We want to thank the commission for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Rosie Mendez



Margarita Lopez



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** David Ward [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 27, 2022 11:58 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support the Unity Map for Council District 3 - DON'T SPILT US UP  
**Attachments:** smime.p7s; ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm

As a resident of Hell's Kitchen for 30 years and a member of the theater and opera community, I urge you to accept the Unity Map for Council District 3.

I know the neighborhood, the store owners, my neighbors and our community groups - we should be allowed to remain a cohesive district with a single voice raised on the Council in our support.

Given the trauma of this week's primary in our Congressional district, isn't it enough? It is becoming increasingly harder to support government and our political leadership. Don't further damage this trust by splitting up Council District 3.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD DESERVES TO BE SUPPORTED - VOTE FOR THE UNITY MAP FOR COUNCIL DISTRICT 3!

David Ward  
[REDACTED] West 43rd Street, #20T  
New York, NY  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Mary Cronin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 27, 2022 4:25 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island

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Hello,

I live at [REDACTED] East 63rd St in Manhattan. I strongly disapprove of my neighborhood being combined with Roosevelt Island.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Cronin

August 27, 2022

Mr. Dennis M. Walcott  
Chair  
NYC Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Walcott,

I write in opposition to the proposed redistricting that would move the narrow area east of First Avenue that is currently in Council District 5 to Queens Council District 26. That area should remain within Council District 5.

The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden (MVHM&G) is housed in a 1799 building, the 8th oldest historical structure still standing in Manhattan, and offers considerable and vital links to the immediate area's long history as a vibrant part of Manhattan. In addition to being part of the community and building strong relationships with our neighbors, the Museum has also benefitted enormously from close relationships to our past Council District 5 representatives; the discretionary funding at the council representative's disposal has supported cultural institutions in the district, such as the MVHM&G, that are making important cultural contributions to the immediate community as well as to the larger NYC population. Were the Museum to move to Queens Council District 26, this much-needed funding would be in even shorter supply, which would translate to less city-sponsored financial assistance going to institutions that directly support their local communities. In the case of the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden, that means school visits for children to learn about New York City history, including the long role of immigrants in our city's evolution, members of the public coming for tours and to enjoy public programs about New York City across centuries, and other types of programming for a variety of audiences to help engage them about New York's history in the 1820s and 1830s and the parallels to today.

We share the community's concern regarding such significant portions of the East Side possibly being moved to a Queens-centered district. The impacted neighborhoods comprise a singular community with the Upper East Side, and are deeply tied to the area through history, geography, and personal and institutional relationships. We are also concerned that the City agencies with which we have regular contact are organized around a Manhattan-centric borough structure, and that it would serve our interests to have a Council member more fully integrated into and deeply knowledgeable of the Borough's operational and regulatory systems.

I strongly urge the Commission not to adopt the proposed redistricting.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laura D. Ramsay".

Laura D. Ramsay  
Colonial Dames of America/Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden  
417-421 East 61<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10065



*A Not-for-Profit Corporation*  
east sixties neighborhood association, inc.  
**P.O Box 1855**  
**New York, NY 10021**  
**Tel 212-713-5826 • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)**

TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission  
FROM: Shannon Osborne, ■ E 63<sup>rd</sup> Street # 7F, New York, NY 10065  
DATE: August 27, 2022  
RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26  
VIA EMAIL TO: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)  
MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

Good day Chair Walcott,

The plan presented for 54 blocks of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island is not acceptable to the residents of the East Sixties. We believe it violates the charter requirements of keeping neighborhoods compact and intact. This plan would make CD26 an oddly shaped district with practical difficulties: they are - would the Council Member have a district office in Manhattan as well as on Roosevelt Island; would the Council Member cover Community Board meetings in Board 8 & 6 and have full membership on both Borough Boards, and finally we believe this part of Community District 8 would have a diminution of representation. While other Districts have physical boundaries in more than one borough, they are directly adjacent to one another. They do not have a river separating them as in this proposed plan. The issues in CD26 are not the same as in CD5. And there are several well-established neighborhood associations whose membership would be torn asunder.

The issues that involve City Agencies such as Transportation, Sanitation, Parks etc. are different in the two council districts. Then there are two other major issues that would tear our community apart. The **first** is the hospital corridor with their buildings for the major institutions many of which would be in CD26 under the new plan. But many of their offices and allied buildings and staff and doctors would be located in/or live in CD5 making it difficult for discussing issues constantly arising. Not to mention the effect on “bench to bed” translational medicine research. The **second** is Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts for the least amount of park space in the city. This plan would remove: from CD 5 24 Sycamores Park; ¾ of Honey Locust Park—with ¼ remaining in D5; most of our East River Esplanade and Andrew Haswell Green Park Phase 1 & 2A—2B is under construction at this time. Phase 3 has not yet started and will likely cost \$25 Million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the voters in her/his District? Most of the funding will probably be spent in the Queens part of the district.

We strongly recommend that you study and implement Community Board 8’s resolution and plan, as it takes into account the number of residents in all the adjoining districts.

Our Neighborhood Association depends greatly on our Council Member and her office staff, which is easy to reach by a short bus ride. I strongly urge the New York City Districting Commission to reconsider this ill-conceived plan and not divide an indivisible and cohesive neighborhood.

*“Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood”*

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** sharon hare [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 27, 2022 8:05 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New York City Districting Committee

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August 26, 2022

Mr. Dennis M. Walcott

Chair

NYC Districting Commission

253 Broadway, 4th Floor

New York, NY 10007

VIA EMAIL: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

Dear Mr. Walcott,

I write in opposition to the proposed redistricting that would move the narrow area east of First Avenue that is currently in Council District 5 to Queens Council District 26. That area should remain within Council District 5.

The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden (MVHM&G) is housed in a 1799 building, the 8th oldest historical structure still standing in Manhattan, and offers considerable and vital links to the immediate area's long history as a vibrant part of Manhattan. In addition to being part of the community and building strong relationships with our neighbors, the Museum has also benefitted enormously from close relationships to our past Council District 5 representatives; the discretionary funding at the council representative's disposal has supported cultural institutions in the district, such as the MVHM&G, that are making important cultural contributions to the immediate community as well as to the larger NYC population. Were the Museum to move to Queens Council District 26, this much-needed funding would be in even shorter supply, which would translate to less city-sponsored financial assistance going to institutions that directly support their local communities. In the case of the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden, that means school visits for children to learn about New York City history, including the long role of immigrants in our city's evolution, members of the public coming for tours and to enjoy public programs about New York City across centuries, and other types of programming for a variety of audiences to help engage them about New York's history in the 1820s and 1830s and the parallels to today.

We share the community's concern regarding such significant portions of the East Side possibly being moved to a Queens-centered district. The impacted neighborhoods comprise a singular community with the Upper East Side, and are deeply tied to the area through history, geography, and personal and institutional relationships. We are also concerned that the City agencies with which we have regular contact are organized around a Manhattan-centric borough structure, and that it would serve our interests to have a Council member more fully integrated into and deeply knowledgeable of the Borough's operational and regulatory systems.

I strongly urge the Commission not to adopt the proposed redistricting.

Respectfully,

**Sharon Hare**

Colonial Dames of America/Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden

417-421 East 61<sup>st</sup> Street

New York, NY 10065

**DeCillis, Michael**

---

**From:** Ellen Tozer [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 28, 2022 11:40 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Redistricting (for the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden)

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August 28, 2022

Mr. Dennis M. Walcott, Chair  
NYC Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Walcott,


I write in opposition to the proposed redistricting that would move the narrow area east of First Avenue that is currently in Council District 5 to Queens Council District 26. That area should remain within Council District 5.

The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden (MVHM&G) is housed in a 1799 building, the 8th oldest historical structure still standing in Manhattan, and offers considerable and vital links to the immediate area's long history as a vibrant part of Manhattan. In addition to being part of the community and building strong relationships with our neighbors, the Museum has also benefited enormously from close relationships to our past Council District 5 representatives; the discretionary funding at the council representative's disposal has supported cultural institutions in the district, such as the MVHM&G, that are making important cultural contributions to the immediate community as well as to the larger NYC population. Were the Museum to move to Queens Council District 26, this much-needed funding would be in even shorter supply, which would translate to less city-sponsored financial assistance going to institutions that directly support their local communities. In the case of the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden, that means school visits for children to learn about New York City history, including the long role of immigrants in our city's evolution, members of the public coming for tours and to enjoy public programs about New York City across centuries, and other types of programming for a variety of audiences to help engage them about New York's history in the 1820s and 1830s and the parallels to today.

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I strongly urge the Commission not to adopt the proposed redistricting.

Respectfully,

Ellen Tozer  
Member, Board of Managers and Museum Committee  
Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden  
  
New York, NY 10065



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Emily Louie <[REDACTED]@m>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 28, 2022 7:55 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

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TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

FROM: Emily Louie & Geraldo Benedicto, [REDACTED] E. 65<sup>th</sup> St, 12E, NY, NY 10065

DATE: August, 2022

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

VIA EMAIL TO: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

Good day Chair Walcott,

The plan presented for 54 blocks of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island is not acceptable to the residents of the East Sixties. We believe it violates the charter requirements of keeping neighborhoods compact and intact. This plan would make CD26 an oddly shaped district with practical difficulties: they are - would the Council Member have a district office in Manhattan as well as on Roosevelt Island; would the Council Member cover Community Board meetings in Board 8 & 6 and have full membership on both Borough Boards, and finally we believe this part of Community District 8 would have a diminution of representation. While other Districts have physical boundaries in more than one borough, they are directly adjacent to one another. They do not have a river separating them as in this proposed plan. The issues in CD26 are not the same as in CD5. And there are several well-established neighborhood associations whose membership would be torn asunder.

The issues that involve City Agencies such as Transportation, Sanitation, Parks etc. are different in the two council districts. Then there are two other major issues that would tear our community apart. The **first** is the hospital corridor with their buildings for the major institutions many of which would be in CD26 under the new plan. But many of their offices and allied buildings and staff and doctors would be located in/or live in CD5 making it difficult for discussing issues constantly arising. Not to mention the effect on "bench to bed" translational medicine research. The **second** is Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts for the least amount of park space in the city. This plan would remove: from CD 5 24 Sycamores Park;  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Honey Locust Park—with  $\frac{1}{4}$  remaining in D5; most of our East River Esplanade and Andrew Haswell Green Park Phase 1 & 2A—2B is under construction at this time. Phase 3 has not yet started and will likely cost \$25 Million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the voters in her/his District? Most of the funding will probably be spent in the Queens part of the district.

We strongly recommend that you study and implement Community Board 8's resolution and plan, as it takes into account the number of residents in all the adjoining districts.

Our Neighborhood Association depends greatly on our Council Member and her office staff, which is easy to reach by a short bus ride. I strongly urge the New York City Districting Commission to reconsider this ill-conceived plan and not divide an indivisible and cohesive neighborhood.

Sincerely,  
Emily Louie & Geraldo Benedicto

**“Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood”**

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Isabel Warren-Lynch <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 28, 2022 8:23 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mount Vernon Hotel Museum - 421 East 61st Street, New York, N.Y. 10022

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August 28, 2022

Mr. Dennis M. Walcott  
Chair  
NYC Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

VIA [EMAIL: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

Dear Mr. Walcott,

I write in opposition to the proposed redistricting that would move the narrow area east of First Avenue that is currently in Council District 5 to Queens Council District 26. That area should remain within Council District 5.

The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden (MVHM&G) is housed in a 1799 building, the 8th oldest historical structure still standing in Manhattan, and offers considerable and vital links to the immediate area's long history as a vibrant part of Manhattan. In addition to being part of the community and building strong relationships with our neighbors, the Museum has also benefitted enormously from close relationships to our past Council District 5 representatives; the discretionary funding at the council representative's disposal has supported cultural institutions in the district, such as the MVHM&G, that are making important cultural contributions to the immediate community as well as to the larger NYC population. Were the Museum to move to Queens Council District 26, this much-needed funding would be in even shorter supply, which would translate to less city-sponsored financial assistance going to institutions that directly support their local communities. In the case of the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden, that means school visits for children to learn about New York City history, including the long role of immigrants in our city's evolution, members of the public coming for tours and to enjoy public programs about New York City across centuries, and other types of programming for a variety of audiences to help engage them about New York's history in the 1820s and 1830s and the parallels to today.

We share the community's concern regarding such significant portions of the East Side possibly being moved to a Queens-centered district. The impacted neighborhoods comprise a singular community with the Upper East Side, and are deeply tied to the area through history, geography, and personal and institutional relationships. We are also concerned that the City agencies with which we have regular contact are organized around a Manhattan-centric borough structure, and that it would serve our interests to have a Council member more fully integrated into and deeply knowledgeable of the Borough's operational and regulatory systems.

I strongly urge the Commission not to adopt the proposed redistricting.

Respectfully,

Isabel Warren-Lynch  
Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden

421 East 61<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10065

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jane Petrino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 28, 2022 12:53 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

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TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

FROM: Jane Petrino, [REDACTED] East 63rd St 8H, New York, NY, 10065

DATE: August 28, 2022

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

Good day Chair Walcott,

The plan presented for 54 blocks of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island is not acceptable to the residents of the East Sixties. We believe it violates the charter requirements of keeping neighborhoods compact and intact. This plan would make CD26 an oddly shaped district with practical difficulties: they are - would the Council Member have a district office in Manhattan as well as on Roosevelt Island; would the Council Member cover Community Board meetings in Board 8 & 6 and have full membership on both Borough Boards, and finally we believe this part of Community District 8 would have a diminution of representation. While other Districts have physical boundaries in more than one borough, they are directly adjacent to one another. They do not have a river separating them as in this proposed plan. The issues in CD26 are not the same as in CD5. And there are several well-established neighborhood associations whose membership would be torn asunder.

The issues that involve City Agencies such as Transportation, Sanitation, Parks etc. are different in the two council districts. Then there are two other major issues that would tear our community apart. The first is the hospital corridor with their buildings for the major institutions many of which would be in CD26 under the new plan. But many of their offices and allied buildings and staff and doctors would be located in/or live in CD5 making it difficult for discussing issues constantly arising. Not to mention the effect on "bench to bed" translational medicine research. The second is Community District 8 ranks 47th out of 59 Districts for the least amount of park space in the city. This plan would remove: from CD 5 24 Sycamores Park;  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Honey Locust Park—with  $\frac{1}{4}$  remaining in D5; most of our East River Esplanade and Andrew Haswell Green Park Phase 1 & 2A—2B is under construction at this time. Phase 3 has not yet started and will likely cost \$25 Million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the voters in her/his District? Most of the funding will probably be spent in the Queens part of the district.

We strongly recommend that you study and implement Community Board 8's resolution and plan, as it takes into account the number of residents in all the adjoining districts.

Our Neighborhood Association depends greatly on our Council Member and her office staff, which is easy to reach by a short bus ride. I strongly urge the New York City Districting Commission to reconsider this ill-conceived plan and not divide an indivisible and cohesive neighborhood.

ESNA

A Not-for-Profit Corporation

east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

[REDACTED]

New York, NY 10021

Tel [REDACTED] • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)

“Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood”

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** jocelyn Lance <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 28, 2022 10:27 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] District 5 - Redistricting

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Mr. Dennis M. Walcott, Chairman  
NYC Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Walcott,

I write in opposition to the proposed redistricting that would move the narrow area east of First Avenue that is currently in Council District 5 to Queens Council District 26. That area should remain within Council District 5.

The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden (MVHM&G) is housed in a 1799 building, the 8th oldest historical structure still standing in Manhattan, and offers considerable and vital links to the immediate area's long history as a vibrant part of Manhattan. In addition to being part of the community and building strong relationships with our neighbors, the Museum has also benefitted enormously from close relationships to our past Council District 5 representatives; the discretionary funding at the council representative's disposal has supported cultural institutions in the district, such as the MVHM&G, that are making important cultural contributions to the immediate community as well as to the larger NYC population. Were the Museum to move to Queens Council District 26, this much-needed funding would be in even shorter supply, which would translate to less city-sponsored financial assistance going to institutions that directly support their local communities. In the case of the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden, that means school visits for children to learn about New York City history, including the long role of immigrants in our city's evolution, members of the public coming for tours and to enjoy public programs about New York City across centuries, and other types of programming for a variety of audiences to help engage them about New York's history in the 1820s and 1830s and the parallels to today.

We share the community's concern regarding such significant portions of the East Side possibly being moved to a Queens-centered district. The impacted neighborhoods comprise a singular community with the Upper East Side, and are deeply tied to the area through history, geography, and personal and institutional relationships. We are also concerned that the City agencies with which we have regular contact are organized around a Manhattan-centric borough structure, and that it would serve our interests to have a Council member more fully integrated into and deeply knowledgeable of the Borough's operational and regulatory systems.

I strongly urge the Commission not to adopt the proposed redistricting.

Respectfully,

Jocelyn R. Lance  
Colonial Dames of America/Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden  
417-421 East 61<sup>st</sup> Street

New York, NY 10065



August 28, 2022

To the Members of the New York City Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007  
212-676-3090

[PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

[NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov)

Dennis M. Walcott, Chair

Hon. Marilyn D. Go

Maria Mateo, Esq.

Joshua Schneps

Lisa Sorin

Msgr. Kevin Sullivan

Kai-Ki Wong

Maf Misbah Uddin

Michael Schnall

Kristen A. Johnson

Yovan Samuel Collado

Gregory W. Kirschenbaum

Marc Wurzel

Kevin John Hanratty

Dr. Darrin K. Porcher

Dear Commissioners:

I ask you to **REJECT AND REPLACE** the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5. The proposed lines include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island.

Please reject the proposed district lines for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). Specifically, under the proposed district lines:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and

- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

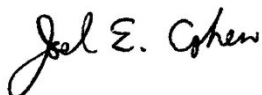
Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

The East Side neighborhood has numerous medical and research facilities with extensive, densely populated campuses. The draft proposal directly affects: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in integrating the well-being of these institutions with the well-being of surrounding residential areas. Under the proposed draft lines, a Queens Council Member will be ignorant of this experience and expertise.

Third, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely affect the municipal services, and diminish the political voices, of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

I strongly urge the Commission to **REJECT AND REPLACE** the proposed district lines referenced above. My fellow residents and I will gladly meet with Commission staff to develop better alternatives. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Joel E. Cohen in black ink.

JOEL E. COHEN, Ph.D. (applied mathematics), Dr.P.H. (public health)

August 26, 2022

Mr. Dennis M. Walcott  
Chair  
NYC Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

VIA EMAIL: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

Dear Mr. Walcott,

I write in opposition to the proposed redistricting that would move the narrow area east of First Avenue that is currently in Council District 5 to Queens Council District 26. That area should remain within Council District 5.

The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden (MVHM&G) is housed in a 1799 building, the 8th oldest historical structure still standing in Manhattan, and offers considerable and vital links to the immediate area's long history as a vibrant part of Manhattan. In addition to being part of the community and building strong relationships with our neighbors, the Museum has also benefitted enormously from close relationships to our past Council District 5 representatives; the discretionary funding at the council representative's disposal has supported cultural institutions in the district, such as the MVHM&G, that are making important cultural contributions to the immediate community as well as to the larger NYC population. Were the Museum to move to Queens Council District 26, this much-needed funding would be in even shorter supply, which would translate to less city-sponsored financial assistance going to institutions that directly support their local communities. In the case of the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden, that means school visits for children to learn about New York City history, including the long role of immigrants in our city's evolution, members of the public coming for tours and to enjoy public programs about New York City across centuries, and other types of programming for a variety of audiences to help engage them about New York's history in the 1820s and 1830s and the parallels to today.

We share the community's concern regarding such significant portions of the East Side possibly being moved to a Queens-centered district. The impacted neighborhoods comprise a singular community with the Upper East Side, and are deeply tied to the area through history, geography, and personal and institutional relationships. We are also concerned that the City agencies with

which we have regular contact are organized around a Manhattan-centric borough structure, and that it would serve our interests to have a Council member more fully integrated into and deeply knowledgeable of the Borough's operational and regulatory systems.

I strongly urge the Commission not to adopt the proposed redistricting.

Respectfully,

**Lili Neuhauser**

Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden  
421 East 61<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10065

## DeCillis, Michael

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**From:** Melinda Waterhouse <melinda.waterhouse@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 28, 2022 8:43 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Redistricting from Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden

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August 28, 2022

Mr. Dennis M. Walcott  
Chair  
NYC Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10007  
VIA EMAIL: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

Dear Mr. Walcott,

I write in opposition to the proposed redistricting that would move the narrow area east of First Avenue that is currently in Council District 5 to Queens Council District 26. That area should remain within Council District 5.

The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden (MVHM&G) is housed in a 1799 building, the 8th oldest historical structure still standing in Manhattan, and offers considerable and vital links to the immediate area's long history as a vibrant part of Manhattan. In addition to being part of the community and building strong relationships with our neighbors, the Museum has also benefited enormously from close relationships to our past Council District 5 representatives; the discretionary funding at the council representative's disposal has supported cultural institutions in the district, such as the MVHM&G, that are making important cultural contributions to the immediate community as well as to the larger NYC population. Were the Museum to move to Queens Council District 26, this much-needed funding would be in even shorter supply, which would translate to less city-sponsored financial assistance going to institutions that directly support their local communities. In the case of the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden, that means school visits for children to learn about New York City history, including the long role of immigrants in our city's evolution, members of the public coming for tours and to enjoy public programs about New York City across centuries, and other types of programming for a variety of audiences to help engage them about New York's history in the 1820s and 1830s and the parallels to today.

We share the community's concern regarding such significant portions of the East Side possibly being moved to a Queens-centered district. The impacted neighborhoods comprise a singular community with the Upper East Side, and are deeply tied to the area through history, geography, and personal and institutional relationships. We are also concerned that the City agencies with which we have regular contact are organized around a Manhattan-centric borough structure, and that it would serve our interests to have a Council member more fully integrated into and deeply knowledgeable of the Borough's operational and regulatory systems.

I strongly urge the Commission *not* to adopt the proposed redistricting.

Respectfully,

Melinda H. Waterhouse

Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden  
421 East 61st Street  
New York, NY 10065

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Paul Claudio <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 28, 2022 12:20 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Hell's Kitchen Whole

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Dear Districting Commission,

Thank you for your hard work on redrawing the City Council district map. I am a Hell's Kitchen resident and do not wish to see our community split among three different districts. Anyone who lives here knows that Hell's Kitchen stretches west from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, between West 34th and West 59th Streets. Our community is a diverse and vibrant one that became 51% minority over the last decade.

The district lines proposed by the Commission split up this majority minority community and result in districts 3, 4 & 6 becoming whiter than they currently are. I think this is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For this reason, I ask that you support the Unity Map to preserve our diversity and keep Hell's Kitchen whole. We must continue to have one voice to address the unique needs of our community.

Here is a link to the Unity map for CD-3.  
<https://districtr.org/edit/137926?event=nyc2022>

Sincerely,  
Paul Claudio  
[REDACTED] River Place Apt 507  
New York, NY 10036

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Sharon W. Vaino, Member  
Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden  
[REDACTED] East 61<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10065  
[REDACTED]

August 28, 2022

Mr. Dennis M. Walcott  
Chair  
NYC Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

VIA EMAIL: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

Dear Mr. Walcott,

Please recognize and accommodate the concerns of members like myself of The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden ("Museum"), regarding the proposed redistricting that would move the narrow area east of First Avenue that is currently in Manhattan Council District 5 to Queens Council District 26. That area should remain within Manhattan Council District 5. The Museum is housed in a 1799 building, the 8th oldest historical structure still standing in Manhattan, and is one of a tiny fraction of historic house museums that have been accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, a significant distinction.

In addition to being part of the community and building strong relationships with our neighbors, the Museum has also benefitted enormously from close relationships to our past Manhattan Council District 5 representatives. The discretionary funding at the council representative's disposal has supported cultural institutions in the district, such as the Museum, that are making important cultural contributions to the immediate community as well as to the larger New York City population. Were the Museum to move to Queens Council District 26, this much-needed funding would be in even shorter supply. In the case of the Museum, funding supports school visits for children to learn about New York City history, including the long role of immigrants in our City, tours for other visitors who can enjoy public programs about New York City across centuries, and other types of programming for a variety of audiences to help engage them in New York's history in the 1820s and 1830s and the parallels to today.

We share the community's concern regarding such significant portions of the East Side of Manhattan possibly being moved to a Queens-centered district. We are also concerned that the City agencies with which we have regular contact are organized around a Manhattan-centric borough structure, and that it would serve our interests to have a Council member more fully integrated into and deeply knowledgeable about our Borough's operational and regulatory systems.

I urgently request the Commission not to adopt the proposed redistricting.

Very truly yours,





[REDACTED]

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**From:** Stuart Desser [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 28, 2022 5:48 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposing Proposed District 26

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I oppose the plan to distribute the proposed district 26 constituency between Manhattan and Queens. Because the distribution would include far fewer Manhattan than Queens residents, and because the interests on the Manhattan and Queens sides of the river are substantially different, the new district would effectively disenfranchise the Manhattan portion of the residents.

I subscribe to the alternative proposed by Manhattan Community Board 6 in its resolution dated August 10, 2022, for all the reasons enumerated in the resolution (available at <https://airtable.com/shrrsHSVp9yX9GALs/tblztcUPiopggeJAc/viwmVlfxvJvQgYabU/recyfbqGSeJXYGXJz/fld66g40FckvbQxS7/att8iM04TDnjWqOjV>).

Thank you,

Stuart Desser  
[REDACTED] East 16 Street  
New York NY 10003



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east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

P.O Box 1855

New York, NY 10021-0048

Tel 212-713-5826 • [info@esna-nyc.com](mailto:info@esna-nyc.com) • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)

August 5, 2022

To: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

VIA EMAIL TO: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria outlined in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8 and Roosevelt Island? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park , most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

***Bina Dabbah***

 ***east 63rd street NY ny 10065***

NAME

ADDRESS

Zip Code

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2022 9:13 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Caitlin Keck  
[REDACTED] E 59th St New York, NY 10022-1535

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jenn Larson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2022 11:19 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Save the 160s  
**Attachments:** D7 NORTHERN BORDER.pdf; DISTRICT 7 PROPOSED MAP.pdf

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## TESTIMONY CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING

August 29, 2022

My name is Jenn Larson. I am a resident of District 7 as well as a member of the Neighbors of Riverside Drive Lower Washington Heights Association. We are a very active group of nearly 50 residents living on Riverside Drive between 158th street and 165th street. Over the past several years, we have been working hard to effect change in our community. A community that has seen 20+ years of neglect is finally having a voice and with the help of our Councilman, Shaun Abreu, our relationship with Columbia Presbyterian, NYC Parks, Department of Transportation and Community Board 12, positive change is happening in our community. I believe it is very important that we remain in District 7 for these reasons and I am requesting that the redistricting commission include the West 160s in the proposed new District 7. District 7's northern border should, at least, extend to 165th Street, West of Fort Washington Avenue and to 162nd Street, West of Broadway.

I am advocating for the map attached to this email and linked here: <https://districtr.org/plan/138462>

In the last election, voters in the West 160s cast their vote for our current council member, Shaun Abreu. Because of our community's relationship with Shaun, we have been able to ask for meaningful investments in our community. These investments include:

- \$1.2 million to upgrade and revitalize Lily Brown Playground, located between 162nd and 163rd on Riverside Drive.
- Working with the Parks Department and Department of Transportation to make desperately needed repairs to the sidewalks and implement loading zones for deliveries between 160 to 165 and Riverside.
- A massive block party on West 161st Street where people from the lower West 160s could come together, as we always have, to enjoy one another's company and show our kids a good time.

The West 160's can't compete for attention and resources with upper Washington Heights and Inwood. I respectfully urge you to please not tear apart our community and weaken our collective voice. **Do not weaken the representation of our diverse community.** Do not dilute our vote or pack us into a single district. Let us continue to stand strong, hold our elected officials accountable, and allow our voices to be heard in our local government.

Sincerely,

Jenn Larson  
[REDACTED]



August 29, 2022

Mr. Dennis M. Walcott-Chair  
NYC Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

VIA EMAIL: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Walcott,

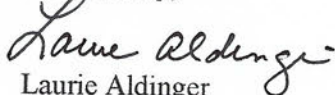
I write in opposition to the proposed redistricting that would move the narrow area east of First Avenue that is currently in Council District 5 to Queens Council District 26. That area should remain within Council District 5.

The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden (MVHM&G) is housed in a 1799 building, the 8th oldest historical structure still standing in Manhattan, and offers considerable and vital links to the immediate area's long history as a vibrant part of Manhattan. In addition to being part of the community and building strong relationships with our neighbors, the Museum has also benefitted enormously from close relationships to our past Council District 5 representatives; the discretionary funding at the council representative's disposal has supported cultural institutions in the district, such as the MVHM&G, that are making important cultural contributions to the immediate community as well as to the larger NYC population. Were the Museum to move to Queens Council District 26, this much-needed funding would be in even shorter supply, which would translate to less city-sponsored financial assistance going to institutions that directly support their local communities. In the case of the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden, that means school visits for children to learn about New York City history, including the long role of immigrants in our city's evolution, members of the public coming for tours and to enjoy public programs about New York City across centuries, and other types of programming for a variety of audiences to help engage them about New York's history in the 1820s and 1830s and the parallels to today.

We share the community's concern regarding such significant portions of the East Side possibly being moved to a Queens-centered district. The impacted neighborhoods comprise a singular community with the Upper East Side, and are deeply tied to the area through history, geography, and personal and institutional relationships. We are also concerned that the City agencies with which we have regular contact are organized around a Manhattan-centric borough structure, and that it would serve our interests to have a Council member more fully integrated into and deeply knowledgeable of the Borough's operational and regulatory systems.

I strongly urge the Commission not to adopt the proposed redistricting.

Respectfully,



Laurie Aldinger  
Recording Secretary-Colonial Dames of America  
Colonial Dames of America/Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden  
417-421 East 61<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10065



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east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

P.O Box 1855

New York, NY 10021-0048

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August 5, 2022

To: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

VIA EMAIL TO: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria outlined in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8 and Roosevelt Island? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?


Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park, most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

*Michael N Emmerman*  *East 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10065*

NAME

ADDRESS

Zip Code

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Mitchell Coodley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2022 10:27 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Mitchell Coodley  
[REDACTED] W 13th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Nicholas Johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2022 9:20 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

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east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

**P.O Box 1855**

**New York, NY 10021**

**Tel 212-713-5826 • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)**

TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

FROM: Nicholas Johnson, 301 East 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Apt 15F, 10065

DATE: August 29, 2022

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

Good day Chair Walcott,

The plan presented for 54 blocks of the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island is not acceptable to the residents of the East Sixties. We believe it violates the charter requirements of keeping neighborhoods compact and intact. This plan would make CD26 an oddly shaped district with practical difficulties: they are - would the Council Member have a district office in Manhattan as well as on Roosevelt Island; would the Council Member cover Community Board meetings in Board 8 & 6 and have full membership on both Borough Boards, and finally we believe this part of Community District 8 would have a diminution of representation. While other Districts have physical boundaries in more than one borough, they are directly adjacent to one another. They do not have a river separating them as in this proposed plan. The issues in CD26 are not the same as in CD5. And there are several well-established neighborhood associations whose membership would be torn asunder.

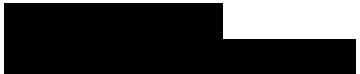
The issues that involve City Agencies such as Transportation, Sanitation, Parks etc. are different in the two council districts. Then there are two other major issues that would tear our community apart. The **first** is the hospital corridor with their buildings for the major institutions many of which would be in CD26 under the new plan. But many of their offices and allied buildings and staff and doctors would be located in/or live in CD5 making it difficult for discussing issues constantly arising. Not to mention the effect on “bench to bed” translational medicine research. The **second** is Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts for the least amount of park space in the city. This plan would remove: from CD 5 24 Sycamores Park;  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Honey Locust Park—with  $\frac{1}{4}$  remaining in D5; most of our East River Esplanade and Andrew Haswell Green Park Phase 1 & 2A—2B is under construction at this time. Phase 3 has not yet started and will likely cost \$25 Million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the voters in her/his District? Most of the funding will probably be spent in the Queens part of the district.

We strongly recommend that you study and implement Community Board 8’s resolution and plan, as it takes into account the number of residents in all the adjoining districts.

Our Neighborhood Association depends greatly on our Council Member and her office staff, which is easy to reach by a short bus ride. I strongly urge the New York City Districting Commission to reconsider this ill-conceived plan and not divide an indivisible and cohesive neighborhood.

*“Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood”*

Nicholas A. Johnson





*A Not-for-Profit Corporation*

east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

P.O Box 1855

New York, NY 10021-0048

Tel 212-713-5826 • [info@esna-nyc.com](mailto:info@esna-nyc.com) • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)

August 5, 2022

To: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

VIA EMAIL TO: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park, most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

***Patricia A. Stockhausen***  ***East 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, NY, NY 10065***

NAME

ADDRESS

Zip Code

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*



*A Not-for-Profit Corporation*

east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

P.O Box 1855

New York, NY 10021-0048

Tel 212-713-5826 • [info@esna-nyc.com](mailto:info@esna-nyc.com) • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)

August 5, 2022

To: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

VIA EMAIL TO: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria outlined in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8 and Roosevelt Island? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park, most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

*Thomas Justin Emmerman*  *East 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, NY, NY 10065*

NAME

ADDRESS

Zip Code

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*

**Tony Simone**  
**Democratic Nominee for the 75th Assembly District**  
**Testimony to the NYC Districting Commission**

Hell's Kitchen is a community name that is known throughout New York City and beyond. From 34th Street to 59th Street and from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River, it is a clearly defined and celebrated neighborhood that deserves united representation in the City Council.

Redistricting should keep communities whole, just as the Redistricting Commission is charged with doing under the rules for creating updated City Council districts. In addition to the protections still afforded by the Voting Rights Act, the City Charter mandated criteria specifically states that the commission must “keep neighborhoods and communities intact.”

Given that the proposed map would split one community into three separate Council Districts, the commission has failed to meet its own criteria based on the first round of proposed maps. Beyond dividing an established community through fragmented representation, the map would also significantly undermine zoning and land use matters, and potentially affect consistent city services.

From the local business districts of Ninth and Tenth Avenues to our performing arts industry, both on and off Broadway, Hell's Kitchen is an economic engine for our city attracting both New Yorkers and tourists alike. The Special Clinton District preserves a neighborhood built by nearly every historical wave of immigrants who have come to our city, united in architectural distinction and history. Dividing Hell's Kitchen ignores its history and longstanding cultural and economic contribution to the city. If the map is adopted, it will inhibit its future by gerrymandering its blocks with neighborhoods that have different needs and interests.

The 2020 census provides further arguments for keeping Hell's Kitchen together within a single City Council district. Data has shown that Black, Hispanic, Asian and multi-racial residents now make up the majority of the population. The current proposed maps would dilute these voices into other majority white districts. As the first Assembly Member of Hispanic descent to represent Hell's Kitchen, seeing the political voice of minority populations be split apart goes against the values I believe our city must hold when determining representation.

The Hell's Kitchen community is also home to the core of our country's largest LGBTQ+ population, another minority voice whose voices deserve power in representation. As the first LGBTQ+ person to represent Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea in the New York State Assembly, I support the [Unity Map](#), which would unite these neighborhoods with the West Village in the City Council.

We live in a time where minority voices are under attack. Drawing district lines that dilute representation lessens the power of communities to stand together, not just in defense of their neighborhoods, but in the issues that affect our lives, the economy, and quality of life.

Hell's Kitchen is worthy of full representation and should not be a fringe district for three different City Council districts. I urge the Districting Commission to adopt the lines proposed by the Unity Map, so that the communities of Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen that are united significantly in the New York State Assembly and entirely in the State Senate also have a united voice in the City Council.



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:36 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: No to redistricting

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**From:** Audrey Garr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 27, 2022 2:19 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No to redistricting

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Please do NOT redistrict our neighborhood.  
Sutton Place is NOT Queens !!!  
Audrey Garr  
[REDACTED] Sutton Place  
NY NY 10022

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 5:06 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Against Proposed Redistricting of UES-President of Board of 233 E 69th St Owners Corp

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**From:** Bobbi Decarlo [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 1:42 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Against Proposed Redistricting of UES-President of Board of 233 E 69th St Owners Corp

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Dear Redistricting Council and City Officials,  
I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 4 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely

impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,  
Bobbie DeCarlo Lane

**Brooks Betts**

BY EMAIL: [NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov)

Dear Commissioner,

August 23, 2022

I am writing to ask that the district lines for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5, including portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island, NOT BE ADOPTED for the following reasons:

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of these criteria results in districts where: neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact; the proposed district is not compact, is oddly shaped and results in an extreme crossover district.


Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the high percentage of senior citizens in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards AND hold full membership on TWO BOROUGH BOARDS? Will the Manhattan portion of the proposed district ever prevail in matters of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents will inevitably hold different positions on public policy issues and WHICH POSITION WILL A QUEENS COUNCIL MEMBER ADOPT?

How effective would a Queens Council member be addressing the issues of the numerous medical and research facilities directly impacted by the proposed new district lines including: The Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech?

Third, this extreme cross-over district will significantly and adversely impact municipal service while diminishing the political voices of thousands of Manhattan residents.

I urge the Commission to NOT ADOPT THE PROPOSED DISTRICTS referenced above.

Thank you for your consideration.



**■ Sutton Place South . 14C . New York . New York . 10022**

## DeCillis, Michael

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**From:** Fredenburg, Julia  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:55 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5

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**From:** Carol Ying [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 7:04 AM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5

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Dear members of the NYC Districting commission,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island **not be adopted** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal

services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol Ying

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 5:08 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to redistricting of Sutton Place

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**From:** Claudia Troncoso <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 11:46 AM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to redistricting of Sutton Place

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Dear Commissioner,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island **not be adopted** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where: neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact, the proposed district is not compact, the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8?

Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting?

Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt? A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration, Yours truly,

Sincerely,

Claudia Troncoso Steiner

Resident of [REDACTED] East 56th St., NY, NY 10022



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 5:03 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Redistricting of Upper East Side

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**From:** Colby Berman [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 1:08 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Redistricting of Upper East Side

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Redistricting Council and City Officials,

I write to voice my opinion against the proposed district lines for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 4. I write against this proposed adoption, which would include and adversely affect portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island.

For background, my significant other and I moved to the Upper East Side a little over a year ago. In doing so, we chose to invest in this part of this city and, in turn, our happiness for years to come. We stuck around to rebuild New York during a time when so many chose to flee. I limited my employment parameters to New York City and I began my blossoming legal career here. We support local restaurants and bars, arts and entertainment venues as part of our daily agenda, but especially during times when they struggle to pay their staff. We attend parades. We vote. We know the value in this city.

The City Commission is mandated to keep communities of interest together. An accurate assessment of the plan reflects that it ultimately fails to achieve that goal. Along with this irreparable shortcoming, the draft proposal is not a viable option and it should be renounced for a few other key reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where: (1) neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact; (2) the proposed district is not compact; (3) the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and; (4) the proposed district is very oddly shaped. Maintaining compliance with the City Charter necessitates renunciation of the proposal.

Second, the proposed districts would create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. It is without question that a Queens Council Member would not serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts. The sheer geographical distance alone creates inequities. Further, it raises important questions that affect the masses: would a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards, would a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards, and what is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? It may also lead to the adoption of stances on matters of policy that are inconsistent with the residents that the Council Member would be serving. Manhattan and Queens residents hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy, including but not limited to congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt, and

more importantly would they be accurately representing the residents in their district? The sheer uncertainty alone is enough to question the entire proposal as unnecessary, a waste of time, and contrary to the interests of the District residents.

Another important matter of public policy on which a Queens Counsel Member will likely differ to the detriment of their residents concerns the hospitals. A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective- and better yet, how aligned- will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will have a significant adverse impact on the provision of municipal services. This not only hinders the interests of the thousands of Manhattan residents it would affect, but it diminishes the political voices of these thousands of residents as well.

It is a fundamental to be represented, and to have a voice in the political system. I am voicing my concerns now before my voice becomes silenced by the proposal. In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and find an alternative to the proposed districts referenced above. I would recommend the Commission instead ensure status quo, accurate representation and facilitation of vital services remains intact.

I thank you in advance for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me at the below if you would like to discuss further.

/s/ Colby H. Berman

**Colby Berman, Esq.**

Attorney

Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, LLP

[REDACTED]

My name is Diana Ayala and I am the Deputy Speaker of the New York City Council. I appreciate the commission's recommendations and attempts to keep the districts whole in comparison to the previously released preliminary maps. We feel there are missed opportunities both in East Harlem and the South Bronx that can be rectified with changes to the current proposed lines.

In East Harlem to ensure no dilution of communities of shared Interest:

- 1) Adding back our East 116<sup>th</sup> Street district office which was moved outside the borders of our district.
- 2) The current map removes 125<sup>th</sup> from our district where we have been working progressively over the years on the many challenges including the opioid crisis. We have gradually been able to secure some of the vital resources needed to ensure the most urgent needs are being met. An interruption in service would only be a disservice to this community.
- 3) Removing 125<sup>th</sup> Street from our district would also remove important capital projects, specific to East Harlem, which my office has been working on for many years, dedicating a lot of time and effort.
- 4) We removed the blocks from 106<sup>th</sup> to East 115<sup>th</sup> along 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue which has been served by district 9 and would dilute the shared interest of the East Harlem community.

In the South Bronx we have proposed minor changes that would better serve the needs of the constituents:

- 1) In District 17 we have proposed keeping the northern section of Longwood with Councilmember Salamanca so that there is consistency of service to his constituents as our involvement has been limited to the northeast of our district.
- 2) Highbridge is a community that has long been disenfranchised. During the pandemic my office and many community members worked tirelessly to address the many challenges caused by COVID-19. We would like to continue working with the Highbridge community as we have deep ties there, a good understanding of the challenges they face and would like to continue to build on the foundation we started.

I want to thank the commission for considering this request and understanding the importance of deep ties in a community and the importance of continuity of service. We have worked tirelessly in East Harlem and the South Bronx to give a voice to a marginalized community that unfortunately, oftentimes suffers greatly from lack of city wide representation. Because of this we strongly urge you to consider our recommendations for the preliminary maps.

MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK CITY DISTRICTING COMMISSION, members of the public and other stakeholders present. Thank you for the opportunity to address you on the subject of redistricting New York City Council District 5. My name is Cynthia Gardstein. I am a resident of Sutton Place South. I retired as Senior Vice President of Steven Winter Associates, Inc, a nationally renowned architectural/engineering consulting firm. My entire career has been deeply involved in housing and community.

I will not address the numbers although I understand the redistricting process and the guidelines established: the process is mandated every 10 years; boundaries take into account population and demographic changes and the districts should ensure all voices are represented.

I understand the challenge of drawing 51 councils of relatively equal size across all boroughs. I support the proposed redrawn map submitted by Community Board 8 (attached to my statement).

I understand that in drawing council lines, there are requirements that shall be met and guidelines that should be met. I will be addressing the latter because I believe that keeping neighborhoods and communities of interest together should be in the shall column.

The importance of community, especially within a large urban environment is the magic sauce that makes us feel at home. When I walk around my neighborhood, recognizing fellow residents, I feel comfortable. When I recognize and am recognized by folks in my neighborhood, I feel happy and secure. When I patronize local businesses, I feel good. All of this, defines community. We have each other's interests at heart; our concerns about our neighborhood are similar. We have and use a community voice within the city.

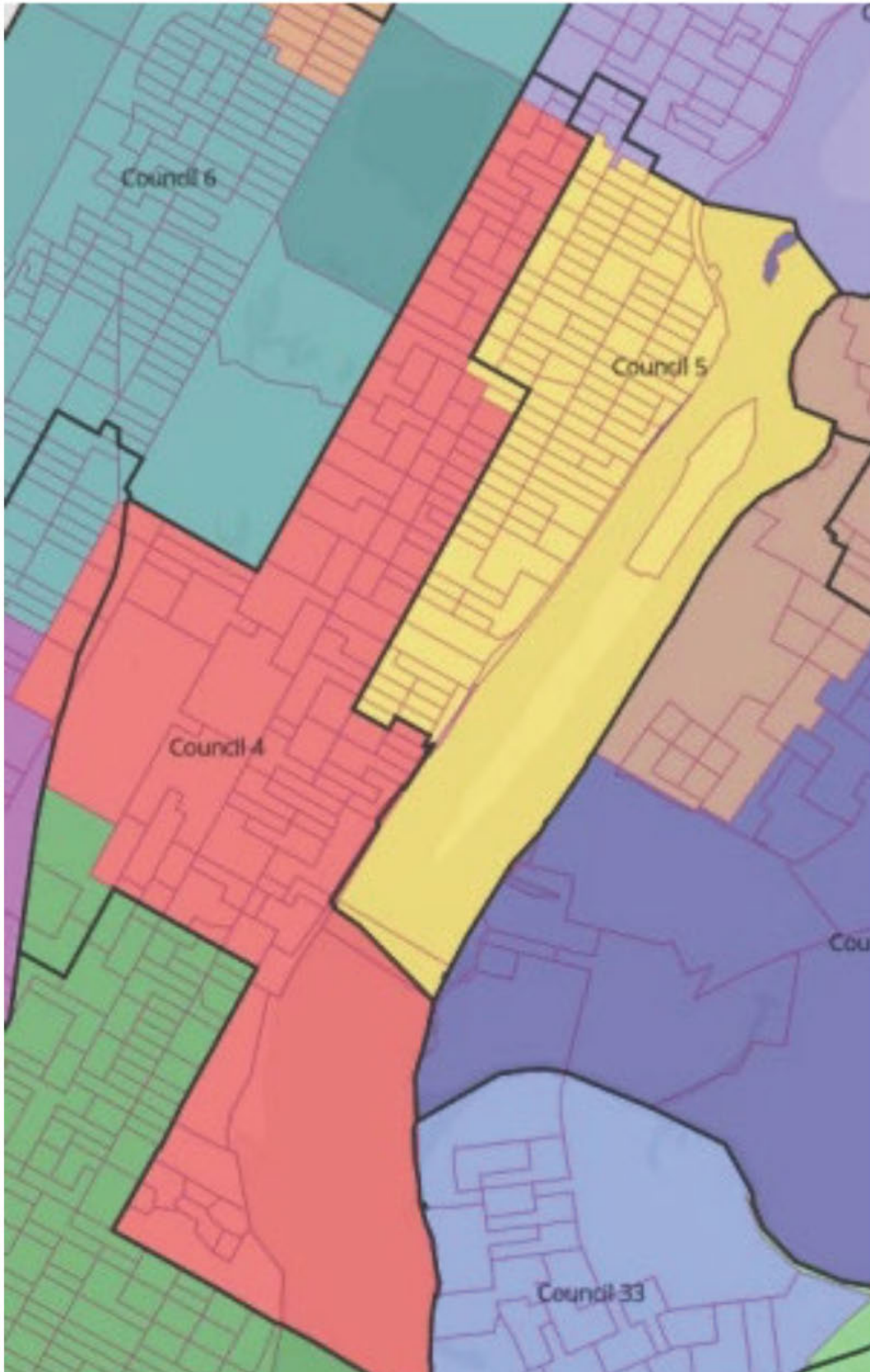
Obviously, the proposed redistricting will not change how my neighbors and I interact with each other when we are out doing errands or shopping at local businesses. But our voice will be diminished – if not gone completely. This on its own, affects and undermines community. Surely, further alienating any group of people at this time in particular, is folly.

Please, do not proceed with this plan, which will rip Sutton Place and Sutton Place South out of its current neighborhood district 5 and move it across the East River to be appended on to proposed Queens district 26. By amputating Sutton Place, our neighborhood will be denied the opportunity to vote together, to make choices together and will ultimately, divide us. The whole point of local council, is local voice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted: 22 August 2022

[REDACTED]



Proposed Redistricting\_2022



18 August 2022

Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5, which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:


- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

  
Cynthia J. Gardstein

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:59 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: We oppose redistricting District 4

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**From:** Debbie Prinz <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 9:34 AM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: We oppose redistricting District 4

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Dear Redistricting Council and City Officials,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 4 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Best, Debbie (she/her)--[REDACTED] East 69th Street  
Rabbi Deborah Prinz

•

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Yvonne Hudson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 2:40 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Testimony Submission

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## Public Testimony Submission

From: DeLores Richards, [REDACTED] West 139<sup>th</sup> Street #1A, New York, NY 10030

Community Resident, born 1936, NYC; raised and lives in Harlem all of my life.

---

What does the word community bring to one's mind?

To my mind, it brings the thoughts of persons living in a particular area within the larger society, a particular area composed of people sharing a common history, interests, identity, culture, ethnicity, social, civic, political, economic, educational, recreational activity and thought, managing to live in order and harmony.

Community means people working and celebrating, collaborating, and protecting one another from unsettling and disturbing experiences. People fighting against discrimination and marginalization, harnessing our power, protecting and preserving our culture, noting choices, getting through challenges with love and bravery.

Congressional District 13 is a federally protected district which contains Assembly District 70 and Councilmanic District 9. This congressional seat was created specifically for Harlem. The protected status of this district is to ensure its people the opportunity to elect representation of its choice; to ensure its fundamental right to elect people of its own ethnicity and to make decisions for its own community, and to ensure the vote of community members, and not to be diluted by nefarious, heavy handed Jim Crow counting methods arrived at by adding or deleting areas in and around the district which would impact any election, and the way we interact with each other.

Trying to separate the Rangel Houses and the Polo Grounds Developments from Harlem and push them into Washington Heights is like separating a limb from a body and is an abominable decision. Likewise, pushing the lower end of Councilmanic District 9 further south is like moving another extremity, and is equally abominable. Making these changes do not represent the view of our community and a decision of this importance should be in the hands of Harlem's people. If you had come in good faith, you would have asked the community what we thought about the situation.

It was insulting and demeaning to us that you created a Harlem agenda to discuss and hold hearings about a life impacting decision concerning Harlem and its people and to hold these meetings outside of Harlem without input from the people of Harlem. We are outraged but are glad you had a change of mind and came to the Schomburg Center.



If you wish to change the populations of Councilmanic Districts 7 and 10, then rework 7 & 10, and leave Councilmanic District 9 intact. You can also go to the west side, an area which has more than enough population. Again, we are opposed to any rezoning of Rangel Houses and Polo Grounds, pushing them to Washington Heights, and opposed to pushing Councilmanic District 9 further south, possibly resulting in the election of and representation by non-ethnic persons.

The Harlem home of Congressional District 13 is the historic capital of African American culture and your actions are tantamount to erasing our culture, displacing our people and are most troubling. This is an attempted takedown and separation of the very fabric of our community, and if you follow through with your poorly thought out decision, it will be about the perpetuation of your power and not about the wellbeing of our community.

As people of struggle, we are strong and resilient people who have had to survive in this country with all of its difficulties. Take note: we have endured 300 years of slavery, 100 years of segregation and produced a president 50 years after all of that!

We are the magnificent sons and daughters of preachers, teachers, authors, athletes, painters, singers, musicians, physicians, politicians, hairdressers, dressmakers, lawyers, cooks, craftsmen, businessmen, and military strategists. We have both film and story!

Our spirit is a persistent one and not easily extinguished. We have been taught well by our leaders, past and present; Honorable Tubman, Powell, King, Rangel, Malcolm X, Sharpton, Wright, Williams, Dukes, Fields, Dickens, and many others, any of whom would have been happy to offer you wisdom and counsel these momentous decisions.

Harlem Hospital is slated to become a state-of-the-art public health center complete with equipment. Many residents of the Rangel, Polo Grounds and Schomburg Developments and people throughout Harlem were born there and continue to be registered there and use its services to this day.

If the lines of Council District 9 are pushed further south, north or west, in a medical crisis, ambulances will transport those persons to St. Luke's, Presbyterian or Mt. Sinai, leaving them vulnerable to more crowded facilities, longer service waits, and poorer care. It will also affect community connections with the 125<sup>th</sup> St. Business District.

And so, Independent Redistricting Commission, special master, your allies and anyone else who agrees with your misguided plan to erase history, decimate Council District 9; our community is opposed and views any attempt at altering Council District 9 in any way as negative, prejudicial and exploitive and simply another explicit tool of voter suppression, just as rank choice voting is as well.

MASCHERONI  
EAST 57<sup>TH</sup> STREET, APT 8CD  
NEW YORK, NY 10022

August 19, 2022

THE NEW YORK CITY DISTRICTING COMMISSION  
253 Broadway, 3rd Floor New York, New York 10007

Dennis M. Walcott, Chair  
Hon. Marilyn D. Go  
Maria Mateo, Esq.  
Joshua Schneps  
Lisa Sorin  
Msg. Kevin Sullivan  
Kai-Ki Wong  
Maf Misbah Uddin  
Michael Schnall  
Kristen A. Johnson  
Yovan Samuel Collado  
Gregory W. Kirschenbaum  
Marc Wurzel  
Kevin John Hanratty  
Dr. Darrin K. Porcher

Dear Chair Walcott and Members of the New York City Districting Commission,

I am writing in reference to the proposal to change the district lines for Manhattan Council District 5 and Queens Council District 26. As a resident of Manhattan Council District 5 which includes portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island, I respectfully request that you thoughtfully reconsider and ***not adopt*** this proposal for the following reasons:

First, I understand that the draft proposal is inconsistent with and actually ***violates*** four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2), including:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact;
- the proposed district is not compact;
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district; and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Immediate questions arise including:

- Will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8?
- Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards?
- Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards?
- What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting?
- Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing.
- Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the Manhattan East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How will a Queens Council Member be effective in this regard?

Third and finally, very importantly, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents, as well as those residents in the Queens community potentially affected by this proposed change.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to review this carefully and not adopt the proposed district changes referenced above. In the interests of residents in all of the affected areas, the goal should be to "do no harm." I know the Commission wishes to make the best decision for all of the districts it oversees. Please consider what makes sense for each and all of the communities in these neighborhoods. Along with my fellow residents, I would be happy to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, your sincerely,

Eleanor Earle Mascheroni

Cc: Julie Menin, Member, New York City Council, District 5 City Council

August 21, 2022

Dennis M. Walcott, Chair  
New York City Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

**RE: Response to NYC Districting Commission Preliminary Plan #1 Map for Sutton Place Council District 4**

Dear Chair Walcott,

We are writing to ask that the redistricting proposal for Sutton Place Council District 4 not be adopted for the following reasons also voiced by other members of the Sutton Place community:

First, the draft proposal violates 4 of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52(1)(c)(d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact
- the proposed district is not compact
- the proposed district is an extreme crossover district
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, some of the many reasons our Districts bear little to no resemblance to each other are:

- 1) Our property taxes are calculated differently. We are a community of primarily coops, condos and rentals. District 26 is predominantly represented by 1,2 and 3 family homes.
- 2) Council District 4 has a large senior population which are reliant upon the easily accessible pocket parks we have maintained in our area through a local park conservancy which has developed close working relationships with our Council Members. They have been part of the fabric of our neighborhoods and understanding the needs of the constituents.

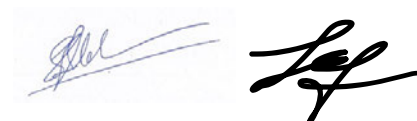
With a new Greenway now linking Sutton Place to the Upper East Side, keeping these communities of interest together in the same district remains more important than ever.

Moreover, we wish to recall City Charter Section 52 (1)(b) which indicates that districts should not cross borough lines. The new redistricting proposal is an extreme proposal that does not reflect the needs of the distinct communities proposed to be lumped together in District 26. Given the communities' differences, we have serious concerns over whether our voices and needs will be reflected in the budgeting process, particularly if we are being represented by a Queens Council Member who would need to hold full membership on two Borough Boards.

It is for these reasons that we urge the Commission to not adopt the proposed redistricting.

My fellow neighbors will testify in person on August 22<sup>nd</sup> to make sure our voices are heard and a more acceptable alternative can be worked on with knowledge of the issues of our communities.

Respectfully yours,



Erik-Jan de Koning & Lauren E Flejzor  
■ Sutton Place South, Unit 11M  
New York, NY 10022

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 5:05 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: The Proposed Re-Districting Plan for Sutton Place

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**From:** Glen Granovsky [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 1:50 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: The Proposed Re-Districting Plan for Sutton Place

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Dear Commissioner Dr. Darrin K. Porcher,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

Glen & Svetlana Granovsky  
[REDACTED] EAST 56 Street  
New York, NY 10022

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 5:00 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] DO NOT ADOPT: Redistricting: Queens Council 26 and Manhattan Council 5

---

**From:** Jacqueline Montras [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 5:04 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] DO NOT ADOPT: Redistricting: Queens Council 26 and Manhattan Council 5

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**DEAR CHAIRMAN WOLCOTT,**

**I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted.**

The district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island should ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons:

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

I respectfully urge you to go back to the drawing board and follow your own guidelines.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Montras

[REDACTED] Sutton Place South (11D)  
New York, NY 10022





[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:40 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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**From:** Jasmine Bilali [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 10:34 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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To Whom It May Concern,

As a property owner since 2005 at [REDACTED] East 71st Street in Manhattan, I oppose redistricting to Queens.

Jasmine Bilali

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:37 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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**From:** Jody Pollack <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 27, 2022 1:09 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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Hello,

I strongly oppose the redistricting of Sutton place and UES areas of Manhattan to Queens.

We would be such a tiny part of the Queens district that no one would look out for our interests. It would also devalue our homes.

It is important to keep neighborhoods and communities with common interest intact. The majority of people in Sunnyside Queens are unlikely to have the same special needs, concerns and interests and the people in Sutton terrace and the UES.

Because the Manhattan area will be such a small part of the district our needs will never be fairly represented.

It does not make sense to have a district combining two separate boroughs.

This will also result in a very oddly shaped district rather than a compact one.

There is great difference in historic, economic and ethnic interests within the proposed district and again there will not be fair representation for all.

Please reconsider this plan.

Sincerely,

Jody Roth

[REDACTED] East 57th St  
NY NY 10022

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:42 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] NYC Districting Commission Preliminary Plan #1 Map for Sutton Place Council District 4

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 11:34 AM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NYC Districting Commission Preliminary Plan #1 Map for Sutton Place Council District 4

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Dear Chair Walcott,

I am writing to ask that the redistricting proposal for Sutton Place Council District 4 not be adopted for the following reasons:

First, the draft proposal violates 4 of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52(1)(c)(d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact
- the proposed district is not compact
- the proposed district is an extreme crossover district
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, here are just two of the many reasons our Districts bear little to no resemblance to each other.

- 1) Our property taxes are calculated differently. We are a Community of primarily coops, condos and rentals. District 26 is predominantly represented by 1,2 and 3 family homes.
- 2) Council District 4 has a large senior population which are reliant upon the easily accessible pocket parks we have maintained in our area through a local park conservancy which has developed close working relationships with our Council Members. They have been part of the fabric of our neighborhoods and understanding the needs of the constituents.

Will either of these items be given the same amount of attention from a Queens Council Member? Will the Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? And, how will our voices now prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting?

It is for these reasons, I urge the Commission to not adopt the proposed redistricting.

Respectfully yours,  
Joel Kolen  
[REDACTED] Sutton Place South  
Apt 4G  
New York, NY 10022

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Joseph Frewer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 6:54 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Testimony

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To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a resident of Hell's Kitchen / Times Square for three years, and I am opposed to the redistricting proposal under consideration because it carves my home neighborhood out of District #3 and lumps it into a District (#4) with which it has very little in common and which is itself (as proposed) internally incoherent.

To clarify definitions in this below email, when I say "traditional Hell's Kitchen," I mean the area between W 42nd St and W 57th St (south to north) and 8th Avenue to 12th Avenue (east to west). This neighborhood feels like a coherent community, and although my address falls just outside of it (on the east side of 8th Ave at W 54th St), I feel like a part of this community too.

I live at 260 W 54th Street, specifically, on the east side of 8th Ave between W 53rd and W 54th Sts. The residential area in which I live, which stretches north-northwest of Times Square (west of Broadway but east of 8th Avenue, north of W 45th St) and flows into traditional Hell's Kitchen, is characterized by high tourist and commercial traffic; lively nightlife; and a vibrant arts and cultural scene. Residents of my neighborhood are more diverse and skew younger than the residents of the neighborhoods on the east side of Midtown that compose the existing and proposed District #4.

We (residents in my immediate area) *do* have a lot in common with residents of "traditional Hell's Kitchen" as defined above. My neighborhood and its benefits (e.g., art, cultural and touristic attractions) as well as its pain points (e.g., truck traffic on the avenues, higher crime and disorderly conduct) align very closely with those of traditional Hells Kitchen. East Midtown, the Upper East Side, and Stuy Town simply do not share these characteristics with my area to nearly the same extent.

Therefore, if my area (the northeast section of existing District #3) is absorbed into District #4 as is proposed, I do not feel that my community's interests will continue to be well represented; we will feel politically disconnected from the rest of District #4 and I fear that our neighborhood's needs will not be prioritized. Please make all efforts to keep my area "intact" in a district that is contiguous with the rest of traditional Hells Kitchen.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Joseph Frewer  
Resident  
[REDACTED] W 54th Street

y community of interest is

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:51 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Response to NYC Districting Commission Preliminary Plan #1 Map for Sutton Place Council District 4

---

**From:** JudyAnn Hasel <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:23 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Response to NYC Districting Commission Preliminary Plan #1 Map for Sutton Place Council District 4

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Dear Chair Walcott,

I am writing to ask that the redistricting proposal for Sutton Place Council District 4 not be adopted for the following reasons:

First, the draft proposal violates 4 of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52(1)(c)(d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact
- the proposed district is not compact
- the proposed district is an extreme crossover district
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped

Second, here are just two of the many reasons our Districts bear little to no resemblance to each other.

1. Our property taxes are calculated differently. We are a Community of primarily coops, condos and rentals. District 26 is predominantly represented by 1,2 and 3 family homes.
2. Council District 4 has a large senior population which are reliant upon the easily accessible pocket parks we have maintained in our area through a local park conservancy which has developed close working relationships with our Council Members. They have been part of the fabric of our neighborhoods and understanding the needs of the constituents.

Will either of these items be given the same amount of attention from a Queens Council Member? Will the Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? And, how will our voices now prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting?

It is for these reasons, I urge the Commission to not adopt the proposed redistricting.

My fellow neighbors and I stand ready to testify in person on August 22nd to make sure our voices are heard and a more acceptable alternative can be worked on with knowledge of the issues of our Communities.

Respectfully yours,  
JudyAnn Hasel

■ Sutton Place South  
Apt #16-O  
New York, NY 10022

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:38 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Please Rethink UES Redistricting

---

**From:** Katherine Kenigsberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 26, 2022 5:09 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Cc:** Dan Kenigsberg [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please Rethink UES Redistricting

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Hello!

I'm writing to express my concerns regarding redistributing part of the Upper East Side into Queens. I live on 70th and 1st, and the needs and conditions of my neighborhood can't get the attention and response they deserve if we are arbitrarily combined with neighborhoods in another borough across a river. Please rethink this irrational plan.

Thank you!!  
Katherine Kenigsberg  
[REDACTED] East 70th Street, #3602  
New York, NY 10021

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:50 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Queens Council District 26/Manhattan Council District 5

---

**From:** Kenneth Winston [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:34 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Queens Council District 26/Manhattan Council District 5

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

I am a resident of Sutton Place, which is in Manhattan. There's a river to the east of me. On the other side of the river is Queens, which is a really nice borough but it is different from Manhattan. For example, I know that my borough president is Mark Levine. I have no idea who the Queens borough president is.

The district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island, should not be adopted.

As many people have already pointed out, the proposed district violates several districting criteria, calling to mind the original oddly shaped "Gerry-mander" from the early 1800s.

The organizational problems of crossing borough lines are also unsurmountable. How will a council member from Queens interact with Manhattan agencies like community boards? Will the member hold a seat on two Borough Boards, which would lead to lawsuits? How would the tiny portion of the district that is in Manhattan ever get a fair shake in budgeting? How would cross-borough adversarial issues like congestion pricing be resolved?

Some of the city's crown jewels of medical research and academia lie on the East Side, including Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Please ditch this very bad districting proposal and let Manhattan be Manhattan and Queens be Queens.

-Kenneth Winston



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:38 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Redistrict 26

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 26, 2022 7:48 AM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Redistrict 26

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To: Dennis M. Wolcott, Chair  
NYC Districting Commission

Dear Mr. Wolcott:

I reside at [REDACTED] Sutton Place South in the proposed District 26. I am 76 years old and disabled.

I hope that the proposed redistricting of the Sutton Place area, as well as the extreme eastern strip of Manhattan to combine with a portion of another district located in the western part of Queens does not happen.

Of course there are legal objections in that the district is so irregular, not compact, the proposed district displaces the Sutton Place area from contiguous areas, etc.

But my primary concern is the practicalities of being in a district headquartered in another boro that is difficult to access, that the interests of the population there are totally different from the concerns of many of the residents of Sutton Place who are much older. I cannot take subways and most public transportation, and it would be an extreme hardship to be in a different district.

Are there plans for the representatives of this new district to participate in both Manhattan and Queens community boards having very different focus?

Also the hospitals -- Special Surgery, New York Presbyterian, Memorial Sloan Kettering, are located within the proposed new district. They also have special concerns. I am a patient and see providers at all three hospitals.

So in many ways I am deeply negatively impacted by wrenching Sutton Place from Manhattan. I hope that you will reject this redistricting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Laura Adams  
[REDACTED] Sutton Place South  
Apt. 3 D/N  
New York, N.Y. 10022  
[REDACTED]

August 30, 2022

Mr. Dennis M. Walcott  
Chair  
NYC Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

VIA EMAIL: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

Dear Mr. Walcott,

I write in opposition to the proposed redistricting that would move the narrow area east of First Avenue that is currently in Council District 5 to Queens Council District 26. That area should remain within Council District 5.

The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden (MVHM&G) is housed in a 1799 building, the 8th oldest historical structure still standing in Manhattan, and offers considerable and vital links to the immediate area's long history as a vibrant part of Manhattan. In addition to being part of the community and building strong relationships with our neighbors, the Museum has also benefitted enormously from close relationships to our past Council District 5 representatives; the discretionary funding at the council representative's disposal has supported cultural institutions in the district, such as the MVHM&G, that are making important cultural contributions to the immediate community as well as to the larger NYC population. Were the Museum to move to Queens Council District 26, this much-needed funding would be in even shorter supply, which would translate to less city-sponsored financial assistance going to institutions that directly support their local communities. In the case of the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden, that means school visits for children to learn about New York City history, including the long role of immigrants in our city's evolution, members of the public coming for tours and to enjoy public programs about New York City across centuries, and other types of programming for a variety of audiences to help engage them about New York's history in the 1820s and 1830s and the parallels to today.

We share the community's concern regarding such significant portions of the East Side possibly being moved to a Queens-centered district. The impacted neighborhoods comprise a singular community with the Upper East Side, and are deeply tied to the area through history, geography, and personal and institutional relationships. We are also concerned that the City agencies with which we have regular contact are organized around a Manhattan-centric borough structure, and that it would serve our interests to have a Council member more fully integrated into and deeply knowledgeable of the Borough's operational and regulatory systems.

I strongly urge the Commission not to adopt the proposed redistricting.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laura T. Allen", written in dark ink on a light background.

Laura T. Allen  
Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden  
421 East 61<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10065



Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,  
Margaret Brater  
Sutton Place Resident

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:34 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: Opposition to Sutton Place East Side Redistricting

---

**From:** Mark Jacoby [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2022 3:41 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sutton Place East Side Redistricting

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Dear Commissioner Walcott,

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First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

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Yours truly,

X

Mark Jacoby mj

**Mark Jacoby**

Philip Colleck, Ltd.

█ East 58th Street

New York, NY 10022

█

█

█



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Fredenburg, Julia  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:39 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] The Sutton Place/Rosevelt Is/LIC proposal and my vote against it

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**From:** Martie Holmer [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 8:31 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Sutton Place/Rosevelt Is/LIC proposal and my vote against it

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Hello Redistricting board,

I attended a Zoom meeting a few weeks ago before going on vacation, and was encouraged to share my thoughts on the plan to include R.I and LIC with Sutton Place. Although I am not one of the privileged in this Sutton area neighborhood, I can see how this redrawing of the plan would be very awkward and perhaps not serve any of the three areas that are suggested to be combined. I am sure that there are many good new drawings that would give the optimal number of persons and NOT necessitate this unworkable plan.

I have a business in LIC, and know the neighborhood, the values, and the fact that their needs would be difficult to meet with strong voices from Sutton Place. I think there should be a better plan and division, and though I have just returned to a buzz about this process, I add my voice to going back to the drawing board on this one.

Most sincerely,  
Martie Holmer



*A Not-for-Profit Corporation*

east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

P.O Box 1855

New York, NY 10021-0048

Tel 212-713-5826 • [info@esna-nyc.com](mailto:info@esna-nyc.com) • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)

August 5, 2022

To: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission

VIA EMAIL TO: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway-4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

RE: Redistricting a portion of NYC Council Manhattan District 5 to Queens District 26

Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons.

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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?



Community District 8 ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 59 Districts with the least amount of public park space. This plan would remove 24 Sycamores Park, most of Honey Locust Park, most of the East River Esplanade, and all of Andrew Haswell Green Park (AHG). AHG Phase 3 of the park will likely cost 25 million dollars to complete. Will a Council Member in CD26 spend that kind of money for an area that represents only 27% of the residents/voters in her/his District? Not to mention that the parks that move to CD#26 Queens will have a different Borough Commissioner from the sections that remain in CD5.

Third and finally, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. We refer you to the resolution passed by Community Board 8 disapproving the redistricting commission's map and refer you to the map proposed by Community Board 8's resolution, which would result in District 4 having a population of 177,446 and District 5 a population of 177,176 etc.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

		East 63 <sup>rd</sup> St	10065
NAME	ADDRESS	APT. 19B	Zip Code

Beth Schlossberg

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*





*A Not-for-Profit Corporation*

east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

P.O Box 1855

New York, NY 10021-0048

Tel 212-713-5826 • [info@esna-nyc.com](mailto:info@esna-nyc.com) • [www.esna-nyc.com](http://www.esna-nyc.com)

August 5, 2022

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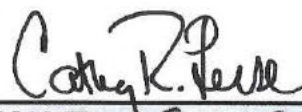

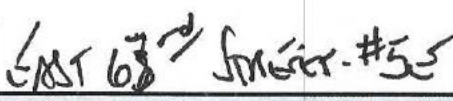
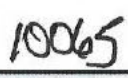
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NAME		ADDRESS	Zip Code

Cathy R. LESSE

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east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

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August 5, 2022

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VIA EMAIL TO: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

MAIL TO: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway -4<sup>th</sup> Fl, NYC 10007

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In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above.

I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

<i>MaryAnne Rasmussen</i>	 <i>East 63<sup>rd</sup> St., NYC, NY</i>	<i>10065</i>
NAME	ADDRESS	Zip Code

*MaryAnne Rasmussen*

*"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"*

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 9:51 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Redistricting Roosevelt Island

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Dear Sirs:

I am opposed to redistricting for the following reasons:

Some are financial. Like a lot of seniors in NYC, I have decided to retire in place with a co-op in NYC. I have a Manhattan zip code, 10044 and a Manhattan telephone exchange 212. I purchased my co-op on Roosevelt Island as a Manhattan community. I fear this redistricting will lessen the value of my investment.

Further, our funding for school projects is linked to a Manhattan school district. We are district 2 with representation from a Manhattan Council member and linked to private and public schools in Manhattan. A move to Queens council separates our political representation from our children's education and its funding sources.

Moreover, a move to a Queens council ignores our history, the city charter and relationships that have been built over half a century and weakens our collective and political voice over issues in Manhattan that affect our daily life more so than issues in the Queens council district.

Please reconsider this proposal and its effect on meaningful council representation of all New York City residents.

MaryMcMechan  
[REDACTED] Main Street  
Roosevelt Island, New York 10044



MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK CITY DISTRICTING COMMISSION

Districting Commission

253 Broadway, 3rd Floor New York,

New York 10007

212-676-3090

[NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov)

Dennis M. Walcott, Chair

Hon. Marilyn D. Go Maria Mateo, Esq.

Joshua Schneps

Lisa Sorin

Msgr. Kevin Sullivan

Kai-Ki Wong

Maf Misbah Uddin

Michael Schnall

Kristen A. Johnson

Yovan Samuel Collado

Gregory W. Kirschenbaum

Marc Wurzel

Kevin John Hanratty

Dr. Darrin K. Porcher

Dear Commissioners,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons. First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

1. neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
2. the proposed district is not compact,
3. the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
4. the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

The proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting?

Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt? A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center and Rockefeller University. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands (55,000 I believe) of Manhattan's residents. In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,



Maureen Cronin Rimon, Esq.

■ East 57<sup>th</sup> Street,  
NY, NY 10022

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Fredenburg, Julia  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 5:07 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Re: I am opposed to the proposed district lines

---

**From:** Monica Blum [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 1:13 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: I am opposed to the proposed district lines

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On Fri, Aug 19, 2022 at 1:12 PM Monica Blum [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Members of the NYC Redistricting Commission:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed lines that would remove our building, 420 East 72nd Street, from Manhattan and give us representation from Queens. With all due respect this just doesn't make sense.

Although I am actively engaged professionally on the west side, and have worked with some of the members of the Commission I am a life long east side resident having moved here when I graduated from college in 1965. For years prior to getting married I lived at 72nd and First and then when I got married I moved to 92nd Street. Seven years ago my husband, Robert Lemieux and I moved back to 72nd Street directly across from the building that I lived in before. I felt as if I were coming home. I have worked closely for and with city government since 1965 and follow all the activities of CB8 and the 72nd Street Association. This neighborhood is home to many long standing, great institutions many of which we use. They are part of the Manhattan/east side fabric.

I will not repeat the many reasons this just doesn't make sense. Others including CB 8 have enumerated the concerns more eloquently than I can.

We have outstanding representation in the Council and are well served by Councilmember Menin. We share a community of interests with our neighbors on the west side of first avenue, second, and and beyond, and while there is good representation in Queens, our interests and concerns are just not the same. We have many major anchor institutions east of First that are integral parts of Manhattan and that contribute to this neighborhood. These institutions serve the entire city but they are part of the East Side. If we were to be represented by a Queens council person, it would be impossible to properly assess the uniqueness of this stretch of the east side. This would require several district offices, staffers with different skill sets, and leave us with inadequate representation. This part of the UES has a very high concentration of seniors many of who use all these centers of excellence — educational institutions, medical facilities, community centers, etc. While I cannot write on behalf of the major institutions that would be dramatically affected by this proposal, I can say that all of the elected officials that I have worked with over the years have had the critical expertise and knowledge to deal with these issues. Neighborhoods are different — density, different issues, concerns, traffic and transportation issues, service issues and soon even congestion pricing. Queens just doesn't have the same issues.

It appears to me that the draft proposal violates the criteria outlined in the Charter — specifically neighborhoods and communities of interest would not be intact; the proposed district would not be compact; the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district and finally is oddly shaped. As someone who is responsible for a neighborhood that has strange boundaries, and more than one councilmember and community board, I can tell you that it can pose many issues and difficulties. And while many council members try and work collaboratively, when neighborhoods are totally different, it is just more challenging.

I would hope that the Commission in its wisdom would see that this proposed redistricting just doesn't make sense.

I am happy to discuss this further. I can be reached at [REDACTED]. Many thanks for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Monica Blum

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Monica Blum

--

Monica Blum

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:48 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

---

**From:** NANCY COUGHLIN-TISZEN [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 7:46 AM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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Dear Commissioner Dennis M. Walcott, Chair Hon. Marilyn D. Go Maria Mateo, Esq. Joshua Schneps  
Lisa Sorin  
Msgr. Kevin Sullivan  
Kai-Ki Wong  
Maf Misbah Uddin  
Michael Schnall  
Kristen A. Johnson  
Yovan Samuel Collado  
Gregory W. Kirschenbaum  
Marc Wurzel Kevin John Hanratty,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will

a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Nancy Coughlin

■ Sutton Place

NY, NY 10022

■

August 19, 2022

Dear Commissioners:

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island ***not be adopted*** for the following reasons:

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods.

Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8?

Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards?

Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards?

What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting?

Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan

Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third, this oddly shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and **not adopt the proposed districts referenced above**. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Nancy Koenigsberg  
[REDACTED] East 57<sup>th</sup> St.  
New York, NY 10022



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:39 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Disapproval of proposal to move Sutton Place and parts of the UES from City Council District 4 to District 26

---

**From:** Nancy Scioli [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 12:01 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Disapproval of proposal to move Sutton Place and parts of the UES from City Council District 4 to District 26

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Hello,

I am writing this email to formally express my disapproval of the proposal by the Commission to place all of Sutton Place and much of the UES from NYC City Council District 4 into Council District 26, predominantly made of neighborhoods in Western Queens.

This is a proposal that runs counter to the Commission's own redistricting criteria. These areas are core to the borough of Manhattan and to move these areas to a borough by which we are fully separated and not involved in the workings of how the district is run, and vice versa, would create an enormously negative effect on the population of Sutton Place and the UES. **We cannot be represented by those who are not affected in the same ways by the ongoing in our neighborhoods.** Because we would be a small percent of the population, with the vast majority in Queens, **we would not have a voice and our needs and priorities for our own neighborhoods would be unheard.**

Manhattan is one island, and Roosevelt Island was built with the intention of having it be part of Manhattan. **The NYC charter has 5 principles, 2 of which are to keep neighborhoods and communities intact and to keep districts compact.** This proposal breaks these principles and has many, many negative and far reaching implications for our seniors, our children, our businesses, and homes and our lives.

This proposal should not be adopted.

Thank you,  
Nancy



**LAMB &  
BARNOSKY, LLP**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

██████████ BROADHOLLOW ROAD, SUITE 210  
PO BOX 9034  
MELVILLE, NY 11747-9034  
██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████

SERVICE BY FAX, EMAIL OR OTHER FORMS OF  
ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION NOT ACCEPTED

**P.L. LAMB**  
PARTNER

DIRECT DIAL: ██████████  
DIRECT FAX: ██████████  
P. ██████████

August 23, 2022

Via Email: [NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov)

Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007

Attention: Dennis M. Walcott, Chair  
Hon. Marilyn D. Go  
Maria Mateo, Esq.  
Joshua Schneps  
Lisa Sorin  
Msgr. Kevin Sullivan  
Kai-Ki Wong  
Maf Misbah Uddin  
Michael Schnall  
Kristen A. Johnson  
Yovan Samuel Collado  
Gregory W. Kirschenbaum  
Marc Wurzel  
Kevin John Hanratty  
Dr. Darris K. Porche

Dear Members:

I reside at ██████████ E. 57<sup>th</sup> Street and 419 E. 57<sup>th</sup> Street. I fully support the Resolution opposing, amongst other things, the redistricting of City Council District 4 as set forth in the Resolution approved by the Community Board 8 Manhattan held on July 20, 2022.

Very truly yours,

Paul L. Lamb

PLL:jp

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:35 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting of Sutton place, etc

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**From:** Renay Weisberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 27, 2022 3:02 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting of Sutton place, etc

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We strongly oppose this Redistricting concept. Please keep us informed as to the status of this proposal.  
Thank you

Renay and Steve Weisberg  
[REDACTED] Sutton Place  
Apartment 11e

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 5:09 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

---

**From:** Richard Pizer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 12:05 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Cc:** Richard Pizer [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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Dear Members and Staff of the NYC District Commission,

I write to ask that the proposed district lines for Manhattan Council District 5 and Queens Council District 26 NOT BE ADOPTED.

Quite aside from several adverse effects of the proposed redistricting, the proposal under consideration violates four of the criteria for Council Districts set forth in the City Charter Section 52(1)(c)(d) and (e) and Section 52(2). The adverse effects of the proposal under consideration include the creation of districts that are not contiguous. As a result, current neighborhoods and communities of interest are separated from one another. The separation of the Queens and Manhattan constituencies is not just an inconvenience, it has an obvious adverse impact on access to local governmental services. Quite simply, as a resident of Manhattan, I would lose pedestrian access to my not so local District Office. Should the Council District Office be located in Manhattan, Queens residents would lose easy access to the Council Office. The proposed redistricting has obvious drawbacks. The benefits are at best obscure.

To reiterate, I most strongly urge that the proposed redistricting NOT BE ADOPTED.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Pizer

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:58 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Sutton Place redistricting

---

**From:** Robin Berg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 2:52 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Sutton Place redistricting

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Dear Chair Walcott,  
Please be advised that I strongly disagree with the redrawing of City Council District 4 as outlined in your meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan on July 20, 2022 .

Respectfully yours ,

Robin R Berg  
[REDACTED] east 57th street #3A

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:51 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Response to NYC Districting Commission Preliminary Plan #1 Map for Sutton Place Council District 4

---

**From:** Roger Chin [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 6:23 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Response to NYC Districting Commission Preliminary Plan #1 Map for Sutton Place Council District 4

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Dear Chair Walcott,

I am writing to ask that the redistricting proposal for Sutton Place Council District 4 not be adopted for the following reasons:

First, the draft proposal violates 4 of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52(1)(c)(d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact
- the proposed district is not compact
- the proposed district is an extreme crossover district
- the proposed district in very oddly shaped

Second, here are just two of the many reasons our Districts bear little to no resemblance to each other.

1. Our property taxes are calculated differently. We are a Community of primarily coops, condos and rentals. District 26 is predominantly represented by 1,2 and 3 family homes.
2. Council District 4 has a large senior population which are reliant upon the easily accessible pocket parks we have maintained in our area through a local park conservancy which has developed close working relationships with our Council Members. They have been part of the fabric of our neighborhoods and understanding the needs of the constituents.

Will either of these items be given the same amount of attention from a Queens Council Member? Will the Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? And, how will our voices now prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting?

It is for these reasons, I urge the Commission to not adopt the proposed redistricting.

My fellow neighbors and I stand ready to testify in person on August 22nd to make sure our voices are heard and a more acceptable alternative can be worked on with knowledge of the issues of our Communities.

Respectfully yours,  
Roger Chin

■ Sutton Place South  
Apt #16-O  
New York, NY 10022

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 5:01 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Please Oppose: Proposed district lines for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5

---

**From:** Sarah Stein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 4:49 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please Oppose: Proposed district lines for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5

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Dear Districting Commissioners,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island **not be adopted** for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.



In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Sarah Rakonitz Stein  
■ Sutton Place S  
NYC 10022

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 5:03 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Sutton Pl/UES/ RI

---

**From:** susan price blackwell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 8:09 AM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Sutton Pl/UES/ RI

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Dear Commissioners,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Susan P Blackwell

--

Susan Blackwell

Paris home



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:38 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Sutton area and midtown east should not be part of the Queens district

---

**From:** Tina Linger <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 26, 2022 11:05 AM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Sutton area and midtown east should not be part of the Queens district

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Please note that the midtown east residents are EXTREMELY averse to being part of the Queens district. Real Estate values are already struggling and people in this district do NOT want to live in Queens for a reason. This is a VERY bad idea.

Tina Linger  
[REDACTED]  
  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:57 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Letter to the Districting Commission

---

**From:** Tracey Li [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 8:24 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Cc:** David Ong <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Letter to the Districting Commission

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Dear Districting Commission,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island **not** be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Tracey Li & David Ong



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Dear Commissioner Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,  
Tracy Brater  
Sutton Place Resident

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 5:01 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Unacceptable Plan

---

**From:** Vida Cohen [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 3:16 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Unacceptable Plan

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The proposed Redistricting Plan is Unacceptable! It would mean that a large portion of the Upper East Side would split from the rest of the Neighborhood for Local Political Representation in the City Council.  
City Council Members Menin & Powers join residents in stating this plan is unacceptable. This proposed plan will impact the municipal budget.  
We urge the plan be scrapped! Keep districts within the Borough.

Scrapping the proposed plan is the first step.  
Manhattan Upper East Side Resident  
Vida E Cohen  
[REDACTED] E 69th St, New York, NY 10021.



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** William Marlowe <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 7:39 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] District 4/5

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Why aren't the upper east side streets from 5th to park not included in district 5? It appears you went out of your way to carve these streets out, this is gerrymandering at its worst

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 5:08 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: about proposed district lines

---

**From:** Xiangdong Lu [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 11:55 AM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] about proposed district lines

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Dear Commissioner Dennis M. Walcott:

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

I am an employee of the Rockefeller University and have lived in an apt building on east 63rd street, York Avenue for 15 years. I think this proposal is the most absurd proposal ever. I believe there is very likely some corruption involved in this issue otherwise why somebody wants to propose such a ridiculous idea.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:  
neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,  
the proposed district is not compact,  
the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and  
the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will cause significant difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Will residents in our neighborhood have to send their children to Queens for middle schools? Also, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

Xiangdong Lu

Xiangdong Lu PhD  
Lab of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
The Rockefeller University  
New York, NY 10065  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 5:07 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Petition

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**From:** Yasmeen Salha [REDACTED] u>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 12:10 PM  
**To:** NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Petition

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Dear Commissioner [REDACTED],

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons. [REDACTED] First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

[REDACTED] Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt? [REDACTED] A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard? [REDACTED] Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents. [REDACTED] In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yasmeen Salha  
■ E 56th Street  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing for you to strongly consider that the proposed district lines for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and all of Roosevelt Island **not be adopted** for the following reasons outlined in this letter.

The draft proposal violates several important criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an oddly-shaped / extreme crossover district.

Please recognize that the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods.

The demographics of Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8 skew heavily towards seniors, that a new Queens Council Member will not have experience in serving the needs of.

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. A new Queens Council Member will not have the years / decades of experience and experience in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas.

- Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech.

Manhattan and Queens residents often hold vastly different positions on vital public policy matters – from matters of daily life (eg, congestion), to budgeting matters...the latter which would only work if the Council Member *understood* and had the interests of its district residents in mind.

This oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

I urge the Commission to not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

You-You Ma

**DeCillis, Michael**

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**From:** Yvonne Hudson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 2:40 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Testimony Submission

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## Public Testimony Submission

From: DeLores Richards, [REDACTED] West 139<sup>th</sup> Street [REDACTED], New York, NY 10030

Community Resident, born 1936, NYC; raised and lives in Harlem all of my life.

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What does the word community bring to one's mind?

To my mind, it brings the thoughts of persons living in a particular area within the larger society, a particular area composed of people sharing a common history, interests, identity, culture, ethnicity, social, civic, political, economic, educational, recreational activity and thought, managing to live in order and harmony.

Community means people working and celebrating, collaborating, and protecting one another from unsettling and disturbing experiences. People fighting against discrimination and marginalization, harnessing our power, protecting and preserving our culture, noting choices, getting through challenges with love and bravery.

Congressional District 13 is a federally protected district which contains Assembly District 70 and Councilmanic District 9. This congressional seat was created specifically for Harlem. The protected status of this district is to ensure its people the opportunity to elect representation of its choice; to ensure its fundamental right to elect people of its own ethnicity and to make decisions for its own community, and to ensure the vote of community members, and not to be diluted by nefarious, heavy handed Jim Crow counting methods arrived at by adding or deleting areas in and around the district which would impact any election, and the way we interact with each other.

Trying to separate the Rangel Houses and the Polo Grounds Developments from Harlem and push them into Washington Heights is like separating a limb from a body and is an abominable decision. Likewise, pushing the lower end of Councilmanic District 9 further south is like moving another extremity, and is equally abominable. Making these changes do not represent the view of our community and a decision of this importance should be in the hands of Harlem's people. If you had come in good faith, you would have asked the community what we thought about the situation.

It was insulting and demeaning to us that you created a Harlem agenda to discuss and hold hearings about a life impacting decision concerning Harlem and its people and to hold these meetings outside of Harlem without input from the people of Harlem. We are outraged but are glad you had a change of mind and came to the Schomburg Center.

If you wish to change the populations of Councilmanic Districts 7 and 10, then rework 7 & 10, and leave Councilmanic District 9 intact. You can also go to the west side, an area which has more than enough population. Again, we are opposed to any rezoning of Rangel Houses and Polo Grounds, pushing them to Washington Heights, and opposed to pushing Councilmanic District 9 further south, possibly resulting in the election of and representation by non-ethnic persons.

The Harlem home of Congressional District 13 is the historic capital of African American culture and your actions are tantamount to erasing our culture, displacing our people and are most troubling. This is an attempted takedown and separation of the very fabric of our community, and if you follow through with your poorly thought out decision, it will be about the perpetuation of your power and not about the wellbeing of our community.

As people of struggle, we are strong and resilient people who have had to survive in this country with all of its difficulties. Take note: we have endured 300 years of slavery, 100 years of segregation and produced a president 50 years after all of that!

We are the magnificent sons and daughters of preachers, teachers, authors, athletes, painters, singers, musicians, physicians, politicians, hairdressers, dressmakers, lawyers, cooks, craftsmen, businessmen, and military strategists. We have both film and story!

Our spirit is a persistent one and not easily extinguished. We have been taught well by our leaders, past and present; Honorable Tubman, Powell, King, Rangel, Malcolm X, Sharpton, Wright, Williams, Dukes, Fields, Dickens, and many others, any of whom would have been happy to offer you wisdom and counsel these momentous decisions.

Harlem Hospital is slated to become a state-of-the-art public health center complete with equipment. Many residents of the Rangel, Polo Grounds and Schomburg Developments and people throughout Harlem were born there and continue to be registered there and use its services to this day.

If the lines of Council District 9 are pushed further south, north or west, in a medical crisis, ambulances will transport those persons to St. Luke's, Presbyterian or Mt. Sinai, leaving them vulnerable to more crowded facilities, longer service waits, and poorer care. It will also affect community connections with the 125<sup>th</sup> St. Business District.

And so, Independent Redistricting Commission, special master, your allies and anyone else who agrees with your misguided plan to erase history, decimate Council District 9; our community is opposed and views any attempt at altering Council District 9 in any way as negative, prejudicial and exploitive and simply another explicit tool of voter suppression, just as rank choice voting is as well.



## DeCillis, Michael

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**From:** Abraham Roth CPA <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 11:16 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Letter

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Dear Commissioners,

My name is Abraham Roth and I reside in the proposed 44th and 48th District.

I respectfully write this letter regarding the redistricting of City Council districts 44 and 48. Borough Park, Flatbush, and Midwood are heavily Orthodox Jewish communities.

Our districts have many things in common; we share the same synagogues, yeshiva schools, kosher food stores, shopping centers, and religious practices and observance. We are a concentrated community and are unique, sharing common values and having many of the same needs. For example, we follow religious practices that limit our travel and other things on the Sabbath and on holy days.

It is therefore critical that our communities' unique characters be maintained in a manner where our ever-expanding communities need the attention of elected officials who understand and respond to our needs. This applies especially to the 44th City Council District, which, for decades at this point, has been the core Jewish City Council District. Additionally, we also respectfully request that the core of the 48th City Council District be maintained for the reasons mentioned above.

For your convenience, I am embedding a link in this letter showing our model maps and the street borders that we, as a united community, prefer for the 44th District and 48th District: <https://districtr.org/plan/138877>.

Thank you for your attention to this critically important need.

 Roth & Co

## Abraham Roth CPA | Co-Managing Partner

██████████ Street, Suite 200  
██████████ Brooklyn, New York 11218

[www.rothcocpa.com](http://www.rothcocpa.com)



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[REDACTED]

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**From:** anne moss [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 3:20 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
anne moss  
[REDACTED] E 12th St  
New York, NY 10009

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Caitlin Carey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 1, 2022 11:13 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Caitlin Carey  
[REDACTED] W 13th St  
New York, NY 10011

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** NYC Redistricting  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 2:03 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: Proposed Redistricting Opposition

Julia Fredenburg  
NYC Districting Commission

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**From:** Christopher Goforth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 1:28 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] >  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Proposed Redistricting Opposition

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Good afternoon. My name is Christopher Goforth. I live at 233 E. 69th Street. I am a New York City voter, tax payer, and property owner. It has come to my attention that there is a proposal to change the city council district for a number of UES Manhattan blocks to District 26 in Queens. I am staunchly opposed to this proposal due the negative impact it will have upon residents like me. New York City residents should expect to be represented by the specific borough council where they geographically live. For me, that's Manhattan City Council. Please do not support redistricting proposals that blur borough community boundaries in this manner. Thank you.

Christopher Goforth  
[REDACTED] E. 69th St., Apt. 5i  
New York, NY 10021

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Evelyn Aucoin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 5:31 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Redistricting

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August 31, 2022

Mr. Dennis M. Walcott  
Chair  
NYC Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

VIA EMAIL: [PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov)

Dear Mr. Walcott,

I write in opposition to the proposed redistricting that would move the narrow area east of First Avenue that is currently in Council District 5 to Queens Council District 26. That area should remain within Council District 5.

The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden (MVHM&G) is housed in a 1799 building, the 8th oldest historical structure still standing in Manhattan, and offers considerable and vital links to the immediate area's long history as a vibrant part of Manhattan. In addition to being part of the community and building strong relationships with our neighbors, the Museum has also benefited enormously from close relationships to our past Council District 5 representatives; the discretionary funding at the council representative's disposal has supported cultural institutions in the district, such as the MVHM&G, that are making important cultural contributions to the immediate community as well as to the larger NYC population. Were the Museum to move to Queens Council District 26, this much-needed funding would be in even shorter supply, which would translate to less city-sponsored financial assistance going to institutions that directly support their local communities. In the case of the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden, that means school visits for children to learn about New York City history, including the long role of immigrants in our city's evolution, members of the public coming for tours and to enjoy public programs about New York City across centuries, and other types of programming for a variety of audiences to help engage them about New York's history in the 1820s and 1830s and the parallels to today.

We share the community's concern regarding such significant portions of the East Side possibly being moved to a Queens-centered district. The impacted neighborhoods comprise a singular community with the Upper East Side, and are deeply tied to the area through history, geography, and personal and institutional relationships. We are also concerned that the City agencies with which we have regular contact are organized around a Manhattan-centric borough structure, and that it would serve our interests to have a Council member more fully integrated into and deeply knowledgeable of the Borough's operational and regulatory systems.

I strongly urge the Commission not to adopt the proposed redistricting.

Respectfully,

Evelyn Aucoin

Treasurer

Board of Managers, Colonial Dames of America

Colonial Dames of America/Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden

██████ East 61<sup>st</sup> Street

New York, NY 10065

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Judith Pesin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 1, 2022 4:43 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain or Increase the Proposed Balance Between City Council Districts in Redistricting to Ensure

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Dear NYC Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe it's imperative that the current City Council redistricting rights the wrongs of the last redistricting and establishes a fair and equal balance in population between districts, to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal voting power and equal representation. The last redistricting left some districts like the 1st and 3rd with 10% more residents than other districts in the city and 5% more than the citywide average, leaving residents of these districts with diminished voting power and significantly underrepresented in the City Council over the last 10 years. That inequality has only grown as populations in some districts like the 3rd have soared, so that district now has over 30% more residents than other districts and 17% more than the citywide average, leaving its residents even more underrepresented and with proportionately less voting power.

The currently proposed new City Council district lines largely correct this glaring inequality, creating new districts with roughly equal populations except those on Staten Island, which would continue to have almost 4.5% fewer residents than the citywide average, and thus have disproportionately more representation and their residents disproportionately more voting power.

As the Redistricting Commission considers further changes to the proposed map, it's imperative that they not decrease the relative balance between district populations, and if anything that balance should be increased, and the current proposed inequalities (while significantly less than 10 years ago) should be further reduced or eliminated. Only this way can we ensure equality of representation and voting power between all New Yorkers, and right the wrongs of the last redistricting, which left some New Yorkers woefully underrepresented.

Regards,  
Judith Pesin  
[REDACTED] W 13th St  
New York, NY 10011



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 11:08 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan

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Dear Chair Dennis Walcott,

I write to ask that the district lines proposed for Queens Council District 26 and Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side, and all of Roosevelt Island not be adopted for the following reasons.

First, the draft proposal violates four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2). The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

- neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
- the proposed district is not compact,
- the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
- the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

Second, the proposed districts will create significant practical difficulties for the affected neighborhoods. Notably, will a Queens Council Member have a district office in Manhattan to serve the needs of the extraordinarily high percentage of seniors in Manhattan Community Districts 6 & 8? Will a Queens Council Member send representation to two additional Manhattan Community Boards? Will a Queens Council Member hold full membership on two Borough Boards? What is the likelihood that the Manhattan portion of the proposed district will ever prevail in a matter of Participatory Budgeting? Manhattan and Queens residents may hold vastly different positions on important matters of public policy including, but not limited to, congestion pricing. Which position will a Queens Council Member adopt?

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Council Member be in this regard?

Third and finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed districts referenced above. I thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Ms. Linda Levine  
[REDACTED] Madison Ave New York, NY 10016-2817 [REDACTED]