

[REDACTED]

From: Amela Demirovic [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 12:22 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 26 city council restricting

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Hi

I have been a longtime resident of Woodside, residing at [REDACTED] 60 street.

I do not agree with the proposal to split the Woodside into four city council districts as planned based on the new redistricting proposal.

The Woodside should stay as part of the 26 city council because of the common interest with the rest of the city council. Our common interests are related to development, education, transit, public health, and safety.

Please keep the Woodside area as the part of 26 city council and keep Roosevelt island and upper East side separated from us.

[REDACTED]

From: ann white [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 8:04 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed District 28 Map

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To who it may concern: I have been a resident of District 28 over 40 years, why would the District be split now? Is this a conspiracy to help the republicans achieve votes? Leave the District as it should be, why split a community that have existed 50 plus years is absolutely redundant and makes no sense. If its not broken don't fix it. Ann White District 28.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

[REDACTED]

From: Barry Warren [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 12:21 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting of Rochdale Village, Inc.

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To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Barry Warren and I have lived in Rochdale Village for 42 years, which means I know the good and the bad of our community. Forty-two years ago, the Rochdale Village Community was very different than it is currently by population, social class and financial class of cooperators.

Even with the decline of financial class, social class and social order Rochdale Village remains a very powerful political force in New York City with a population of more than 30,000 cooperators/voters. There are a few people who have become cooperators in recent years who may not understand the power of this one development in South Jamaica.

I have heard our City Officials want all immigrants that enter the greater New York City area to have voting rights in local elections although they are not yet citizens of this great country, nor do they have knowledge of how our system works in America. These immigrants seek a better life as I did migrate from the southern state of North Carolina over 53 years ago in 1969.

I think that allowing uninformed noncitizens who cannot possibly vote from their experience or learned knowledge of the American Political System is absurd. Breaking up the powerful position of Rochdale Village is absurd.

Redistricting all over America only serves one purpose and that is to control a certain ethnic population and reduce their influence in this country.

I believe Rochdale Village should remain the powerhouse that it is now as one District 28.

Half a loaf is never better than a whole loaf.

Sincerely,

Barry Warren
[REDACTED] 130th Ave. Apt. 6C
Jamaica, N.Y. 11434

[REDACTED]

From: Baruch Rothman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 11:15 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District 31

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 as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

Dear New York City Redistricting Commission,

Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to comment on the redistricting maps proposed by the Redistricting Commission on July 15, 2022.

Attached is the link to maps (<https://districtr.org/plan/137797>) which reflect how I want our community to be redistricted. As a long-time resident of District 31, the only change that is needed is to include all of JFK Airport in the district because of the following.

- First, JFK was previously a part of District 31 so this change would simply correct an error from the last redistricting cycle.
- Second, the communities of Rosedale, Brookville, Laurelton, Springfield Gardens, Edgemere, Far Rockaway and Arverne which are currently in the district, are directly in the airport flight path. Therefore, consolidating JFK Airport under “one district umbrella” will make it easier to holistically address current and future concerns.
- Additionally, JFK is currently represented by one Congressional, State Senate and Assembly member so there is simply no need for two separate Council Members to retain the airport in their districts.

The rest of District 31 should remain intact because of the historical and common characteristics (e.g., race, political party, geography, and type of home ownership) consistent in each of our communities which should not be tampered with. Below, I cite evidence to support this statement.

Rosedale, Laurelton, Brookville, and our portion of Springfield Gardens are contiguous. Their communities are Black registered Democratic voters, and the residents are primarily one- and two-family homeowners. The issues we face are consistent whether it is improving education, ensuring access to health services, protecting the environment, tackling airport noise, dealing with flooding, creating jobs, or providing adequate public safety for our residents and families. For decades, this district’s civic associations (e.g., Eastern Queens Alliance, Inc., Rosedale Civic Association, Inc., Federated Blocks of Laurelton, Concerned Citizens of Laurelton, Springfield/Rosedale Community Action Association, Inc., Spring-Gar Civic Association, Inc., and Springfield Gardens Taxpayers and Citizens Association) have worked closely together at all levels of government to address these issues and drive needed change. We have also launched special task forces (e.g., 116th Precinct Community Task Force, Southeastern Queens Zoning Preservation Task Force, and the Queens Community Task Force Against Illegal Truck Parking) to fight for the new precinct and to focus on the most important “quality of life” issues in our community.

The Rockaways and Arverne by the Sea communities should also remain intact within the 31st District because they share similar characteristics to the district’s “mainland” communities. For example, the Rockaways’ portion of the district is made up of primarily Black Democrats who are one- or two-family homeowners. Any

changes would split the Democratic vote, disrupt the political dynamics, and negatively impact the interests and desires of its residents.

To preserve and to continually advance the common interests and concerns in District 31, I petition the Commission to keep our district intact with the only exception being to include JFK Airport in its entirety in the district to restore the continuity that existed before.

Thank you again for receiving my comments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Baruch Rothman | Director of Institutional Advancement



Yeshiva Darchei Torah

[Videos](#) | [Invest](#)

Bernard Fryshman, Ph.D.
[REDACTED] 72nd Crescent
Flushing, NY 11367
[REDACTED]

August 16, 2022

Via Email: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

To the Honored Members of the Redistricting Commission:

I live in City Council District 24 and would like to urge that you maintain the current district lines as is.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the citizens of New York.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernard Fryshman". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Bernard Fryshman, Ph.D.

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:21 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony against Redistricting

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My name is Bilkis Begum

I have been living in District 26 for 7 years. We have a huge Bengali Community in this area. If our area gets redistricted our power will decrease. We are currently under CM Julie Won's District. Redistricting puts our Bangalee community at risk, it can divide our neighborhood and some of us may fall in different districts. We want the elected of our neighborhood to understand our community needs collectively. We don't want our power to be divided. It also decreases our collective voting power as a Bengali Community? Why is redistricting important? It seems like a tactic of politicians to make us more divided. I say no to redistricting.

August 16, 2022

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To preserve and to continually advance the common interests and concerns in District 31, I petition the Commission to keep our district intact with the only exception being to include JFK Airport in its entirety in the district to restore the continuity that existed before.

Thank you again for receiving my comments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Perkins

Vice Chair, Eastern Queens Alliance, Inc.

Board Member, Rosedale Civic Association, Inc.

Task Force Leader, Queens Community Task Force Against Illegal Truck Parking

Task Force Leader, Southeastern Queens Zoning Preservation Task Force

Project Manager, 116th Precinct Community Task Force

From: Office [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 11:16 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District 31

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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The Rockaways and Arverne by the Sea communities should also remain intact within the 31st District because they share similar characteristics to the district's "mainland" communities. For example, the Rockaways' portion of the district is made up of primarily Black Democrat who are one- or two-family homeowners. Any changes would split the Democratic vote, disrupt the political dynamics, and negatively impact the interests and desires of its residents.

To preserve and to continually advance the common interests and concerns in District 31, I petition the Commission to keep our district intact with the only exception being to include JFK Airport in its entirety in the district to restore the continuity that existed before.

Thank you again for receiving my comments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brachie Schreiber

The Rabenstein Learning Center

[REDACTED]

From: Carey Sveen [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 3:31 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Personal Testimony for Liberty Park Homeowner in District 30

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To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to ask, along with countless others, I am certain, for Liberty Park in Glendale, Queens to remain in District 30 represented by Robert Holden!

We have specific on-going issues that he is passionate about helping us with. For example, he was instrumental in getting stop signs placed along Cooper Avenue near the entrance of the Liberty Park neighborhood. Young and old alike were risking their lives daily without a safe area to cross. Holden is still working on fixing these dangerous problems plaguing Liberty Park.

Please don't throw our neighborhood into a district that has different needs than we do. It makes no sense to move our neighborhood away from the current district (including neighborhoods that all have similar homes and similar needs).

Our diverse neighborhood is best represented by Robert Holden.

Thank you,

Carey Sveen Watlington
[REDACTED]

From: Carina Nieves [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 3:06 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opinion on New Maps

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Hello Commission,

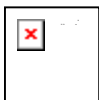
Thank you for this vital work you are doing! I testified at the hearing back in July before the new maps came out. I didn't get a chance to send in my testimony, but I will reinstate some of the points I made then.

My name is Carina Nieves. i have been a resident of Richmond Hill since my family moved here in 1994. My area of Richmond Hill is in District 29 which includes Rego Park, Forest Hills, and Kew Gardens. The newly redrawn maps do a better job at having Richmond Hill North and South be together in one district. Our community voice has been split into three districts (28,29,&32) and thus that has diluted the voice of voters and having a Council representative who cares about our community concerns.

The newly redrawn maps are hard to see and the boundary lines aren't very clear. I did use the online mapping system, but I had a hard time making every district at least 172,000. As I am new to this process I ask that there is clarification as to why a council district is set at 172,000 when a community board can up to 250,000. Also is this number the actual population living in the community or the eligible voting population? My personal take is that NYC should have larger council districts this would mean having less Councilmembers. It would save a lot of money for the city especially as things are getting more expensive. The community board and the police precincts maps should reflect the council district to an extent.

Once again I hope there will be maps that clearer released soon, so we can see what changes have been made.

Regards,



Carina M. Nieves
about.me/carinamnieves

[REDACTED]

From: yahoo.com [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 4:05 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO REDISTRICTING 28

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Good Afternoon,

I oppose the redistricting of district 28. I will diminish our voices within the Rochdale Village Complex.

[REDACTED]

From: CHARLENE BENNETT [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:42 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistributing of Districts

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To Whom It May concern,

I believe the idea of separating a productive district (28th) is not necessary. It has been working positively without any political input. The committee that is initiated this course of action does not reside in the district. I have lived here over 50 years and never heard of such. This course of action is targeting the African American community.

Rochdale Village is primarily made up of senior citizens who depend on a comfortable quality of life. The committee will be just confusing people in my community.

Thank You for the opportunity to voice my opinion.
Charlene Bennett

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: Crystal D Granger [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 2:57 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Do Not Redistrict Rochdale Village

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Dear Sirs/Madams:

I have lived in district 28, Rochdale Village for over 40 years. It has been a safe haven for my mother until her death and now myself. This is a Community that cares for the youth and elderly. They have programs that help older adults that need food so they can buy their medications and activities to keep them busy. It has historically helped the surrounding areas and provide businesses for it's residents and it's neighbors. Please do not break up this community into two separate parts. Rochdale Village is one unit and we need it to stay that way so we can have the quality of life that is the American experience.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Crystal Granger

[REDACTED]

From: David Rivel [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 10:47 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Queens: District 26

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Really simple...

It is madness to draw a district that includes Queens, Manhattan, and Roosevelt Island.

Manhattan doesn't want to be part of Queens.

Queens doesn't want to be part of Manhattan.

DON'T DRAW A DISTRICT THAT INCLUDES QUEENS AND MANHATTAN IN THE SAME DISTRICT!

That's crazy, and offensive to voters in Queens and in Manhattan.

Put Roosevelt Island with Manhattan. Draw a Queens district that includes Astoria, LIC, Woodside and Sunnyside.

It's not that hard. DO YOUR JOB RIGHT!

I support CM Julie Won's idea for how to draw the district. LISTEN!!

David Rivel
Resident of Queens District 26

[REDACTED]

From: Deborah [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 7:47 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistributing of queens

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Please take into consideration of not splitting Rochdale into two sections I want councilwomen Adams to remain in district28 - I raised my children here I Rochdale the district 28 has always afforded Rochdale grants in keeping programs herein Rochdale for all our youths.
Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: dela harley [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:56 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] My Testimony

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Hi My name is Dela Harlley and I'm a lifelong resident of Southeast Queens and I live in District 27. I'm also part of the Unity Map Coalition and it was very important to me for us to keep our communities of interest whole and at the same time elect our leaders of choice. We understand the dynamics of the different constituencies of District 28, but we also must understand the dynamics of the historical issues that impact multiracial groups. To the extent that we can be inclusive and still elect a candidate of choice, then we must strive for that.

It is important that the Rockaways be considered a Community of Interest along the coast; that JFK as an economic development engine be available for Council Districts 27, 28 and 31, and it is extremely important that we keep our housing developments such as Rochdale Village, where I grew up, and all our cultural institutions and small business communities in one district.

August 16, 2022

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Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to comment on the redistricting maps proposed by the Redistricting Commission on July 15, 2022.

The map link (<https://districtr.org/plan/137797>) reflects how I want community District 31 should be redistricted. The only change needed is to include all of JFK Airport in the district because of the following.

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- Additionally, JFK is currently represented by one Congressional, State Senate, and Assemblymember, so there is no need for two separate Council Members to retain the airport in their districts.

The rest of District 31 should remain intact because of the historical and common characteristics (e.g., race, political party, geography, and type of home ownership) consistent in each of our communities which should not be tampered with. Below, I cite evidence to support this statement.

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The Rockaways and Arverne by the Sea communities should also remain intact within the 31st District because they share similar characteristics to the district's “mainland” communities. For example, the Rockaways' portion of the section comprises primarily Black Democrats who are one- or two-family homeowners. Changes would split the Democratic vote, disrupt the political dynamics, and negatively impact residents' interests. To preserve and advance the common interests and concerns in District 31, I petition the Commission to keep our district intact, with the only exception being to include JFK Airport in its entirety to restore the previous continuity. Thank you again for receiving my comments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Delsia G. Marshall

Delsia G. Marshall, Esq.
Chair, Law, and Legislation Committee

[Redacted Signature]

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:26 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Against Redistricting

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My name is Delwar Hossain. I have lived in Astoria for my whole life. I know that redistricting is a tactic or a way through which poor, low-wage working class people's voting power gets more divided. We are already working so hard we don't have time to look around and see what decisions are made under our nose for us. Our people are very hard working but also because of language barrier, immigrant issues and poverty we are always focused on survival. Our Bengali folks are trying to organize themselves though some of us are struggling everyday. In this hard time if redistricting divides our folks again we may have a hard time dealing with our issues or fighting against them. We are so much better united. I don't see why we need redistricting. I am opposing redistricting.

[REDACTED]

From: dipak barakoti [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 9:37 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request

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Hello,

My name is _Dipesh Barakoti _____ and I live in district 26.

The Nepali Community settled in Woodside, Sunnyside, and Astoria in the 1990s with a large population growth in the early 2000s. As of this year, over 20,000 Nepali members call district 26 our home. Most of us immigrated with DV lotteries, asylum seekers, TPS status seekers and many youth with student visas.

In district 26 the Nepali community gather and organize in nonprofits like Adhikaar, Community Centers, Hyolmo Center, Lo Nyamship Mustang Center, Magar Community Office, and Tamang Association, Nyingma Dharma Spiritual Center – all which are located in Sunnyside and Woodside where we all live. We, the Nepali community, also are active members of the local economy by owning and working at small businesses in Astoria, Sunnyside, and Woodside in the district. After all these efforts, investments, and progress that we made in less than 30 years, we request the Redistricting Commission not to pull us apart and disempower our voice by dividing us into four separate council districts.

If divided into four council districts like the new maps propose, it would disrupt the progress that we made, continuity of services, dividing the resource flow for Nepali Community members. We have the first, Council Office who have served our community in Nepali language, which had its first Nepali intern and it is a huge victory. We also want to stay together with the other Himalyan an Asian American community of district 26 where the overall AAPI population grew by 33% according to the last census for district 26. Our advancement, economically, socially, politically relies on our unity to have fair and effective representation by one council member. We are a racial and language minority group protected by the Voting Rights Act.

I strongly recommend making sure Woodside stays together with Long Island City, Sunnyside, and Western Astoria as it has been the last 30 years in the current district 26 lines. Thank you.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

[REDACTED]

From: Ernest Brooks [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 11:19 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting of Council Districtnn26 Queens

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As a long time resident (since 1977) and active participant in my community of Hunter's Point South in Long Island city. I am a musician, teacher, and, for the last three years, the Queens Liaison for Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney. I am concerned that the current redistricting plan will further aggravate what is a serious problem: the inequality that exists between the new gold coast of the luxury waterfront towers in Hunter's Point and the older Long Island City that is north of the 59th Street Bridge which includes both the Queensbridge and Ravenswood Public Houses within the present District 26. The disparity in wealth between these two areas is shocking and the way to make the problem worse (or at least slow possible improvement) would be to put them into different city council districts. The focus of many community groups and individual activists has been to bring them together, share resources and foster access to the new, well equipped schools that have been built south of the bridge. The present council woman seems to be making the goal of leveling the playing field throughout the district a priority and the proposed changes would seriously impair her ability to help effect this vision. This is only one of many reasons, many of which have been spoken to in tonight's hearing, to keep district 26 lines the same or only minimally altered.

Regards,

Ernie Brooks

[REDACTED] 44th Drive,

Apt 4CN, LIC., NY 11101
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Faith Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 3:43 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Union

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Hello Commissioners. My name is Faith Smith and I am a resident at [REDACTED] 179th St, Jamaica, Queens. As a resident of District 31, I want to ask you to make sure that our neighborhoods remain intact and within the same council district. As working class neighborhoods around JFK, both Rockaway and Springfield Gardens have so much in common, and I think it would be a mistake for our neighborhoods to be split up. I urge you make sure that Rockaway and Springfield Gardens remain together in the same district. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: FREDRIKA WILSON [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 12:25 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony of Fredrika Wilson Opposing the Redistricting of Council District 28

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My name is Fredrika Wilson. I am a cooperator and resident of Rochdale Village (RV), which is in Council District 28. This is my written testimony in opposition to the current redistricting plan for District 28.

The redistricting proposal for Council District 28 will split RV by placing one half of a Building and the Community Center between two Council Districts. This will fracture our RV community, will not protect programming for our vulnerable seniors, will not provide continuity of resources for this complex and disrupt the operational continuity of this community.

This complex has 20 buildings arranged in five circular groups with 4 buildings per Group. Each building has three sections - "A", "B" and "C". Along Bedell Street there are three Groups - 1, 2 and 3. On the Guy R. Brewer Boulevard there are two Groups - 1 and 5. The proposed redistricting of District 28 would place Groups 1, 2 except one half of building 7, and 5 in District 28, and the other half of building 7 along with Groups 3, 4 and half of RV's Community Center in District 30.

Rochdale Village was designed to be, and function as, a "City within a City", providing continuity of services and programs. RV has its own power plant that generates all the electrical power, heating, air conditioning and domestic hot water services. The power plant provides these services independently with no connection to any outside utility company. RV's Department of Public Safety protects the residents, visitors and the property of the complex. RV has two shopping malls, a community center and its own branch of the Queens Public Library System.

Any funding provided by one council member to his or her half of this complex will certainly disrupt the quality of life and will not provide the continuity of resources for services. For example, in 2021, Council Member Adrienne Adams was able to provide RV funding for the facade work for all 20 buildings. Had this council district been split in two at the time, only half of the complex's buildings would have been fixed. The NORC program and RV's Senior Center will sit in District 30, while the seniors these programs serve will be split in two Districts. Thus, leaving the programming for this vulnerable population unprotected. This proposed Plan will create a nightmare scenario for the managing agent and the management of RV. In fact, this proposal will make the management of funds provided by two council members for their Districts within this complex extremely difficult, confusing to the residents and disruptive to the operational continuity of this community.

[REDACTED]

From: Eisen, Gary [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 2:34 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Wice, Jeffrey
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Asking not to cut off Hillcrest from the rest of City Council District 24 (The Jim Gennaro District)

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Dear Redistricting Commission,

My name is Gary Eisen. My wife and I are members of the Central Queens Jewish community. This testimony is in protest of your disregard of communities of interest. You have literally cut Hillcrest in half. You have members of synagogues in one district and their synagogues in another. Also, you cut out the Flushing Heights community between the Long Island Expressway and the Cemetery in the most Northeast part of our district. Another neighborhood that is a community of interest along with Kew Gardens Hills.

I ask that you put both these neighborhoods back within the 24 Council District. Please find below a link of the 24,23,19 and 20th Council Districts redrawn. This proposal allows for populations to meet your threshold of 5%. Also, no communities of interest are split. Please take this map into account especially for the 24th Council District in blue.

Here is my proposed map

<https://distrctr.org/plan/136855>

Sincerely,

Gary Eisen

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 10:01 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Manhattan's Upper East Side

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I am writing to object to the proposed redistricting of the Far Eastern portion of the Upper East Side into Queens which would effectively deprive residents pushed into the Queens district of representation in the City Council. The residents of the existing Queens district have and deserve representation with takes into consideration their interests. That would undoubtedly continue with the proposed redistricting. But, the residents of the Upper East Side have very different needs and interest than those of the Queens district and, as a small portion of the new district would effectively lose any voice at City Hall. I think any reasonable person would agree that for a hyper-local government unit like a City Council district, it is ludicrous to separate a group of Manhattanites from other Manhattanites for the convenience of some bureaucratic body.

Sincerely,
Gerald Rothstein

Testimony for August 16, 2022, NYC Districting Commission by Jean Hall, Rochdale Village, Member of the Rochdale Village Board of Directors

Good evening, to the Chair, Mr. Dennis Walcott, and members of the NYC Districting Commission. My name is Jean Hall, I live in Rochdale Village, and I serve on the Board of Directors for Rochdale Village, which is in District 28, Queens.

I am opposed to the proposed lines for District 28, specifically focusing on the impact to the community of Rochdale Village. The lines as currently proposed would divide this community into several council districts (27, 28 and 31) and in fact splits on of our buildings in half. The proposed lines are not viable because as the second largest Mitchell Lama development in NY State that houses 5,860 units of affordable housing serving over 25,000 residents of New York City the affect be devastating to our community.

Because of the rich history upon which this community was built to serve middle income families by providing them with affordable housing is key. This housing community was created to be a city within a city. Our community currently spans approximately 120 acres and provides our residents with open green spaces within the urban Jamaica area. Therefore, keeping our community within one district and avoiding crossover districts is key.

Because Rochdale Village serves a vibrant community of seniors, and veterans who depend on the vital services within the senior center segregating the community may jeopardize critical funding for the delivery of social services.

Because Rochdale Village features fully equipped playgrounds, satellite daycare centers and is anchored by three schools, PS 354, The Stem Institute of Queens, PS 80 Thurgood Marshall Magnet School and Catherine and Count Basie Junior High School 72 and we have our own branch of the Queens Public Library system drawing lines that shift this dynamic landscape would be counterproductive to keeping neighborhoods and communities intact.

Because Rochdale Village generates its own power with our power plant that is our most critical infrastructure source. The power plant is a 21-megawatt cogeneration facility that provides all of our heating, cooling, domestic hot water, and electricity capabilities. The power plant covers our entire complex including our two shopping malls. I remember when the blackout of 2003 occurred and the city went dark. Rochdale Village was a beacon of light and provided services for not only our residents but the surrounding communities.

Because Rochdale Village offers amenities/facilities which include parks, basketball and handball courts, tennis courts, medical offices, United States Postal facility, fitness room, two shopping centers that provide opportunities for small businesses, women and minority owned businesses keeping our district compact to align with the objectives of this commission is fundamental.

Because the residents of Rochdale Village are civic-minded, motivated, and majority democratic voters; the commission must draw lines that avoid splitting voters of the same political party.

This only serves to dilute our voting power and may severely diminish our effectiveness via representation. Splitting this community into three districts will certainly not provide cohesive and effective representation and I know that was not the intent of this commission.

The new lines proposed by the commission currently splits one of our buildings in half. That will result in confusion for our residents. Based on the current proposal the commission did not avoid creating an oddly shaped district.

The rich history of Rochdale Village dates back to 1963 when this development was opened. It was the largest private housing cooperative in the world. The community continues to grow and serve working class, retirees, youth, seniors, and everyone in-between. We have historically been part of District 28 and want our great community of 20 buildings to remain in District 28, together and not divided.

I urge the Commission to re-evaluate the proposed lines and keep Rochdale Village whole. District 27, 28, and 31 Council Members are working with the Queens Civic Congress on a map that supports and does not fracture the Southeast Queens Community.

Thank you to the commission for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

[REDACTED]

From: JM GRANGER [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:13 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keeping Rochdale Village in One District

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Dear NYC Commission:

I have been a resident of Rochdale Village, a predominantly black neighbor, for 45 years. Protecting our homes, residents, and way of life is our collective endeavor. Our Power Plant has provided power to the entire complex of buildings through NYC Blackouts and Hurricane Sandy. We have onsite security for all twenty buildings that operate under one management team. All building residents use Powerplant and security services with no extra cost or preferential treatment.

We have two shopping malls in which several small-business owners lease space. Will management charge leaseholders in the district than the management office more, potentially jeopardizing their livelihood?
Similarly, will residents in the district other than the Powerplant's be charged more? Will a separate security department be required for each district?

Dividing this complex of buildings would severely disrupt our way of life. It may also increase crime in Rochdale. We recently learned that our safety record is lower than NYC's. If Rochdale is divided in two, would that continue?

I implore you to help us maintain our community by keeping all of Rochdale Village in one district.

Jeannine Granger
Rochdale Village Resident

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:29 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing Redistricting

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My name is Jewel Ahmed.

I have been living in Astoria for more than 40 years. This area has issues with high rents, affordability and displacement. 35 apartments in my building also haven't had gas in more than a month with mine included. We have had so many problems. We have been trying to fight against these problems collectively as Bangalees. I think redistricting puts our communal power in jeopardy. Our voting power also decreases with redistricting. Our low-wage, working class immigrant people don't need further divagation. I am opposing redistricting.

[REDACTED]

From: Wice, Jeffrey
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 1:13 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting comments

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From: Jonathan Pelman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2022 7:50:51 PM
To: Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov>
Cc: Wice, Jeffrey [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting comments

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Dear New York City Redistricting Commission,

Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to comment on the redistricting maps proposed by the Redistricting Commission on July 15, 2022.

Attached is the link to maps (<https://districtr.org/plan/137797>) which reflect how I want our community to be redistricted. As a long-time resident of District 31, the only change that is needed is to include all of JFK Airport in the district because of the following.

- First, JFK was previously a part of District 31 so this change would simply correct an error from the last redistricting cycle.
- Second, the communities of Rosedale, Brookville, Laurelton, Springfield Gardens, Edgemere, Far Rockaway and Arverne which are currently in the district, are directly in the airport flight path. Therefore, consolidating JFK Airport under “one district umbrella” will make it easier to holistically address current and future concerns.
- Additionally, JFK is currently represented by one Congressional, State Senate and Assembly member so there is simply no need for two separate Council Members to retain the airport in their districts.

The rest of District 31 should remain intact because of the historical and common characteristics (e.g., race, political party, geography, and type of home ownership) consistent in each of our communities which should not be tampered with. Below, I cite evidence to support this statement.

Rosedale, Laurelton, Brookville, and our portion of Springfield Gardens are contiguous. Their communities are Black registered Democratic voters, and the residents are primarily one-and two-family homeowners. The issues we face are consistent whether it is improving education, ensuring access to health services, protecting the environment, tackling airport noise, dealing with flooding, creating jobs, or providing adequate public safety for our residents and families. For decades, this district’s civic associations (e.g., Eastern Queens Alliance, Inc., Rosedale Civic Association, Inc., Federated Blocks of Laurelton, Concerned Citizens of Laurelton, Springfield/Rosedale Community Action Association, Inc., Spring-Gar Civic Association, Inc., and Springfield Gardens Taxpayers and Citizens Association) have worked closely together at all levels of government to address these issues and drive needed change. We have also launched special task forces (e.g., 116th Precinct Community Task Force, Southeastern Queens Zoning Preservation Task Force, and the Queens Community Task Force Against Illegal Truck Parking) to fight for the new precinct and to focus on the most important “quality of life” issues in our community.

The Rockaways and Arverne by the Sea communities should also remain intact within the 31st District because they share similar characteristics to the district’s “mainland” communities. For example, the Rockaways’ portion of the

district is made up of primarily Black Democrat who are one- or two-family homeowners. Any changes would split the Democratic vote, disrupt the political dynamics, and negatively impact the interests and desires of its residents. To preserve and to continually advance the common interests and concerns in District 31, I petition the Commission to keep our district intact with the only exception being to include JFK Airport in its entirety in the district to restore the continuity that existed before.

Thank you again for receiving my comments.

Respectfully submitted

Jonathan Pelman

President

Khal Zichron Moshe Dov

Far Rockaway

[REDACTED]

From: Kazi Hossain [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 3:31 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 8/16/22 Testimony – Kazi Hossain

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Hello Commissioners. My name is Kazi Hossain, and I am a resident at [REDACTED], Apartment 7H, Elmhurst, Queens, 11373. As an immigrant, I'm very concerned about making sure that we maintain real immigrant representation on the city council. For that reason, I want to ask that the Commission keep neighborhoods like Woodside together in one district, and that you do everything you can not to split up immigrant neighborhoods. The borough of Queens is one of the most diverse places on the planet, and we should celebrate that diversity by ensuring that immigrant neighborhoods like Woodside are kept together so they can have strong political representation. Thank you.

Best,
Kazi Hossain

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:28 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Against Redistricting

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My name is Kazi Maryam. I have lived in Astoria my whole Life. This redistricting is of no use for my neighborhood. We working class immigrant people have built a strong community and strong communal power in our neighborhood for so many years. Redistricting makes this power divided. If our folks get divided and if they are in separate districts our power to move things in our neighborhood will gradually decrease and we may have to work twice as hard but won't create that much impact as much as it would create when we are united and working together. I am against redistricting. Please don't divide our people and power further.

[REDACTED]

From: KB Thapa [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 9:03 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] My testimony

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Hello,

My name is Khom Thapa from Nepali Community and live in Woodside region of the district 26.

My time was set for 6 PM in person testimony but did not come my turn till 7:15 pm and had to leave to pick my son. That's why I am sending email as testimony.

The Nepali Community settled in Woodside, Sunnyside, and Astoria in the 1990s with a large population growth in the early 2000s. As of this year, over 20,000 Nepali members call district 26 our home. Most of us immigrated with DV lotteries, asylum seekers, TPS status seekers and many youth with student visas.

In district 26 the Nepali community gather and organize in nonprofits like Adhikaar, Community Centers, Hyolmo Center, Lo Nyamship Mustang Center, Magar Community Office, and Tamang Association, Nyingma Dharma Spiritual Center – all which are located in Sunnyside and Woodside where we all live. We, the Nepali community, also are active members of the local economy by owning and working at small businesses in Astoria, Sunnyside, and Woodside in the district. After all these efforts, investments, and progress that we made in less than 30 years, we request the Redistricting Commission not to pull us apart and disempower our voice by dividing us into four separate council districts.

If divided into four council districts like the new maps propose, it would disrupt the progress that we made, continuity of services, dividing the resource flow for Nepali Community members. We have the first, Council Office who have served our community in Nepali language, which had its first Nepali intern and it is a huge victory. We also want to stay together with the other Himalyan an Asian American community of district 26 where the overall AAPI population grew by 33% according to the last census for district 26. Our advancement, economically, socially, politically relies on our unity to have fair and effective representation by one council member. We are a racial and language minority group protected by the Voting Rights Act.

I strongly recommend making sure Woodside stays together with Long Island City, Sunnyside, and Western Astoria as it has been the last 30 years in the current district 26 lines. Thank you.

Yours truly
Khom Thapa

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Kiran Goojha [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 2:45 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Testimony for D26: LIC, Sunnyside, & Woodside must stay together

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Our proposed District 26 Map 2022: <https://districtr.org/plan/138001>

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

District 26 is my home. And I am proud to be part of a diverse community where people of color and immigrants make up the majority — according to the 2020 census, 66% of the respondents of District 26 identified as Latin American, Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI), and Black — the very communities of interest protected by the Voting Rights Act. District 26 is currently the home to Little Manila for our Filipino neighbors, Little Bangladesh for our Bangladeshi neighbors, Tibet Way for our Tibetan Neighbors, and is currently assembling a little Taiwan in Long Island City.

Our local YMCA has the only Japanese Immersion program in NYC for our Japanese neighbors in Sunnyside and Long Island City. When you walk down Skillman Avenue in Sunnyside, you'll see Korean letters on the awnings of Korean hair salons, laundromats, and restaurants. On Queens Blvd, Northern Blvd, and Roosevelt Ave of Sunnyside and Woodside there are multiple Korean Churches where Korean Americans gather to worship. It is no surprise that we elected our first immigrant and Asian American council member to this district, reflecting the 33% growth of the AAPI population in the latest census. The preliminary map of District 26 from the redistricting commission would divide Woodside into four council districts fracturing the AAPI community of District 26 from where they reside, worship, work, and gather. The fracturing in representation would negatively impact the AAPI community's ability to effectuate public policy for public interest.

In addition to the AAPI community, District 26 is also the home to the Colombian community, Ecuadorian community, Peruvian community, Mexican community, and so many other Latin American immigrants who make up 29% of our district. From Long Island City, Astoria, Sunnyside, to Woodside, there is not a corner of our district that does not have Spanish-speaking Catholic churches, Mexican taquerias/delis, Colombian bakeries, Peruvian chicken joints, Spanish-speaking arts organizations like Thalia Spanish Theater and Manhatitlan Mexican Folkloric Dance club, and non profits like NICE, which serve our new immigrant neighbors. District 26 is also the home to the Ecuadorian Consulate of NYC. The preliminary map from the redistricting commission would divide Woodside into four council districts fracturing the Latin American communities from where they reside, worship, work, and gather. The fracturing in representation would negatively impact the Latin American community's ability to effectuate public policy for public interest.

When speaking of people of color that make up our district, we cannot forget the residents of Queensbridge Houses, Ravenswood Houses, and Woodside Houses. Queensbridge Houses, the largest public houses in the country, has been a part of this district since the 1940s. These three NYCHAs have been together in the district for over 20 years and provide consistency and continuation in receiving public resources such as capital investments and benefits. Many of the students from our NYCHAs attend school in District 26 — predominantly in Long Island City — and the current school district is in the midst of a rezoning to integrate our Black and brown schools with predominantly white schools. Cutting them out of the district they traditionally have been a part of will disrupt their education accessibility, capital funding projects, and their ability to receive services when there are two separate council members for their school district.

The proposed map would remove six schools from our district in Community Education Council 24 and Community Education Council 30: PS 111, Voice Charter, PS 76, PS 152, The Woodside Community School, and PS 12.

To summarize, preliminary maps proposed by the NYC Districting Commission would break up our immigrant communities and Black communities into FOUR different City Council districts, severely limiting their political power. The new district would shift from majority people of color protected by the Voting Rights Act to predominantly white - **violating the NY City Charter:**

- White population increases from 29% to 44%
- Hispanic population decreases from 29% to 22%
- Asian population decreases from 31% to 25%
- Black population decreases from 6% to 4%

The preliminary map fails to comply with the City Charter's requirements of fair and effective representation; keeping neighborhoods and communities intact; keeping districts compact; limiting crossover districts; and avoiding oddly shaped districts. In the borough of Queens, we already have two crossover districts — District 22 and District 34. If the preliminary lines were to stay for District 26, we would add a third cross over district to Queens. The preliminary map is also not contiguous; in order for a District 26 resident to travel to Roosevelt Island, they would have to leave District 26 and cross over to District 22 to take the only land bridge to Roosevelt island in the neighboring district.

In addition to the illegal shift of our population from majority people of color to majority white — our average income level would double in the preliminary map from an average of \$70-80k to \$140-150k. In essence, the redistricting commission has dissolved a working class, predominantly people of color district to create a wealthy, white district, violating the requirement to keep neighborhoods and communities of interests intact as well as the requirement of fair and effective representation of those protected by the VRA.

As a resident of District 26, I ask that the redistricting commission uses this proposed map: <https://districtr.org/plan/138001>, which reaches our ideal population of ~172k residents by removing outer edges of our district without dividing the communities protected by the Voting Rights Act (Black, Latin American, and Asian). We ask that you keep Woodside whole as part of District 26 so that we don't fracture the immigrant community's ability to effectuate public policy for public interest. If divided, our AAPI and Latin American communities will be served by four council members instead of being advocated by one council member with greater community impact. We would also like to highlight that the Tibetan Community, who have been discriminated against in geopolitical issues, must be placed together in District 26 connecting them to Sunnyside, Astoria, Long Island City with Woodside where they reside and organize. The Tibetan community center, which is the home to 15,000 Tibetan Americans, is located in Woodside. We also ask that you allow the NYCHAs to remain in the district as they have been and undivided — Queensbridge, Ravenswood and Woodside Houses together.

We ask that District 26 remains solely in Queens and the district compactness remains virtually the same as the prior map, instead of the "C" shape in the proposed map. If you were to ask District 26 residents to choose between Woodside and Sunnyside for the district — many will say it would be unconscionable to divide the "sides." To us, there is no border where Sunnyside ends and Woodside begins because we are one loving community. NYC Districting Commission, we urge you to allow us to remain intact as one community as we have been for generations to adhere to the NYC charter guidelines for redistricting. Thank you and as a voting member of one of the representative demographics in this district, I look forward to the NYC Districting Commission to heed my community's feedback

Map:
<https://districtr.org/plan/138001>

Regards,
Kiran Goojha
[REDACTED] 41st St
Sunnyside, NY 11104

[REDACTED]

From: Krystal Suarez [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 2:18 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District 21 Map Changes

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Good Afternoon,

My name is Krystal and I'm reaching out in regards to the potential District 21 map changes. As a resident of Corona for nearly 3 decades, I'd like to keep the current map as is.

Corona, East Elmhurst and LEfrak City have always been united, and I think it's important it remains as is. We've always had LGA airport, Citifield, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadow Park in our district, and as a resident of Corona, I visit these places all the time. I'd like to keep the community together and keep this district as is.

Thanks,

--

Krystal Suarez
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Kunga Bhutia [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:12 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Woodside Residence

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Good evening commissioners. My name is Kunga Bhutia and I live at [REDACTED] 43rd Ave, Woodside, Queens. I have lived in Woodside for 20 years. It's extremely important to me that as a neighborhood, Woodside be kept intact. It is a culturally rich, diverse neighborhood, and regardless of what district it is placed in, I think it is extremely important to keep it within a majority-immigrant district. If we split up our immigrant neighborhoods, we may risk losing real representation that immigrant communities deserve. Thank you for your time this evening.

Kunga Bhutia

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Lorraine DeJesus [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 2:20 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rochdale Village

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As a resident of Rochdale Village since 1968, this development needs to remain as one district as it has been for over 50 years!

Thank you,

Sent from my iPad

Lorraine

[REDACTED]

From: L. Trujillo [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 9:59 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No on the proposed redistricting!

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To the NYC Districting Commission:

As a long-time Sunnyside resident, I vehemently oppose the proposal to split the current District 26 and urge you to allow us to remain intact as one community as we have been. I hope this testimony is read and accounted for at tonight's hearing (August 16, 2022).

It is unconscionable that by amending the current district, the distribution of people of color would decrease while the amount of White (mostly Manhattan residents) would increase. The realities of what it means to live on the east side of the Upper East Side have no context with the lives and conditions of those in Long Island City, Astoria, and Sunnyside/Woodside. It is appalling that the preliminary maps proposed by the NYC Districting Commission would break up the mostly-immigrant communities and Black communities into four distinct City Council districts, which will severely limit their political power.

best,
Louis Trujillo
Sunnyside Resident

Updated Draft-

Good Evening,

My name is Mahtab Khan. I am a South Asian activist from Jamaica, Queens. It's my hometown and I've lived here all my life. I am here to speak in opposition of the map draft released by the commission for City Council District 24, this is the district I reside in.

I also wanted to present my map draft for an ideal district, which I will try to upload online later since I'm unable to share my screen.

My map draft, meets the required amount needed for a new district map and even meets the 5% deviation rule with a total of 179,101 people. The east end border of this new map is Lakeville Road and the west end border of this map is the Van Wyck expressway. The north end border of this new map is Grand Central Parkway and the south end border is Jamaica Avenue. My map is very similar to the map draft I had pitched to the other Redistricting Commission for Assembly District 24 in 2021.

I decided to do this because I believe my map draft adheres to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in preventing new districts from diluting minority communities or denying them a voting bloc. These minority communities are marginalized and immigrant communities, but I will be presenting on behalf of the South Asian community.

Unfortunately, the map draft released by the commission is very similar to the past District 24 map and I believe it violates the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by not acknowledging the South Asian community's growth or contributions, especially from the new Census data.

The South Asian community has a strong presence in District 24 and has been undermined by the redistricting process. This community has been neglected for far too long, despite it being a community that has contributed deeply to society both in the economy and in previous elections as a strong voting bloc. That neglect is erasure and I am surprised the map released by the commission does not acknowledge all this.

My map draft would help address the underfunding, underrepresentation, and undeserving of the South Asian community. These issues are all connected to how a map is drawn and who is the representative holding the seat.

We heard of no taxation without representation, but these marginalized and immigrant communities are still burdened by taxes, yet aren't receiving adequate representation with people who understand their struggle. We do not have actual representation here from city and state legislators here in South East and East Queens of a representative who comes from the South Asian community.

The establishment and those with ties to it will attempt to divide this community and their voting bloc further just as what happened in the past. We could say commission members and even judges aren't political, but realistically everything is influenced by politics.

I know that some commission members might have some ties with the Mayor and current or past City Council Members, but for that reason, I request that the commission use its integrity in recognition of the reason they are serving on the commission today and the responsibility they have on making maps that help address the needs of marginalized and immigrant communities that have been severely underfunded, underrepresented, and underserved. NYC is considered the most diverse place in the world in terms of culture with over 600 languages spoken here.

The lack of immigration resources and language accessibility that we surprisingly have even to this day are issues that deeply impact the South Asian Community here in District 24 and a South Asian-led district with new representation could help address this. We currently have a city council member here who doesn't understand the struggles of marginalized and immigrant communities such as that of the South Asian community.

We also have a huge South Asian Voting bloc here City Council District 24 which extends to City Council District 23. Elected officials both from the past and present know this but have been abusing their power by not allowing this community to be heard and from receiving the proper representation it deserves. Often the South Asian community is tokenized and we only see elected officials meet with us when it's for photo ops, but not necessarily when we need resources to help address our needs. These same city council members decide to prioritize and send more discretionary funds towards privileged affluent white communities rather than marginalized and immigrant communities that are struggling. We need representation from people who truly understand the struggle of folks from marginalized and immigrant communities. Not someone who comes with wealth or privilege. That's how we help solve systemic issues that work against marginalized and immigrant communities.

The seat for District 24 is currently held by City Council Member James Gennaro who found a loophole and went out of his way to run for the same seat again after finding out that folks from the South Asian community who were Progressive were running. Community members believed that he didn't want the South Asian community to move up and decided to gatekeep this seat. During the 2021 election cycle, he also neglected the South Asian community by ignoring South Asian-led organizations and not attending their forum or debate events, and by not filling out their questionnaires. This would have been for a healthy and fair democratic process where we could hold politicians accountable which Gennaro obviously did not care for. He also does not take our voting bloc seriously even though we have a lot of potential as one of the biggest communities to come out to vote.

We have to be mindful and take into consideration how one of the biggest population increases here in NYC according to the 2020 census data was that of the Asian community which went up by 345,000 people. This includes the South Asian Community but the census data had limitations on breaking down demographic data further. I'm hoping that in 2030 we could bring reform to the census data collection process to address what didn't work out in 2020.

Since the city council has a budget of \$10 billion dollars, we have to make sure we have the right kind of representation. That means elected officials who understand the struggles of marginalized and immigrant communities such as the South Asian community and who will prioritize help address their needs. It also wouldn't hurt to have this representative be someone who is relatable to these communities and who actually knows the everyday struggles of working-class people as a tenant and as someone who actually takes public transportation regularly. We all know that representation matters in all levels of government and how much difference it could make.

We do not need any more status quo politicians. Even if we're stuck with them, we need marginalized and immigrant communities to be able to hold them accountable and to have a fair chance to have someone run against them without any more barriers caused by these gatekeepers who prevent other communities from being uplifted. We must also reflect on the mistakes made in the past, especially with the 2021 redistricting commission, and learn from it so that we may improve the redistricting process for City Council Districts. Please take these suggestions into consideration and go back to the drawing board in making equitable inclusive and fair districts that adhere to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: kimonique sarwee [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:19 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District 31

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Good afternoon,

I am writing this email to voice my concern regarding the redistricting of district 31 in Queens. I am asking that you reunify the JFK airport back into District 31 as well as the Shop and Stop shopping center on the corner of Merrick Blvd and Springfield Blvd. These two businesses provide valuable tax revenue and food options that our community needs. Ten years ago, both of these businesses were previously included in District 31. I'm also asking for a restoration of parts of Springfield Gardens back into District 31 and to remove the proposed inclusion of Ozone Park. Our current District is comprised mostly of West Indian, African and African-Americans. The communities that form District 31 have a shared cultural experience and since of community that we want to maintain.

Please see the attached link for a map of how I would like District 31 to be zoned:
<https://districtr.org/plan/137797>

Thank you for your consideration,
Kim Sarwee

From: Maya Lama [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 6:00 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting testimony

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Hello,

My name is Maya lama and I live in district 26.

The Nepali Community settled in Woodside, Sunnyside, and Astoria in the 1990s with a large population growth in the early 2000s. As of this year, over 20,000 Nepali members call district 26 our home. Most of us immigrated with DV lotteries, asylum seekers, TPS status seekers and many youth with student visas.

In district 26 the Nepali community gather and organize in nonprofits like Adhikaar, Community Centers, Hyolmo Center, Lo Nyamship Mustang Center, Magar Community Office, and Tamang Association, Nyingma Dharma Spiritual Center – all which are located in Sunnyside and Woodside where we all live. We, the Nepali community, also are active members of the local economy by owning and working at small businesses in Astoria, Sunnyside, and Woodside in the district. After all these efforts, investments, and progress that we made in less than 30 years, we request the Redistricting Commission not to pull us apart and disempower our voice by dividing us into four separate council districts.

If divided into four council districts like the new maps propose, it would disrupt the progress that we made, continuity of services, dividing the resource flow for Nepali Community members. We have the first, Council Office who have served our community in Nepali language, which had its first Nepali intern and it is a huge victory. We also want to stay together

with the other Himalyan an Asian American community of district 26 where the overall AAPI population grew by 33% according to the last census for district 26. Our advancement, economically, socially, politically relies on our unity to have fair and effective representation by one council member. We are a racial and language minority group protected by the Voting Rights Act.

I strongly recommend making sure Woodside stays together with Long Island City, Sunnyside, and Western Astoria as it has been the last 30 years in the current district 26 lines. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 6:43 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Woodside, NY and Zip Code 11377

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The Woodside community that is fully contained in the 11377 zip code is a rich, diverse, vibrant working-class community that is united in interest with a long history and tradition. Woodside is nationally known for its status as the zip code that had more residents give their lives during the Vietnam War than any other zip code in the USA.

In 1992, hundreds of Woodside residents attended that year's redistricting commission to demand to be represented by the same member of the City Council. They demanded this to ensure that the interests of each section of the neighborhood would have the equal clout and they won. That redistricting commission rendered a district in which 95% of the 11377 zip code was contained in the same Council District.

Woodside is a community of large housing developments that provided affordable housing for tens of thousands of working-class residents that include the Boulevard Gardens, Woodside Houses, the Big Six cooperative, Berkeley Towers and the Sky View to name a few. These complexes, all built through government programs between 1935-1965 form the living core of Woodside's longstanding solid neighborhoods of mostly immigrant families. Surrounding these complexes are surrounded by small low scale single family home communities that were built by developers such as Cord-Meyer and the Matthews Brothers. All of these complexes maintain a very strong identity as Woodside residents whether they are recently settled immigrants or second and third generation families.

In the 1970's Woodside residents created the community-based organization Woodside On The Move which has served the community providing job training, housing assistance and after school programs in PS 11, PS 151 and PS 152. Woodside on the Move's support from the Council could be jeopardized by being divided up into multiple Council districts.

Woodside's distinct community continues to be documented for its being an affordable alternative to Astoria and Long Island City. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/01/realestate/woodside-queens-an-affordable-convenient-triangle.html>).

Because of the needs of its working-class families that continue to raise their families in Woodside it is imperative that our community not be carved up into other Council Districts where the needs of our residents will be subordinate to the needs of the residents of other neighborhoods such as Astoria or Sunnyside. Please revise the draft maps to include all of the 11377 zip code in the same district to ensure that our residents receive the best representation in the City Council.

In this census, the Special Master has already carved up 11377 into three separate Assembly Districts and three separate Congressional Districts and our neighborhood continues to be diminished with this new proposed Council alignment. It is imperative that our Woodside zip code 11377 have consolidated political representation to support our community and its future.

Please reconsider and allow 11377 to stay united and retain its identity, as we watch Astoria, Sunnyside, and Jackson Heights consolidate their identity and their political representation.

Melissa Sklarz
Woodside, NY 11377
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: moneque frazier [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 6:58 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep Rochdale as a whole

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I'm a resident of Rochdale circle 3.
Thank you, Moneque Frazier.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:24 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to Redistricting

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My name is Mosammat Yasmin. I have been living in Astoria for 30 years. I say no to redistricting because it divides our communal power. This divides our voting power also. We Bengalis want to stay united and take our decisions collectively as much as possible. To make it possible we need to stay united. We don't want to be divided into different districts. I think redistricting is unnecessary.

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 9:24 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing new redistricting map

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My name is Nargis Khan. I have been living here for more than 25years. One of the main problems in our area is high rent rates which is pushing our Bengali working class immigrant people from this neighborhood. Our folks are at risk of eviction and gentrification. We really need to organize ourselves just to survive or live in this area. If we get redistricted we will get further divided. We need to stay united for our needs as Bengalis. We demand to stay together and our neighborhood does not need to go through redistricting.

[REDACTED]

From: Nima Dhondup [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 3:02 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Woodside neighborhoods..

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Hello Commissioners. My name is Nima Dhondup and I am a resident at [REDACTED] 84th Street in Jackson Heights. As an immigrant, I'm very concerned about making sure that we maintain real immigrant representation on the city council. For that reason, I want to ask that the Commission keep neighborhoods like Woodside together in one district, and that you do everything you can not to split up immigrant neighborhoods. The borough of Queens is one of the most diverse places on the planet, and we should celebrate that diversity by ensuring that immigrant neighborhoods like Woodside are kept together so they can have strong political representation. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: Patricia Dorfman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 8:05 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO TO REDISTRICTING CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 26

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Patricia Dorfman
[REDACTED] 46th St
Sunnyside, NY 11104

Founder, SunnysideArtists, Inc., Small Town Confidential

[REDACTED]

From: Patricia Mair [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 11:30 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed District 28 Map

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Dear Commissioners:

I live in Rochdale Village, Jamaica NY. I'm writing to oppose the proposed changes to District 28 map.

Rochdale Village is one development. The notion of dividing one development into two districts makes no sense. Does having one representative advocating for and providing resources for one half of the development and another representative advocating for and providing resources to the other half of the development make sense? That makes as much sense as having one family household divided into two districts- Mom and son in one district and Dad and daughter in a different district. That's a recipe for conflict and disaster.

Rochdale Village is one development, one family. Our needs are the same. Do not divide us. Leave us in District 28.

Thank you,

Patricia Mair

[REDACTED]

From: Ralph E. Harris [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 8:03 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DISTRICT 28

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PLEASE KEEP ROCHDALE VILLAGE TOGETHER.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS
RALPH E. HARRIS

[REDACTED]

From: Rita Fleming [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 9:06 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting of Queens

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To Whom It May Concern;

I am applauded that a proposed new City Council Map is trying to cut Rochdale Village, my community into two districts. Rochdale Village is a solid historical community in District 28 and that is the way it should remain. By splitting this community up you will be depriving it of funds which is greatly needed for our seniors and our quality of life.

You would not be fulfilling the mandate of keeping communities interest together. This is a form of gerrymandering.

I am pleading my case so Rochdale Village, my community will stay intact within it current district.

Thank you,
Ms Fleming

[REDACTED]

From: Robert Aguirre [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 10:21 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District 21 map

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Good morning,

I was raised in Corona since I was a baby. I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst and Lefrak City united. We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citifield (Shea Stadium when I was a kid), Willets Point and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue. I spent countless summer days riding my bike to each of these locations and it was always known as 1 cohesive community. Keep this community together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the final map.

Thank you,
Robert Aguirre

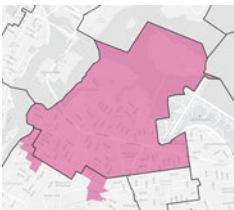
[REDACTED]

From: Ryans Naida [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 12:51 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Maisonet Samantha
Subject: Testimony

Greetings to the NYC Redistricting Commission. Thank you for allowing me to send in my testimony on the much-needed representation by Council Member Tiffany Caban on behalf of PS 151Q, The Mary D. Carter School.

As a DOE employee of PS 151Q and resident of this community as well, I testify on how the formation of the current maps have affected our school organization in ways such as receiving critical resources for the students and families that live in the Woodside Houses. More specifically, this current situation has inhibited proper language representation from the current city council that represents this neighborhood. Specifically, the Spanish speaking community. I think that the Commission has an accountability to these families and the school that serves their children by redistricting the map to where Council Member Caban can provide the necessary community outreach and tools to support our school.

Therefore, I ask that District 22 include Woodside Houses so that the students and families at PS 151 will be represented by the same Council Member as the school itself.
I hope that you will take this testimony into consideration. Thank you.



*Naida C. Ryans
Parent Coordinator
PS 151Q
50-05 31st Avenue
Woodside, NY 11377
Tel#: [REDACTED]*

[REDACTED]

From: Sarah Castro [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 11:11 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to remapping of District 26

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Hello,

I opposed redistricting of District 26. Manhattan and Queens have widely different needs. Including Manhattan as part of Queens district is a mistake. It will create a huge shift in representation. Now District 26 represents mostly People of Color. With this switch, a majority of white people will be represented.

Queens is the borough of the world. District 26 has a great diversity that we all love. We do not want the needs of Manhattan people coming before Queens interests!

Kindly,
Sarah

My name is Sherry Algreto

I have lived in City Council District 28 since I came to this country 28 years ago. I currently live here with my husband and my two children.

While I am community activist, I also serve as the Chair of Community Board 9, but I am here to speak as a resident of City Council District 28

The Redistricting Commission's draft district map keeps a huge part of Richmond Hill together and significant places here in South Richmond Hill like Richmond Hill High School, Gurudwara The Sikh Cultural Society Inc., Baba Makhan Shah Lubana Sikh Center, The Boys and Girls Club of America, Richmond Hill Block Association. Except for the area of Smokey (Phil Rizutto) Park that also belongs to this part of a thriving community, this also needs to be integrated into the redistricting map. All these organizations run from The Van Wyck, Jamaica Ave to Woodhaven blvd.

These organizations are significant to South Richmond Hill and it's vital growth and economic development and should be kept together as part of City Council District 28 as it has historically been. We at South Richmond Hill would also like to keep our community together under one City Council District as much as possible.

This redistricting map should not be in any way drawn as political, but as what is right and best for a community.

It should always be the community needs and what is best that should be considered when redistricting conversations occurs. If you were to visit here, then you would see and understand why this district should be kept together.

We all want to keep our communities together, but at the end of the day, we have been requesting for Richmond Hill to be kept together with all these places that are connected like a family and we should keep what is in the best interest of this community. These decisions will affect us for the next ten years and we can't afford to be split up and wait ten more years to correct an error. Please do right by our community and listen and hear our voices and keep these places in District 28.

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:25 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing redistricting

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My name is Sitara Begum.

I have been living in Astoria for 4 years. Redistricting is going to divide our Bangali folks and will create a lot of problems in our neighborhood. We Bangalis have more power when we are together. Together we can ask for our needs collectively to just one person. If our folks get divided and if they are in separate districts our power to move things in our neighborhood will gradually decrease and we may have to work twice as hard but won't create that much impact as much as it would create when we are united and working together. I am against redistricting. Please don't divide our people and power further.

[REDACTED]

From: Stephanie [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Queens District 26

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Hello,

I live at 34th Ave and Crescent St. I am currently a constituent of Julie Won. I disapprove of the new District 26 map which brings in Roosevelt Island and part of the UES, thus skewing the new demographic whiter and wealthier. This does not reflect the residents of Astoria and diminishes constituent control over their local concerns. The maps should accurately reflect the diversity of Queens and keep power in the local community, not spread across boroughs with unrelated interests. I urge a return to the current District 26 map.

Stephanie Beck

[REDACTED]

From: Susan Walsh [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 8:29 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City Council District 26

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Hello - I am a 17-year-resident of Sunnyside in Community board 2, City Council District 26. My time and energy is severely limited so I'll keep this brief: I am 100% against the proposed redrawing of district lines that would break up Woodside and merge parts of Western Queens with parts of Manhattan into one district.

Although I don't like indulging in conspiracy theories, but this appears designed to increase, "on paper," the average income of the district because Yorkville residents earn more and will skew the numbers higher. Then it's easier to skew the "affordable housing," which is also disingenuous, to charge higher rents based on the average income being a higher amount.

I'm sure there are more negative effects to the Queens portion of this proposed district.

I find these changes irresponsible, offensive, and potentially dangerous to the residents in Community Board 2.

Sincerely,

Susan Walsh

[REDACTED] 49th Street

Apt. 2R

Sunnyside, NY 11104

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:22 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing Redistricting

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My name is Tauheda Amin. I have been living in Astoria for more than 18 years. We have a vast number of Bengali people here who are working class, immigrant and low income people. Everyday we are working in order to make sure we just survive in this expensive neighborhood. Most of our folks' problems are unheard or neglected. We Bengali people are trying to organize ourselves and are trying our best to talk about our needs and demands. We have grown power and we collectively take actions against our problems. We are always trying to state our demands collectively to our CM. We think redistricting is going to divide our power and it's not for the peoples best. We want to stay united. I am against redistricting.

[REDACTED]

From: Theresa Patterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 9:09 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep Rochdale whole

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Hello,

I hope that everyone is well. I am writing to ask that Rochdale be kept whole. I am a resident here and enjoy being apart of Rochdale as one community working together. It's a family.

Thank you,
Theresa Patterson
Rochdale Resident

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

[REDACTED]

From: Tyler Herald <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 12:22 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District 26 Proposed Redistricting

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My name is Tyler Herald and I am reaching out as a concerned citizen about the latest city council redistricting maps. I have been a resident of Woodside for the past four years. In those four years I have lived in two different areas of Woodside. I have organized, I have canvassed, I have gone to restaurants and small businesses, I have went to get groceries, and I have walked the sidewalks of much of the current District 26. As someone who has lived here for a good length of time, I have become familiar with my community and I am concerned to see our neighborhoods split up. I can speak the most of Sunnyside and Woodside since I live in the area. Splitting up Sunnyside and Woodside doesn't make sense to me. These neighborhoods are so closely tied to me—it's something I talk about often with my neighbors. I've had many conversations with folks in this community where we joke that it's hard to say where Sunnyside and Woodside begin and end. The lines are blurred. Our communities have many joint celebrations throughout the year. We are often paired together for events but also in conversation. Sunnyside and Woodside are together in the minds of many who live here.

Looking at the proposed District 26 maps compared to the current/existing District 26 maps, I notice many startling differences. Our current district is 29% white non-Hispanic, 29% Hispanic, 31% Asian, and 6% Black. We are majority renters and working class people. Our incomes average at 40-50K, perhaps teetering slightly at 70K in LIC where overdevelopment and luxury housing is common.

The redrafted district is 44% white non-Hispanic, 22% Hispanic, 25% Asian, and 4% Black. That means that the redrafted district has taken a community that has a strong BIPOC population and reduced it significantly. We see this with the communities that are cut out in Woodside and also in the northern parts near Dutch Kills and Astoria. By picking up Roosevelt Island and parts of the Upper East Side, this makes our average district income 150K—that's easily over double the current income levels. By cutting out lower income and communities of color while picking up wealthier, whiter communities, I am extremely concerned about unaffordable development in this redrafted district and also how these completely different income levels would affect our district.

Looking at the City Charter guidelines and protections by the Voting Rights Act, I'm concerned that several rules appear to be broken.

- Keep neighborhoods and communities intact, Keep district continuous: as already established, this is not the case by cutting out Woodside and our other communities of color.
- Keep districts compact and avoid oddly shaped districts: It's not hard to see that looking at the comparison of the existing and redrafted district that the redrafted district is very spread out and extremely oddly shaped.
- Limit crossover districts: As seen by in the inclusion of Roosevelt Island and the Upper East Side. As was pointed out at the redistricting info session recently held in our neighborhood, there's no way to prevent crossing borough lines in order to access the redrafted district.
- Prevent partisan gerrymandering: As established this is clearly seen in the racial and economic disparities of the redrafted district as compared to the current district.

Going forward, I would like to see the redistricting commission maintain the existing communities that we have now. As I've articulated, from someone who walks these sidewalks and this district, the redrafted lines make no sense on the ground, the completely change the makeup of the community, and they break several rules/guidelines established by the City Charter and Voting Rights Act. It is for these reasons that the existing district lines must be maintained and preserved.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: Whitney Thomas Toussaint [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:37 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Hearing for Queens

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Dear NYC Districting Commission,

I am a resident of Long Island City, Queens in District 26. I am Black Mother originally from rural Georgia, who is a wife to a Black Husband originally from South America, raising two Black sons, in what I thought was in the most diverse boroughs in the world.

I am heavily invested in the community that we call home as I attend church at The Community Church of Astoria, bring weekly donations of food to the Ravenswood Community Fridge, serve on our District's Community Education Council, and since 2020 have hosted a community Juneteenth Event in Gantry State Park.

District 26 is our home. This is a diverse community where people of color and immigrants make up the majority — according to the 2020 census, 66% of the respondents of District 26 identified as Latin American, Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI), and Black — the very communities of interest protected by the Voting Rights Act.

Furthermore, when speaking of people of color that make up our district, we cannot forget the residents of Queensbridge Houses, Ravenswood Houses, and Woodside Houses. Queensbridge Houses, the largest public housing development in the country, has been a part of this district since the 1940s. These three NYCHA developments have been together in the district for over 20 years and provide consistency and continuation in receiving public resources such as capital investments and benefits. Many of the students from these developments attend school in District 26 — predominantly in Long Island City — and the current school district where I serve on the Community Education Council is in the midst of a rezoning to ensure that the affected schools are more integrated and provide equitable educational opportunities for all. Cutting our NYCHA population out of the district they traditionally have been a part of will disrupt their education accessibility, capital funding projects, and their ability to receive services when there are two separate council members with competing priorities representing them within their school district.

The preliminary maps proposed by the NYC Districting Commission would break up our immigrant communities and Black communities into **FOUR** different City Council districts, severely limiting their political power. The new district would shift from majority people of color protected by the Voting Rights Act to predominantly white violating the NY City Charter:

- **White population increases from 29% to 44%**
- **Hispanic population decreases from 29% to 22%**
- **Asian population decreases from 31% to 25%**
- **Black population decreases from 6% to 4%**

The current preliminary maps should not move forward as is. This appears to be a tool to weaken and silence the collective voices of communities of color artificially create a district of a majority white people in the world's borough.

In addition to the illegal shift of our population from majority people of color to majority white — our average income level would double in the preliminary map from an average of \$70-80k to \$140-150k. In essence, the redistricting commission has dissolved a working class, predominantly people of color district to create an uber gentrified district, completely devoid of the rich culture and history of the area, violating the requirement to keep neighborhoods and communities of interests intact as well as the requirement of fair and effective representation of those protected by the VRA.

My family didn't survive the horrors of the Jim Crow South for me to move to the most diverse borough to have to fight to have representation and a voice. The racism of my hometown might have been more loud and confrontational, but it prepared me to fight the racism that is applied here with such surgical precision. Therefore, NYC Districting Commission, I am urging you to allow us to remain intact as one community as we have been for generations to adhere to the NYC charter guidelines for redistricting.

-Whitney Toussaint

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:46 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony against new redistricting 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 as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

My name is Abed Khan.

I have been living in Astoria here for more than 22years. One of the main problems in our area is high rent rates which is pushing our Bengali working class immigrant people from this neighborhood. Our folks are at risk of eviction and gentrification. We really need to organize ourselves just to survive or live in this area. If we get redistricted we will get further divided. It will split Woodside into 4 different districts. Woodside and Sunnyside and Dutchkills should stay together because we have a huge Bengali population in this area. Moreover, including Manhattan to District 26 will drastically raise up our AMI from 75,000 which is already too high to 120-150k. The consequences of this decision is clear in the treatment our communities get from displacement, to gentrification, to more. These splits undermine our strengths and make it harder to include working class voices in city matters.

We working class, immigrant people of color are the majority in this district . We demand Dutchkills, Woodside and Sunnyside to stay together in District 26 and Manhattan be excluded from the new proposed map. I am opposing the new redistricting map.

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 3:09 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing new redistricting map of District 26

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My name is Afsana Mahin. I have been living in Astoria for more than 10 years. This area has issues with high rents, affordability and displacement. 35 apartments in my building also haven't had gas in more than a month with mine included. We have had so many problems. We have been trying to fight against these problems collectively as Bangalees. I think redistricting puts our communal power in jeopardy. Our voting power also decreases with redistricting. Our low-wage, working class immigrant people don't need further divagation. Our people are very hard working but also because of language barrier, immigrant issues and poverty we are always focused on survival. Our Bengali folks are trying to organize themselves though some of us are struggling everyday. In this hard time if redistricting divides our folks again we may have a hard time dealing with our issues or fighting against them. We are so much better united. I don't see why we need redistricting. We Bengali people are trying to organize ourselves and are trying our best to talk about our needs and demands. We have grown power and we collectively take actions against our problems. We are always trying to state our demands collectively to our CM. We think redistricting is going to divide our power and it's not for the peoples best. We want to stay united. Our folks are at risk of eviction and gentrification. We really need to organize ourselves just to survive or live in this area. If we get redistricted we will get further divided. It will split Woodside into 4 different districts. Woodside and Sunnyside and Dutchkills should stay together because we have a huge Bengali population in this area. Moreover, including Manhattan to District 26 will drastically raise up our AMI from 75,000 which is already too high to 120-150k. The consequences of this decision is clear in the treatment our communities get from displacement, to gentrification, to more. These splits undermine our strengths and make it harder to include working class voices in city matters. We working class, immigrant people of color are the majority in this district . We demand Dutchkills, Woodside and Sunnyside to stay together in District 26 and Manhattan be excluded from the new proposed map. I am opposing the new redistricting map.

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:48 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony against new redistricting 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 as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

My name is Ainan Ribin. I am a tenant living in Astoria for more than a decade. Our Bengali working class immigrant people are very hardworking and most of us deal with language barriers, poverty, rent issues, affordability problems. Just to survive and save money we live in bizarre ways in compact apartments with a lot of problems. Most of us don't even understand what redistricting does or how it impacts our people. Because we are too busy surviving we don't have time to actually look around and see what decisions are being made for us, by the electeds. Some of us folks are trying to organize within our community and it has been beautiful to see Bengali folks fighting for their rights. If redistricting divides us it will divide our power together as a community. We really need to organize ourselves just to survive or live in this area. If we get redistricted we will get further divided. It will split Woodside into 4 different districts. Woodside and Sunnyside and Dutchkills should stay together because we have a huge Bengali population in this area. Moreover, including Manhattan to District 26 will drastically raise up our AMI from 75,000 which is already too high to 120-150k. The consequences of this decision is clear in the treatment our communities get from displacement, to gentrification, to more. These splits undermine our strengths and make it harder to include working class voices in city matters.

We working class, immigrant people of color are the majority in this district . We demand Dutchkills, Woodside and Sunnyside to stay together in District 26 and Manhattan be excluded from the new proposed map. I am opposing the new redistricting map.

[REDACTED]

From: Aracelly Cantos [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 4:34 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MRNY 2022 NYC Redistricting testimony.

(English translation)

Good evening. My name is Rosalva Almazán. I am a resident of Woodside and a member of Make the Road New York, the largest grassroots organization of immigrants and working-class people of color in New York.

I have lived in Queens for two decades and am proud to call Woodside my home. I am a mother and a small business person. I run my own nail salon and am active in my community.

As this commission considers the new districts for Queens, it is very important that the voices of immigrant communities and communities of color are heard—and that we have the representation we deserve.

Immigrant communities and communities of color in Queens should be kept together wherever possible. For example, my community of Woodside has long been a place where immigrants like me arrive and establish ourselves. I believe that Woodside should largely be kept within a district that is made up of majority immigrants and people of color. When our communities are split between several districts, it makes it harder for us to have our needs met by elected officials.

I was also disappointed by the commission's proposal to extend District 26 to Manhattan. The population of Queens has grown a lot over the past 10 years. It doesn't make sense to me to extend District 26 to Manhattan. It should remain fully in Queens.

Buenas tardes. Mi nombre es Rosalva Almazán. Soy residente de Woodside y miembro de Make the Road New York, la organización de base más grande de inmigrantes y personas de color de clase trabajadora en Nueva York.

He vivido en Queens durante dos décadas y me enorgullece llamar a Woodside mi hogar. Soy madre y pequeña empresaria. Dirijo mi propio salón de belleza y participo activamente en mi comunidad.

Mientras esta comisión considera los nuevos distritos de Queens, es muy importante que se escuchen las voces de las comunidades inmigrantes y de color, y que tengamos la representación que merecemos.

Las comunidades de inmigrantes y las comunidades de color en Queens deben mantenerse juntas siempre que sea posible. Por ejemplo, mi comunidad de Woodside ha sido durante mucho tiempo un lugar donde llegan y se establecen inmigrantes como yo. Creo que Woodside debe mantenerse en gran medida dentro de un distrito compuesto en su mayoría por inmigrantes y personas de color. Cuando nuestras comunidades se dividen entre varios distritos, se nos hace más difícil que los funcionarios electos satisfagan nuestras necesidades.

También me decepcionó la propuesta de la comisión de extender el Distrito 26 a Manhattan. La población de Queens ha crecido mucho en los últimos 10 años. No tiene sentido para mí extender el Distrito 26 a Manhattan. Debe permanecer completamente en Queens.

Le insto a que tome en serio los aportes de los miembros y organizaciones de la comunidad, especialmente los de las comunidades de inmigrantes.



Gracias por la oportunidad de testificar

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Sent from my iPhone

August 17, 2022

Re: Council District 21 Redistricting Lines

To whom it may concern,

As an East Elmhurst Resident, I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst, Lefrak City united. We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citifield, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue.

Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,

Beverly Garnett
Corona Resident

August 17, 2022

Re: Council District 21 Redistricting Lines

To whom it may concern,

As an East Elmhurst Resident, I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst, Lefrak City united. We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citifield, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue.

Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,

Brandon Wareham
East Elmhurst Resident

August 17, 2022

Re: Council District 21 Redistricting Lines

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As an East Elmhurst Resident, I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst, Lefrak City united. We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citifield, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue.

Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,
Carlos Ruiz
East Elmhurst Resident

Greetings, my name is Craig Caruana and I am resident of Maspeth, Queens. I am testifying today to urge you to include the area known as the “Elmhurst Triangle” in the new 30th Council District.

The three corners of the “triangle” include Grand Avenue and 57th avenue intersection in the south, the intersection of Woodhaven Boulevard and the LIE in the northeast and Queens Blvd. and Kneeland Street in the northwest. The northern border of the triangle is Queens Boulevard.

If you were to walk down Grand Avenue in Maspeth you would not know that you had crossed over into Elmhurst and you certainly would not think you crossed a political line from one elected representative to the next. The area I am discussing is comprised mostly of one-three family homes, the residents attend Maspeth focused civic meetings and their kids go to schools in the 30th Council District. Many of us residents in Maspeth venture into this area for the stores and restaurants. Unless you are actively involved in your neighborhood, you would never think this area is called Elmhurst or that it is politically separate from the rest of Maspeth.

Under the current district map this neighborhood is divided. Under the proposed draft plan created by the commission, this neighborhood continues to be divided from its natural home in Maspeth. I ask the commission to right this wrong in the final draft, recognize the neighborhood is actually part of Maspeth and draw the City Council lines appropriately.

Thank you.

August 17, 2022

Re: Council District 21 Redistricting Lines

To whom it may concern,

As an East Elmhurst Resident, I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst, Lefrak City united. We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citifield, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue.

Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,
David Smith
East Elmhurst Resident

August 17, 2022

Sent via E-Mail: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

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

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

My name is Delsia Marshall; I am a resident of the Cambria Heights community. My neighborhood rests within the 27th Councilmanic district and shares representation with the communities of St Albans and downtown Jamaica. Downtown Jamaica is the hub of redevelopment and economic progress for our community. We should remain connected and benefit from the financial empowerment and economic development.

I write in response to the recently published Preliminary Map issued by the Commission and ask that the Commission revisit district 27 by drawing the lines by <https://district.org/plan/137797>. This map, I genuinely believe, reflects a section that will meet the established criteria for communities of interest.

Sincerely,

Delsia G. Marshall

(Signature)

Delsia G. Marshall

(Name Printed)

Cambria Heights, NY 11411

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:50 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing new redistricting map.

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My name is Dinara Begum. I know that redistricting is a tactic or a way through which poor, low-wage working class people's voting power gets more divided. We are already working so hard we don't have time to look around and see what decisions are made under our nose for us. Our people are very hard working but also because of language barrier, immigrant issues and poverty we are always focused on survival. Our Bengali folks are trying to organize themselves though some of us are struggling everyday. In this hard time if redistricting divides our folks again we may have a hard time dealing with our issues or fighting against them. We are so much better united. I don't see why we need redistricting. We really need to organize ourselves just to survive or live in this area. If we get redistricted we will get further divided. It will split Woodside into 4 different districts. Woodside and Sunnyside and Dutchkills should stay together because we have a huge Bengali population in this area. Moreover, including Manhattan to District 26 will drastically raise up our AMI from 75,000 which is already too high to 120-150k. The consequences of this decision is clear in the treatment our communities get from displacement, to gentrification, to more. These splits undermine our strengths and make it harder to include working class voices in city matters. We working class, immigrant people of color are the majority in this district . We demand Dutchkills, Woodside and Sunnyside to stay together in District 26 and Manhattan be excluded from the new proposed map. I am opposing the new redistricting map.

August 17, 2022

Re: Council District 21 Redistricting Lines

To whom it may concern,

As a East Elmhurst Resident, I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst, Lefrak City united. We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citifield, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue.

Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,

Esther Milliner
East Elmhurst Resident

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 3:01 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony against new redistricting map.

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My name is Ferdousi Begum. I have been living in Astoria for 30 years. I say no to redistricting because it divides our communal power. This divides our voting power also. We Bengalis want to stay united and take our decisions collectively as much as possible. To make it possible we need to stay united. We don't want to be divided into 4 different districts. I think redistricting is unnecessary. We have a vast number of Bengali people here who are working class, immigrant and low income people. Everyday we are working in order to make sure we just survive in this expensive neighborhood. Most of our folks' problems are unheard or neglected. We Bengali people are trying to organize ourselves and are trying our best to talk about our needs and demands. We have grown power and we collectively take actions against our problems. We are always trying to state our demands collectively to our CM. We think redistricting is going to divide our power and it's not for the peoples best. We want to stay united. Our folks are at risk of eviction and gentrification. We really need to organize ourselves just to survive or live in this area. If we get redistricted we will get further divided. It will split Woodside into 4 different districts. Woodside and Sunnyside and Dutchkills should stay together because we have a huge Bengali population in this area. Moreover, including Manhattan to District 26 will drastically raise up our AMI from 75,000 which is already too high to 120-150k. The consequences of this decision is clear in the treatment our communities get from displacement, to gentrification, to more. These splits undermine our strengths and make it harder to include working class voices in city matters. We working class, immigrant people of color are the majority in this district . We demand Dutchkills, Woodside and Sunnyside to stay together in District 26 and Manhattan be excluded from the new proposed map. I am opposing the new redistricting map.

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:49 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony opposing new redistricting map

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My name is Hawladar Abdus. Redistricting put people's voting power into the hands of the politicians. We don't think we need redistricting because it divides our Bangalee community's communal and voting power. We deserve to stay united and vote for or against the electeds together. We want the elected of our neighbor to understand our community needs collectively. We really need to organize ourselves just to survive or live in this area. If we get redistricted we will get further divided. It will split Woodside into 4 different districts. Woodside and Sunnyside and Dutchkills should stay together because we have a huge Bengali population in this area. Moreover, including Manhattan to District 26 will drastically raise up our AMI from 75,000 which is already too high to 120-150k. The consequences of this decision is clear in the treatment our communities get from displacement, to gentrification, to more. These splits undermine our strengths and make it harder to include working class voices in city matters.

We working class, immigrant people of color are the majority in this district . We demand Dutchkills, Woodside and Sunnyside to stay together in District 26 and Manhattan be excluded from the new proposed map. I am opposing the new redistricting map.

DeCillis, Michael

From: Ivan D. Mossop [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 3:35 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: August 16, 2022 Public Hearing - STOP ROCHDALE VILLAGE from BEING "DRAWN & QUARTERED"

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Ladies and Gentlemen of the NYC Districting Commission,

In addition to a supermajority of registered Democrats, Rochdale Village has political minorities of registered Republicans and Independent voters. These political minorities' voting power would be diminished by the proposed preliminary map redistricting of nearly half of Rochdale Village into the 27th City Council District. This would also be in violation of the NYC Charter as previously stated.

Respectfully Submitted

Ivan D Mossop Jr
NYS 32nd Republican Male Assembly District Leader
and Community Leader
An Advocate for Civic Life of
Rochdale Village and Greater Jamaica
ACTION CIVIC ASSOCIATION for GREATER JAMAICA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

If you're not part of the solution you're part of the problem!

On Mon, Aug 15, 2022 at 2:34 PM Ivan D. Mossop <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Ladies and Gentlemen of the NYC Districting Commission,

Stop Rochdale Village from being "Drawn and Quartered" by the NYC Districting Commission.

I am Ivan D Mossop Jr, NYS 32nd Republican Male Assembly District Leader. I reside in the 5th Congressional District, 10th Senatorial District and 32nd Assembly District. I share these districts with all my fellow residents of Rochdale Village Inc (RV). Though the maps for these districts have recently changed they have not been redrawn to divide our community.

The entirety of Rochdale Village is and has for decades been in the 28th City Council District (CCD), currently represented by City Council Speaker Adriennne Adams.

According to "Redistricting and You" a mapping resource created by the Center for Urban Research at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, the NYC Council Preliminary Plan would divide our community into the 28th and 27th CC districts. Specifically, 8 buildings (buildings 9-16) comprising 2 circles on Bedell Street and 1/3 of building #7 would be in district 27.

According to the 7/6/22 article of City and State NY, Annie McDonough, "Redistricting Partners, a California-based firm that has also worked with the state Independent Redistricting Commission, is working with the city's commission to actually draw the maps."

One might wonder if the decision to draw a district line through building #7 along with redistricting 8 other buildings was made either by a person possibly from California or a computer algorithm.

Rochdale Village Inc., incorporated in 1960 and completed in 1965, is the 2nd largest cooperative village in the world. It is a Mitchell-Lama Cooperative development with oversight and regulation from the NYS Dept of Housing and Community Renewal intended to be affordable housing for moderate and middle-income residents.

The boundaries of its 20 residential apartment buildings are Guy R Brewer Blvd, Baisley Blvd, Bedell Street, 134th Road and 137th Avenue.

The utilities of RV 20 buildings are provided by a common Power Plant on Bedell Street.

RV has its own team of Public Safety Officers that patrol the village in addition to being in the confines of the 113th Police Precinct.

RV has a Community Center centrally located that is intended to serve the intergenerational community of all 20 buildings.

RV has a Senior Center and is a Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) receiving annual city funding from the Department for the Aging. RV is an enclave of people from the African Diaspora and is the only such NORC in Queens.

RV is also part of the Jamaica and Hollis community that the Taskforce on Racial Inclusion and Equity (TRIE) identified as one of 33 communities having accounted for more than 50% of the City's COVID-19 cases.

**When I think of RV I think of people like me:
Coming from or with ancestors from SC, GA, other parts of the south and the Caribbean.
Formerly of other parts of Queens and greater NY
Graduates of HBCUs and CUNY, etc
Graduates of Jamaica High School, etc.**

My neighbors include employees and retirees of the MTA, NYPD, FDNY, Civil Servants, etc.

People who speak not only English but Creole, Spanish and various African languages.

It is even the home of Olympic Medalist Dalilah Muhammad.

Elected officials and politicians seeking votes often make stops at Rochdale Village and participate in our community events.

NYC City Charter Chapter 2-A Section 52 c. states:

c. District lines shall keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other.

It is my contention that RV by its very name and its 50+ year history is a neighborhood/community with established ties of common historical, racial, economic, ethnic and religious interest and association.

Any attempt to partition RV into more than one CCD would be against the NYC charter and leave our community dismembered or "Drawn and Quartered".

Respectfully submitted,

Ivan D Mossop Jr
NYS 32nd Republican Male Assembly District Leader
and Community Leader
An Advocate for Civic Life of
Rochdale Village and Greater Jamaica
ACTION CIVIC ASSOCIATION for GREATER JAMAICA

Tel: ([REDACTED]

Mob [REDACTED]

If you're not part of the solution you're part of the problem!

Statement to the NYC Districting Commission on August 16, 2022

By James Hong

Intro

Good afternoon, thank you for your service in this redistricting process. My name is James Hong, I'm here as a concerned citizen and I'd like to talk about District 20 and 26. I'm a resident of Flushing and lived in Woodside for close to a decade.

District 20

The draft map unfortunately divides Flushing *through* Murray Hill, which is the center of Flushing's vibrant Korean American community. This is where Korean New Yorkers live, work, eat, shop, and sing karaoke. If you've ever driven (or taken a bus) down Northern Blvd, there's not a block between Flushing and Bayside where you won't see a Korean restaurant, retail business, or church. Northern Blvd is a thoroughfare, and shouldn't be used as a boundary, especially in Murray Hill - but that's what is happening now. Please move the northern boundary for District 20 *further north*, so that the district doesn't divide Flushing and includes all of what's considered Flushing, including Murray Hill. **Please keep Flushing whole by using 20th Ave or Willets Point Blvd, meeting Francis Lewis Blvd, as the northern edge of District 20.**

Now, the place to shed population in District 20 is the eastern "foot" of the district that juts into Auburndale/Bayside. This makes little sense. If you look at the boundaries of the community boards, the police precincts, and the school districts of NE Queens, none of them join Flushing with Auburndale across Utopia Pkwy.

Those who have grown up their whole lives in NE Queens can intuitively identify that Utopia Pkway is where Flushing ends. **District 20 should also end at Utopia.**

I believe we should keep the Van Wyck (I-678) and Long Island Expressway(I-495) as the western and southern borders of District 20.

District 26

In Western Queens, Woodside belongs with Sunnyside and Long Island City, within District 26. The draft map splits Woodside up, badly, and joins its center with Maspeth, which has dramatically different politics, transportation, and demographics. This, coupled with other big changes in LIC, radically shifts District 26's racial composition.¹ Around 10,000 Asian Americans will lose representation by the first-ever Korean American in city council. And the draft map threatens the ability of Asian Americans remaining in the district to elect a candidate of their choice. Basically, this is a very anti-Asian change to District 26, and I urge you to reject it.

Closing

In closing, I won't recap anything I've said. But I do want to touch on the prioritization of Staten Island. While I respect Staten Islanders' hopes in keeping their 3rd district from having any part of Brooklyn, it shouldn't be done to the detriment of the other 94% of New York City's population. I urge you to reconsider that change, and **consider the solution that is the Unity Map.**

¹ District 26's Asian VAP will go from 32% to 25%. Meanwhile the white VAP goes from 31% to 46%.

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:47 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony opposing redistricting map

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My name is Jannatul Ahmed. I am 23 years old and I was born and raised in Astoria. I know how politicians try to map voters in their favors in the name of redistricting. Our working class Bengali immigrant people's power will get more divided in this process. We want to stay and fight unitedly against injustice towards our problems. We really need to organize ourselves just to survive or live in this area. If we get redistricted we will get further divided. It will split Woodside into 4 different districts. Woodside and Sunnyside and Dutchkills should stay together because we have a huge Bengali population in this area. Moreover, including Manhattan to District 26 will drastically raise up our AMI from 75,000 which is already too high to 120-150k. The consequences of this decision is clear in the treatment our communities get from displacement, to gentrification, to more. These splits undermine our strengths and make it harder to include working class voices in city matters. We working class, immigrant people of color are the majority in this district. We demand Dutchkills, Woodside and Sunnyside to stay together in District 26 and Manhattan be excluded from the new proposed map. I am opposing the new redistricting map.

August 17, 2022

Re: Council District 21 Redistricting Lines

To whom it may concern,

As an East Elmhurst Resident, I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst, Lefrak City united. We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citifield, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue.

Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,
Jefte Cooper
East Elmhurst Resident

August 17, 2022

Re: Council District 21 Redistricting Lines

To whom it may concern,

As an East Elmhurst Resident, I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst, Lefrak City united. We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citifield, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue.

Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,

Jimmy Smith
East Elmhurst Resident

August 17, 2022

Re: Council District 21 Redistricting Lines

To whom it may concern,

As an East Elmhurst Resident, I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst, Lefrak City united. We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citifield, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue.

Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,

Joyce Robinson
Lefrak City Resident

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:52 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony opposing new redistricting 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 as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

My name is Kamrun Hasan. I have been living here for more than 25years. One of the main problems in our area is high rent rates which is pushing our Bengali working class immigrant people from this neighborhood. Our folks are at risk of eviction and gentrification. We really need to organize ourselves just to survive or live in this area. If we get redistricted we will get further divided. It will split Woodside into 4 different districts. Woodside and Sunnyside and Dutchkills should stay together because we have a huge Bengali population in this area. Moreover, including Manhattan to District 26 will drastically raise up our AMI from 75,000 which is already too high to 120-150k. The consequences of this decision is clear in the treatment our communities get from displacement, to gentrification, to more. These splits undermine our strengths and make it harder to include working class voices in city matters.

We working class, immigrant people of color are the majority in this district . We demand Dutchkills, Woodside and Sunnyside to stay together in District 26 and Manhattan be excluded from the new proposed map. I am opposing the new redistricting map.



East Elmhurst-Corona Civic Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 690065, East Elmhurst, NY 11369

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President Emeritus

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larindahooks@yahoo.com

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Councilmember

Hon. Francisco Moya

District Leader

Hon. Hiram Monserrate

District Leader

Hon. Larinda C. Hooks

State Committeewoman

Hon. David Aiken

To whom it may concern,

I am, Larinda C. Hooks, President of the East Elmhurst Corona Civic Association and Assembly District #35 Democratic District Leader.

As a resident of East Elmhurst and a civic leader, I wish to express my support for the current draft map of Council District #21. As my civic association's name indicates, Corona and East Elmhurst are two neighborhoods intertwined that need to stay together under one representative that can speak for the issues that affect us all.

Council District 21 as drawn allows for our diverse district to remain the only majority Latino and African American district in Western Queens. This gives our communities a voice in rapidly gentrifying half of the borough. Due to the design of transit, we are also most affected by the large institutions and potential developments in the area- LaGuardia Airport, USTA Tennis Center, Citifield, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Hall of Science, and Willets Point- which is why it is critical that they are a part of our council district as they are in the current draft maps.

I believe that the best way to continue the strong diversity and unity of East Elmhurst, Corona, and Lefrak City is to keep our district together and hope that the current draft map stays the same.

Thank you!

Yours in service,

Honorable Larinda C. Hooks, President

Fleetwood Ty Henry, Vice President

Theresa Parsons- Jones, Recording Secretary

Aretha Wareham, Treasurer

Ann Brown, Corresponding Secretary

Contributions are deemed charitable under section 501(a)
of the internal revenue code as an organization described
in Section 501 (c)(3).

[REDACTED]

From: Laura Ensler [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 7:40 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Testimony

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Please. Do not be ridiculous. Manhattan and Queens do NOT belong together. And no one in either borough wants to be together. Please. Be smarter.

I support every word of Councilwoman Julie Won's testimony. She said it all and she provided every violation that would occur if this moved forward as is.

In addition, when speaking of people of color that make up our district, we cannot forget the residents of Queensbridge Houses, Ravenswood Houses, and Woodside Houses. Queensbridge Houses, the largest public houses in the country, has been a part of this district since the 1940s. These three NYCHAs have been together in the district for over 20 years and provide consistency and continuation in receiving public resources such as capital investments and benefits. Many of the students from our NYCHAs attend school in District 26 — predominantly in Long Island City — and the current school district is in the midst of a rezoning to integrate our Black and brown schools with predominantly white schools. Cutting them out of the district they traditionally have been a part of will disrupt their education accessibility, capital funding projects, and their ability to receive services when there are two separate council members for their school district.

**DON'T DRAW A DISTRICT THAT INCLUDES QUEENS AND
MANHATTAN IN THE SAME DISTRICT!**

Laura Ensler
President
Laura Ensler Consulting LLC
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone.

August 17, 2022

Re: Council District 21 Redistricting Lines

To whom it may concern,

As an East Elmhurst Resident, I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst, Lefrak City united. We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citifield, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue.

Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,
Lexson Warner
Corona Resident

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:58 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony against new redistricting 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 as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

My name is Lipi Ara Begum. I have been living in Astoria for more than 7 years. We have a vast number of Bengali people here who are working class, immigrant and low income people. Everyday we are working in order to make sure we just survive in this expensive neighborhood. Most of our folks' problems are unheard or neglected. We Bengali people are trying to organize ourselves and are trying our best to talk about our needs and demands. We have grown power and we collectively take actions against our problems. We are always trying to state our demands collectively to our CM. We think redistricting is going to divide our power and it's not for the peoples best. We want to stay united. Our folks are at risk of eviction and gentrification. We really need to organize ourselves just to survive or live in this area. If we get redistricted we will get further divided. It will split Woodside into 4 different districts. Woodside and Sunnyside and Dutchkills should stay together because we have a huge Bengali population in this area. Moreover, including Manhattan to District 26 will drastically raise up our AMI from 75,000 which is already too high to 120-150k. The consequences of this decision is clear in the treatment our communities get from displacement, to gentrification, to more. These splits undermine our strengths and make it harder to include working class voices in city matters. We working class, immigrant people of color are the majority in this district . We demand Dutchkills, Woodside and Sunnyside to stay together in District 26 and Manhattan be excluded from the new proposed map. I am opposing the new redistricting map.

[REDACTED]

From: Lisle M Noll [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 6:43 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dennis Walcott

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Please vote NO TO REDISTRICTING CITY COUNCIL 26th DISTRICT

No to redistricting City Council District 26. Keep Sunnyside and Woodside together. No to adding Roosevelt Island and part of Manhattan."

August 17, 2022

Re: Council District 21 Redistricting Lines

To whom it may concern,

As an East Elmhurst Resident, I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst, Lefrak City united. We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citifield, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue.

Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,
Louisa Merchant
Corona Resident

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 3:03 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony against new redistricting 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@otl.nyc.gov as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

My name is Mahfuza Mira. I have been living in Astoria for 11 years. Redistricting is going to divide our Bangali folks and will create a lot of problems in our neighborhood. We Bangalis have more power when we are together. Together we can ask for our needs collectively to just one person. If our folks get divided and if they are in separate districts our power to move things in our neighborhood will gradually decrease and we may have to work twice as hard but won't create that much impact as much as it would create when we are united and working together. I am against redistricting. Please don't divide our people and power further. We Bengali people are trying to organize ourselves and are trying our best to talk about our needs and demands. We have grown power and we collectively take actions against our problems. We are always trying to state our demands collectively to our CM. We think redistricting is going to divide our power and it's not for the peoples best. We want to stay united. Our folks are at risk of eviction and gentrification. We really need to organize ourselves just to survive or live in this area. If we get redistricted we will get further divided. It will split Woodside into 4 different districts. Woodside and Sunnyside and Dutchkills should stay together because we have a huge Bengali population in this area. Moreover, including Manhattan to District 26 will drastically raise up our AMI from 75,000 which is already too high to 120-150k. The consequences of this decision is clear in the treatment our communities get from displacement, to gentrification, to more. These splits undermine our strengths and make it harder to include working class voices in city matters. We working class, immigrant people of color are the majority in this district . We demand Dutchkills, Woodside and Sunnyside to stay together in District 26 and Manhattan be excluded from the new proposed map. I am opposing the new redistricting map.

[REDACTED]

From: MARGIE BROCK [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 5:26 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Rochdale Village

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I oppose the redistricting of Rochdale Village as it diminishes its power as a political voice in my community. The question, who will benefit from this decision, not the largely black population of this community. This decision affect our children that attend schools financially and socially. This is a way to silence this community by diminishing its voice. This is morally wrong, and I suspect racially motivated. Any politician, who is in favor of such decision, should be called into question as to which public he or she serves. For they surely do not represent my family who resides in the Rochdale Village community.

M. Brock
Rochdale Village Resident

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

[REDACTED]

From: Maria Romero [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:55 PM
To: Public Testimony

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 as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

Hello Commissioners. My name is Maria Romero, and I am a resident at [REDACTED] 50th Ave, Elmhurst, NY, 11373. As an immigrant, I'm very concerned about making sure that we maintain real immigrant representation on the city council. For that reason, I want to ask that the Commission keep neighborhoods like Woodside together in one district, and that you do everything you can not to split up immigrant neighborhoods. The borough of Queens is one of the most diverse places on the planet, and we should celebrate that diversity by ensuring that immigrant neighborhoods like Woodside are kept together so they can have strong political representation. Thank you.

August 17, 2022

Re: Council District 21 Redistricting Lines

To whom it may concern,

As an East Elmhurst Resident, I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst, Lefrak City united. We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citifield, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue.

Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,

Marie O'Quinn
East Elmhurst Resident

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 3:07 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing new redistricting map of District 26

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My name is MD Ahad. I have been living in District 26 for 31 years. This redistricting is of no use for my neighborhood. We working class immigrant people have built a strong community and strong communal power in our neighborhood for so many years. Redistricting makes this power divided. If our folks get divided and if they are in separate districts our power to move things in our neighborhood will gradually decrease and we may have to work twice as hard but won't create that much impact as much as it would create when we are united and working together. I am against redistricting. Please don't divide our people and power further. Our people are very hard working but also because of language barrier, immigrant issues and poverty we are always focused on survival. Our Bengali folks are trying to organize themselves though some of us are struggling everyday. In this hard time if redistricting divides our folks again we may have a hard time dealing with our issues or fighting against them. We are so much better united. I don't see why we need redistricting. We Bengali people are trying to organize ourselves and are trying our best to talk about our needs and demands. We have grown power and we collectively take actions against our problems. We are always trying to state our demands collectively to our CM. We think redistricting is going to divide our power and it's not for the peoples best. We want to stay united. Our folks are at risk of eviction and gentrification. We really need to organize ourselves just to survive or live in this area. If we get redistricted we will get further divided. It will split Woodside into 4 different districts. Woodside and Sunnyside and Dutchkills should stay together because we have a huge Bengali population in this area. Moreover, including Manhattan to District 26 will drastically raise up our AMI from 75,000 which is already too high to 120-150k. The consequences of this decision is clear in the treatment our communities get from displacement, to gentrification, to more. These splits undermine our strengths and make it harder to include working class voices in city matters. We working class, immigrant people of color are the majority in this district. We demand Dutchkills, Woodside and Sunnyside to stay together in District 26 and Manhattan be excluded from the new proposed map. I am opposing the new redistricting map.

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 3:12 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing new redistricting map of District 26

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 as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

My name is MD Zuhauzzaman. I have been living in Astoria for more than 22 years. Our Bengali working class immigrant people are very hardworking and most of us deal with language barriers, poverty, rent issues, affordability problems. Just to survive and save money we live in bizarre ways in compact apartments with a lot of problems. Most of us don't even understand what redistricting does or how it impacts our people. Because we are too busy surviving we don't have time to actually look around and see what decisions are being made for us, by the electeds. Some of us folks are trying to organize within our community and it has been beautiful to see Bengali folks fighting for their rights. If redistricting divides us it will divide our power together as a community. I think redistricting puts our communal power in jeopardy. Our voting power also decreases with redistricting. Our low-wage, working class immigrant people don't need further divination. Our people are very hard working but also because of language barrier, immigrant issues and poverty we are always focused on survival. Our Bengali folks are trying to organize themselves though some of us are struggling everyday. In this hard time if redistricting divides our folks again we may have a hard time dealing with our issues or fighting against them. We are so much better united. I don't see why we need redistricting. We Bengali people are trying to organize ourselves and are trying our best to talk about our needs and demands. We have grown power and we collectively take actions against our problems. We are always trying to state our demands collectively to our CM. We think redistricting is going to divide our power and it's not for the peoples best. We want to stay united. Our folks are at risk of eviction and gentrification. We really need to organize ourselves just to survive or live in this area. If we get redistricted we will get further divided. It will split Woodside into 4 different districts. Woodside and Sunnyside and Dutchkills should stay together because we have a huge Bengali population in this area. Moreover, including Manhattan to District 26 will drastically raise up our AMI from 75,000 which is already too high to 120-150k. The consequences of this decision is clear in the treatment our communities get from displacement, to gentrification, to more. These splits undermine our strengths and make it harder to include working class voices in city matters. We working class, immigrant people of color are the majority in this district . We demand Dutchkills, Woodside and Sunnyside to stay together in District 26 and Manhattan be excluded from the new proposed map. I am opposing the new redistricting map.

August 17, 2022

Re: Council District 21 Redistricting Lines

To whom it may concern,

As an East Elmhurst Resident, I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst, Lefrak City united. We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citifield, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue.

Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,

Melissa Spells
Lefrak City Resident

August 17, 2022

Re: Council District 21 Redistricting Lines

To whom it may concern,

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Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,

Minnie Crowder
East Elmhurst Resident

August 17, 2022

Re: Council District 21 Redistricting Lines

To whom it may concern,

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Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,
Nancy Leader
East Elmhurst Resident

[REDACTED]

From: Natasha Hirschfeld [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

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 as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

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,
Natasha Hirschfeld
[REDACTED] Jackson Ave
Queens, NY 11101

[REDACTED]

From: Nick Gulotta [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:55 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony: Nick Gulotta from Queens 8/16 Meeting

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August 16, 2022

Nick Gulotta
[REDACTED] 84th Street, 3G
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Testimony of Nick Gulotta to the NYC Districting Commission

Dear Chair Walcott and members of the Districting Commission,

My name is Nick Gulotta. I am a resident of Jackson Heights and for many years, District 26 was my home. This testimony is based on over fifteen years of experience working at the New York City Council, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, City Hall, and as a community organizer in Queens.

In my experience, when it comes to the delivery of government services, it is always working class communities of color that live in neighborhoods divided into multiple districts who are ignored the most by our city. I have seen elected officials and government leaders decide that certain communities weren't worthy of resources, weren't central to their base of power, or lacked the numbers needed to be "important." The priorities of these communities are less likely to be taken seriously by our city, constituent service needs are treated with less urgency, and community organizations do not receive funding they deserve.

The 26th Council District

As with the Filipino, Bangladeshi, and Latinx communities, I want to specifically highlight the Tibetan community as well as the larger Himalayan community that will be negatively impacted if the proposed map of District 26 is adopted. A majority of this community, many of whom are refugees as a result of the occupation of their homeland, presently reside in both the 26th and 25th council districts. **By dividing Woodside, the proposed map would siphon many of these community members into the 30th Council District as well. It would also disconnect the community residing in District 26 from the Tibetan community center (57-12 Tibet Way, 32nd Ave, Woodside, NY 11377).**

I have worked with this community for many years and while serving at the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, we worked closely with leaders from various Himalayan communities to estimate their combined population. Our unofficial estimate was over 50,000 people with the majority residing in Western Queens neighborhoods. **Should the proposed map be adopted, over a dozen Tibetan and Himalayan community centers and religious institutions ([view on map here](#)) in Woodside would needlessly become siloed in District 30, further marginalizing this community of interest.**

Like with other communities, dividing the Tibetan and larger Himalayan community into three council districts will cause harm to their political trajectory and power.

I urge the Commission to keep Woodside whole. I support [the map proposed by Council Member Julie Won \(https://districtr.org/plan/138001\)](https://districtr.org/plan/138001) where the boundaries are 31st Avenue to the north so that the

Tibetan Community Center remains in District 26. I also believe that the Queensbridge, Woodside, and Ravenswood Houses should remain in District 26. I also ask you to keep this a Queens district and I am opposed to the incorporation of Manhattan's East Side and Roosevelt Island as this will dilute the political power of working class residents of color in District 26.

Southeast Queens

I also want to lend my strong support for the [Unity Plan's map](#) that will keep South Asian and Indo-caribbean communities in one council district between Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park. It is vital that politics and lobbying by elected officials do not influence the decision to crack this community of interest into multiple communities that are unable to obtain an electoral majority.

The Unity Plan also importantly keeps Rochdale Village in one Council District, preserving the potential for effective representation for this critically important enclave of working class Black residents in Southeast Queens. I urge you to keep Rochdale Village represented by one Council Member.

Thank you for your time and service to our city.

Nick Gulotta

From: Nicole B [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 12:58 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public testimony district 31

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

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

My name is Nicole Brooks, and I am a resident of the Arverne by the Sea community. My neighborhood rests within the 31st 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://district.org/plan/137797>. This map, I truly believe reflects a district that will meet the established criteria for communities of interest. While, the Commission's Preliminary Lines 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 31st district will remain contiguous and ensure our voices are not diminished.

This district was created in the 1980s to give a voice to what has historically been marginalized communities. Our communities are comprised largely of homeowners and we share many of the same issues. When the Arverne by Sea community was developed the overall district benefited and continues to benefit from the economic investments. Whether it be around schools, property taxes, environmental justice, transportation and healthcare access, we have banded together on many occasions to win greater representation and by removing Arverne by the Sea from the 31st Council District would heavily diminish our voice in a time we are beginning to realize progress.

We are a coastal community that enjoy the beautiful Rockaway Beach and Jamaica Bay. 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. It also impacts our quality of life most directly. It makes the most sense to restore the entire airport within the 31st district.

In summary, I implore the NYC Districting Commission to keep adopt <https://district.org/plan/137797> as the lines for the 31st Council District. We should not disrupt communities that have historically been united.

Sincerely,

Nicole Brooks

Nicole Brooks
Arverne NY 11692

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:45 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony against new redistricting 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 as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

My name is Putu Begum. I have been living in Astoria for the past 22 years. The primary problems in this area are high rents, displacement of people from my community, not enough investment in public schools and lack of money going into small businesses. I am against redistricting because this will worsen the conditions that my community is combating right now. We want to grow and fight against the injustice that we face as immigrant working class people.

We really need to organize ourselves just to survive or live in this area. If we get redistricted we will get further divided. It will split Woodside into 4 different districts. Woodside and Sunnyside and Dutchkills should stay together because we have a huge Bengali population in this area. Moreover, including Manhattan to District 26 will drastically raise up our AMI from 75,000 which is already too high to 120-150k. The consequences of this decision is clear in the treatment our communities get from displacement, to gentrification, to more. These splits undermine our strengths and make it harder to include working class voices in city matters.

We working class, immigrant people of color are the majority in this district. We demand Dutchkills, Woodside and Sunnyside to stay together in District 26 and Manhattan be excluded from the new proposed map. I am opposing the new redistricting map.

[REDACTED]

From: Goodwin-Raab, Miranda
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 3:21 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Testimony against New Redistricting Map

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From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:43:15 PM
To: Goodwin-Raab, Miranda [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony against New Redistricting 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 as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

My name is Putul Begum. I have been living in Astoria here for more than 22years. One of the main problems in our area is high rent rates which is pushing our Bengali working class immigrant people from this neighborhood. Our folks are at risk of eviction and gentrification. We really need to organize ourselves just to survive or live in this area. If we get redistricted we will get further divided. It will split Woodside into 4 different districts. Woodside and Sunnyside and Dutchkills should stay together because we have a huge Bengali population in this area. Moreover, including Manhattan to District 26 will drastically raise up our AMI from 75,000 which is already too high to 120-150k. The consequences of this decision is clear in the treatment our communities get from displacement, to gentrification, to more. These splits undermine our strengths and make it harder to include working class voices in city matters.

We working class, immigrant people of color are the majority in this district . We demand Dutchkills, Woodside and Sunnyside to stay together in District 26 and Manhattan be excluded from the new proposed map. I am opposing the new redistricting map.

August 17, 2022

Re: Council District 21 Redistricting Lines

To whom it may concern,

As an East Elmhurst Resident, I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst, Lefrak City united. We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citifield, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue.

Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,

Ranford Parkes
East Elmhurst Resident

[REDACTED]

From: Regina Lomax [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 8:54 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed District 28–Rochdale Village

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Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Regina Lomax and I have lived in Rochdale Village for 9 years. I have grown to really love my community and the convenience of living in Rochdale. Rochdale Village is one development and should not be separated into 2 districts because that was never the plan. Our community needs to be preserved and united on all fronts. Making 2 districts out of one development is divisive and unnecessary. This community needs to be unified, not divided. Please reconsider redistricting Rochdale Village. Please keep the resources and quality of life intact for the community.

Regards,
Regina L Lomax

[REDACTED]

From: Richard Altabe <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:03 PM
To: Wice, Jeffrey; Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] testimony regarding City Council Dist 31

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Dear New York City Redistricting Commission,

Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to comment on the redistricting maps proposed by the Redistricting Commission on July 15, 2022.

Attached is the link to maps (<https://districtr.org/plan/137797>) which reflect how I want our community to be redistricted. As a long-time resident of District 31, the only change that is needed is to include all of JFK Airport in the district because of the following.

- First, JFK was previously a part of District 31 so this change would simply correct an error from the last redistricting cycle.
- Second, the communities of Rosedale, Brookville, Laurelton, Springfield Gardens, Edgemere, Far Rockaway and Arverne which are currently in the district, are directly in the airport flight path. Therefore, consolidating JFK Airport under “one district umbrella” will make it easier to holistically address current and future concerns.
- Additionally, JFK is currently represented by one Congressional, State Senate and Assembly member so there is simply no need for two separate Council Members to retain the airport in their districts.

The rest of District 31 should remain intact because of the historical and common characteristics (e.g., race, political party, geography, and type of home ownership) consistent in each of our communities which should not be tampered with. Below, I cite evidence to support this statement.

Rosedale, Laurelton, Brookville, and our portion of Springfield Gardens are contiguous. Their communities are Black registered Democratic voters, and the residents are primarily one-and two-family homeowners. The issues we face are consistent whether it is improving education, ensuring access to health services, protecting the environment, tackling airport noise, dealing with flooding, creating jobs, or providing adequate public safety for our residents and families. For decades, this district’s civic associations (e.g., Eastern Queens Alliance, Inc., Rosedale Civic Association, Inc., Federated Blocks of Laurelton, Concerned Citizens of Laurelton, Springfield/Rosedale Community Action Association, Inc., Spring-Gar Civic Association, Inc., and Springfield Gardens Taxpayers and Citizens Association) have worked closely together at all levels of government to address these issues and drive needed change. We have also launched special task forces (e.g., 116th Precinct Community Task Force, Southeastern Queens Zoning Preservation Task Force, and the Queens Community Task Force Against Illegal Truck Parking) to fight for the new precinct and to focus on the most important “quality of life” issues in our community.

The Rockaways and Arverne by the Sea communities should also remain intact within the 31st District because they share similar characteristics to the district’s “mainland” communities. For example, the Rockaways’ portion of the district is made up of primarily Black and Jewish Democrats who are one- or two-family

homeowners. Any changes would split the Democratic vote, disrupt the political dynamics, and negatively impact the interests and desires of its residents.

To preserve and to continually advance the common interests and concerns in District 31, I petition the Commission to keep our district intact with the only exception being to include JFK Airport in its entirety in the district to restore the continuity that existed before.

Thank you again for receiving my comments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Altabe
President
Jewish Community Council of the Rockaway Peninsula

[REDACTED]

From: Wice, Jeffrey
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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From: Roberta Rosenberg Farber [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 11:07:37 AM
To: Wice, Jeffrey [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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Dear Redistricting Commission,

My name is Roberta Farber. I am a member of the Central Queens Jewish community. This testimony is in protest of your disregard of communities of interest. You have literally cut Hillcrest out of the district. You have synagogues in one district and members of said synagogues in another. And they're only a block or 2 apart. Also, you cut out the Flushing on The Hill and Cedar Grove communities between the Long Island Expressway and the Cemetery in the most Northeast part of our district. Neighborhoods that are communities of interest along with Kew Gardens Hills.

I ask that you put both these neighborhoods back within the 24 Council District. Here's a link of the 24,23,19 and 20th Council Districts redrawn. <https://distrctr.org/plan/136855> This proposal allows for populations to meet your threshold of 5% and doesn't split communities of interest. Please take this map into account especially for the 24th Council District (in blue).

Sincerely,

Name

Roberta Farber

--

Dr. Roberta Rosenberg Farber
Department of Sociology
Stern College for Women
Yeshiva University
[REDACTED] Lexington Avenue
NY, NY 10016

Series Editor:
Jewish Identities in Post Modern Society

Academic Studies Press
Brighton, MA 02135

[REDACTED]

From: Wice, Jeffrey
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:59 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting comments

From: Robert Garber [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:27 PM
To: Wice, Jeffrey [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting comments

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Dear Redistricting Commission,

My name is Rabbi Robert Garber. I am the Rabbi of Yeshiva Kesser Torah and a member of the Central Queens Jewish community. This testimony is in protest of your disregard of communities of interest. You have literally cut Hillcrest out of the district. You have synagogues in one district and members of said synagogues in another. And they're only a block or 2 apart. Also, you cut out the Flushing on The Hill and Cedar Grove communities between the Long Island Expressway and the Cemetery in the most Northeast part of our district. Neighborhoods that are communities of interest along with Kew Gardens Hills.

I ask that you put both these neighborhoods back within the 24 Council District. Here's a link of the 24,23,19 and 20th Council Districts

redrawn. <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictr.org%2Fplan%2F136855&data=05%7C01%7CJWice%40redistricting.nyc.gov%7Cb9ca6e9de4b24854b00608da8075b6c5%7C35c828166c56443bbaf68312163cad1%7C0%7C0%7C637963540324291823%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jf7ysDMycgDIU87jhFty79WaqUsdPgktsp33tsujE7s%3D&reserved=0> This proposal allows for populations to meet your threshold of 5% and doesn't split communities of interest. Please take this map into account especially for the 24th Council District (in blue).

Sincerely,

Rabbi Robert Garber
Yeshiva Kesser Torah
[REDACTED] Vleigh Place

Sent from my iPhone

Rosalva Almazán Testimony
New York City Districting Commission
August 16, 2022

Buenas tardes. Mi nombre es Rosalva Almazán. Soy residente de Woodside y miembro de Make the Road New York, la organización de base más grande de inmigrantes y personas de color de clase trabajadora en Nueva York.

He vivido en Queens durante dos décadas y me enorgullece llamar a Woodside mi hogar. Soy madre y pequeña empresaria. Dirijo mi propio salón de belleza y participo activamente en mi comunidad.

Mientras esta comisión considera los nuevos distritos de Queens, es muy importante que se escuchen las voces de las comunidades inmigrantes y de color, y que tengamos la representación que merecemos.

Las comunidades de inmigrantes y las comunidades de color en Queens deben mantenerse juntas siempre que sea posible. Por ejemplo, mi comunidad de Woodside ha sido durante mucho tiempo un lugar donde llegan y se establecen inmigrantes como yo. Creo que Woodside debe mantenerse en gran medida dentro de un distrito compuesto en su mayoría por inmigrantes y personas de color. Cuando nuestras comunidades se dividen entre varios distritos, se nos hace más difícil que los funcionarios electos satisfagan nuestras necesidades.

También me decepcionó la propuesta de la comisión de extender el Distrito 26 a Manhattan. La población de Queens ha crecido mucho en los últimos 10 años. No tiene sentido para mí extender el Distrito 26 a Manhattan. Debe permanecer completamente en Queens.

Le insto a que tome en serio los aportes de los miembros y organizaciones de la comunidad, especialmente los de las comunidades de inmigrantes.

Gracias por la oportunidad de testificar.

* * *

(English translation)

Good evening. My name is Rosalva Almazán. I am a resident of Woodside and a member of Make the Road New York, the largest grassroots organization of immigrants and working-class people of color in New York.

I have lived in Queens for two decades and am proud to call Woodside my home. I am a mother and a small business person. I run my own nail salon and am active in my community.

As this commission considers the new districts for Queens, it is very important that the voices of immigrant communities and communities of color are heard—and that we have the representation we deserve.

Immigrant communities and communities of color in Queens should be kept together wherever possible. For example, my community of Woodside has long been a place where immigrants like me arrive and establish ourselves. I believe that Woodside should largely be kept within a district that is made up of majority immigrants and people of color. When our communities are split between several districts, it makes it harder for us to have our needs met by elected officials.

I was also disappointed by the commission's proposal to extend District 26 to Manhattan. The population of Queens has grown a lot over the past 10 years. It doesn't make sense to me to extend District 26 to Manhattan. It should remain fully in Queens.

I urge you to take seriously the input of community members and organizations--especially those in immigrant communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

[REDACTED]

From: Rufino Estudillo [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 11:47 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

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Hello commissioner. My name is rufino estudillo and I am a resident at [REDACTED] ave in Elmhurst as on immigrant i.m very concert about making sure that we maintain real immigrant representation on the city council.for that the commission keep neighborhoods like wood

[REDACTED]

From: Sascha J Swanson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 9:39 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Council District 26

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To the Commission,

I am a longtime resident of Sunnyside, Queens. I am very concerned about the proposal for the new district that includes Eastern Manhattan. It makes no sense to include the hospital zone around York Ave to our district, and it's very confusing to see the Ravenswood Houses carved out. I'm writing to add my opposition to these changes and ask that you go back to the drawing board.

Respectfully,

Sascha Swanson
[REDACTED] 41st Street 2F
Sunnyside, Ny 11104

[REDACTED]

From: Serena Chapman [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 4:38 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Personal Testimony for the Hearing for Queens Redistricting

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Dear Sir or Madam,

My husband and I have lived in the Sunnyside, Queens community for almost 2 years now. This community is incredibly unique and special. We have a wonderfully diverse community filled with people that truly care to create a safe, family friendly, neighborhood atmosphere.

I think redistricting our community to include a portion of Manhattan would be detrimental to our community's health, happiness, and voice. We are two very different cultures with differing values and priorities. Please DO NOT change our district lines.

The difference in population, values, priorities, ethnicities, and representation would create a very unfair advantage for the Manhattan majority. My husband and I choose to live in Sunnyside, Queens and not Manhattan for these very differences.

Please do not disrupt the harmony our community in Queens has intentionally created.

Kindest regards,
Serena

--

Serena Chapman

M.A. in Evaluation & Positive Psychology
email: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

My name is Sherry Algreto

I have lived in City Council District 28 since I came to this country 28 years ago. I currently live here with my husband and my two children.

While I am community activist, I also serve as the Chair of Community Board 9, but I am here to speak as a resident of City Council District 28

The Redistricting Commission's draft district map keeps a huge part of Richmond Hill together and significant places here in South Richmond Hill like Richmond Hill High School, Gurudwara The Sikh Cultural Society Inc., Baba Makhan Shah Lubana Sikh Center, The Boys and Girls Club of America, Richmond Hill Block Association. Except for the area of Smokey (Phil Rizutto) Park that also belongs to this part of a thriving community, this also needs to be integrated into the redistricting map. All these organizations run from The Van Wyck, Jamaica Ave to Woodhaven blvd.

These organizations are significant to South Richmond Hill and it's vital growth and economic development and should be kept together as part of City Council District 28 as it has historically been. We at South Richmond Hill would also like to keep our community together under one City Council District as much as possible.

This redistricting map should not be in any way drawn as political, but as what is right and best for a community.

It should always be the community needs and what is best that should be considered when redistricting conversations occurs. If you were to visit here, then you would see and understand why this district should be kept together.

We all want to keep our communities together, but at the end of the day, we have been requesting for Richmond Hill to be kept together with all these places that are connected like a family and we should keep what is in the best interest of this community. These decisions will affect us for the next ten years and we can't afford to be split up and wait ten more years to correct an error. Please do right by our community and listen and hear our voices and keep these places in District 28.

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:56 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing new Redistricting map.

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My name is Shima Akter. I have been living in District 26 for 10 years. We have a huge Bengali Community in this area. If our area gets redistricted our power will decrease. We are currently under CM Julie Won's District. Redistricting puts our Bangalee community at risk, it can divide our neighborhood and some of us may fall in different districts. We want the elected of our neighborhood to understand our community needs collectively. We don't want our power to be divided. It also decreases our collective voting power as a Bengali Community? Why is redistricting important? It seems like a tactic of politicians to make us more divided. I say no to redistricting. Our folks are at risk of eviction and gentrification. We really need to organize ourselves just to survive or live in this area. If we get redistricted we will get further divided. It will split Woodside into 4 different districts. Woodside and Sunnyside and Dutchkills should stay together because we have a huge Bengali population in this area. Moreover, including Manhattan to District 26 will drastically raise up our AMI from 75,000 which is already too high to 120-150k. The consequences of this decision is clear in the treatment our communities get from displacement, to gentrification, to more. These splits undermine our strengths and make it harder to include working class voices in city matters.

We working class, immigrant people of color are the majority in this district. We demand Dutchkills, Woodside and Sunnyside to stay together in District 26 and Manhattan be excluded from the new proposed map. I am opposing the new redistricting map.

August 17, 2022

Sent via E-Mail: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

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

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

My name is SIANEI PARKER, and I am a resident of the EDGEMERE community. My neighborhood rests within the 31st 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://district.org/plan/137797>. This map, I truly believe reflects a district that will meet the established criteria for communities of interest.

While, the Commission's Preliminary Lines 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 31st district will remain contiguous and ensure our voices are not diminished.

This district was created in the 1980s to give a voice to what has historically been marginalized communities. Our communities are comprised largely of homeowners and we share many of the same issues. When the Arverne by Sea community was developed the overall district benefited and continues to benefit from the economic investments. Whether it be around schools, property taxes, environmental justice, transportation and healthcare access, we have banded together on many occasions to win greater representation and by removing Arverne by the Sea from the 31st Council District would heavily diminish our voice in a time we are beginning to realize progress.

We are a coastal community that enjoy the beautiful Rockaway Beach and Jamaica Bay. 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. It also impacts our quality of life most directly. It makes the most sense to restore the entire airport within the 31st district.

In summary, I implore the NYC Districting Commission to keep adopt <https://district.org/plan/137797> as the lines for the 31st Council District. We should not disrupt communities that have historically been united.

Sincerely,

Sianeiparker

SIANEI PARKER_
(Name Printed)

EDGEMERE NY 11691

From: Nazish Tisha <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:52 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing new redistricting map.

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My name is M Sikender Karim. I have been living in Astoria for many years now. We have a vast number of Bengali people here who are working class, immigrant and low income people. Everyday we are working in order to make sure we just survive in this expensive neighborhood. Most of our folks' problems are unheard or neglected. We Bengali people are trying to organize ourselves and are trying our best to talk about our needs and demands. We have grown power and we collectively take actions against our problems. We are always trying to state our demands collectively to our CM. We think redistricting is going to divide our power and it's not for the peoples best. We want to stay united. I am against the new proposed redistricting map because it will split woodside into 4 different districts. Woodside and Sunnyside and Dutchkills should stay together because we have a huge Bengali population in this area. Moreover, including Manhattan to District 26 will drastically raise up our AMI from 75,000 which is already too high to 120-150k. The consequences of this decision is clear in the treatment our communities get from displacement, to gentrification, to more. These splits undermine our strengths and make it harder to include working class voices in city matters. We working class, immigrant people of color are the majority in this district . We demand Dutchkills, Woodside and Sunnyside to stay together in District 26 and Manhattan be excluded from the new proposed map. I am opposing the new redistricting map.

[REDACTED]

From: Wice, Jeffrey
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] 24th Council District

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 10:48:54 AM
To: Wice, Jeffrey [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 24th Council District

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Dear Redistricting Commission,

My name is Simon Pelman.

I am a member of the Central Queens Jewish community.

This testimony is in protest of your disregard for communities of interest. You have literally cut Hillcrest out of the district. You have synagogues in one district and members of said synagogues in another. And they're only a block or 2 apart. Also, you cut out the Flushing on The Hill and Cedar Grove communities between the Long Island Expressway and the Cemetery in the Northeast part of our district. Neighborhoods that are communities of interest along with Kew Gardens Hills.

I ask that you put both these neighborhoods back within the 24 Council District.

Here's a link of the 24,23,19 and 20th Council Districts redrawn. <https://districtr.org/plan/136855> This proposal allows for populations to meet your threshold of 5% and doesn't split communities of interest. Please take this map into account, especially for the 24th Council District (in blue).

Sincerely,
Simon Pelman

August 17, 2022

Re: Council District 21 Redistricting Lines

To whom it may concern,

As an East Elmhurst Resident, I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst, Lefrak City united. We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citifield, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue.

Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,
Taquoia Jones
East Elmhurst Resident

August 17, 2022

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As an East Elmhurst Resident, I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst, Lefrak City united. We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citifield, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue.

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Yours in community,
Tequan Jones
Corona Resident

August 17, 2022

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Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,
Torry Jones
Corona Resident

[REDACTED]

From: Nazish Tisha [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 3:05 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing new redistricting map of District 26

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 as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

My name is Tuly Zebunnesa. I have lived in Astoria for 12 years. I know that redistricting is a tactic or a way through which poor, low-wage working class people's voting power gets more divided. We are already working so hard we don't have time to look around and see what decisions are made under our nose for us. Our people are very hard working but also because of language barrier, immigrant issues and poverty we are always focused on survival. Our Bengali folks are trying to organize themselves though some of us are struggling everyday. In this hard time if redistricting divides our folks again we may have a hard time dealing with our issues or fighting against them. We are so much better united. I don't see why we need redistricting. We Bengali people are trying to organize ourselves and are trying our best to talk about our needs and demands. We have grown power and we collectively take actions against our problems. We are always trying to state our demands collectively to our CM. We think redistricting is going to divide our power and it's not for the peoples best. We want to stay united. Our folks are at risk of eviction and gentrification. We really need to organize ourselves just to survive or live in this area. If we get redistricted we will get further divided. It will split Woodside into 4 different districts. Woodside and Sunnyside and Dutchkills should stay together because we have a huge Bengali population in this area. Moreover, including Manhattan to District 26 will drastically raise up our AMI from 75,000 which is already too high to 120-150k. The consequences of this decision is clear in the treatment our communities get from displacement, to gentrification, to more. These splits undermine our strengths and make it harder to include working class voices in city matters. We working class, immigrant people of color are the majority in this district . We demand Dutchkills, Woodside and Sunnyside to stay together in District 26 and Manhattan be excluded from the new proposed map. I am opposing the new redistricting map.

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Keep Our Community Together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the FINAL map!

Yours in community,
Wayne Ruff
East Elmhurst Resident

[REDACTED]

From: yanna henriquez [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 9:50 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Corona, East Elmhurst and Lefrak city keep Together are my NEIGHBORHOOD

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As a Resident in Corona, I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst and Lefrak City

united. We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citi field, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue.

To keep our community together and to keep the District 21 together. I do not want to change my neighborhood. I love My neighborhood that continues to work together and better each other through exemplifying the unity in our community because we have Health centers, Museums, Sports, travel and much more.

The district lines help maintain stability, prosperity and keep the community energized and together.

Regards,

Yanna M. Henriquez

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 4:29 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Splitting Rochdale Village into Two Districts

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I am ninety-five years old and I have seen far too many political ploys aimed at keeping minorities out of the voting process and thereby out of the economic benefits others receive. Splitting Rochdale Village into two separate districts is a ridiculous but sly ploy. Go back to the drawing board and take your two district idea off the table.

Celestine Taylor

New York City Council Redistricting Testimony 2022

Good Afternoon, I am I. Daneek Miller, the Democratic District Leader for the 33rd Council Assembly District and the former New York City Councilmember for the 27th District.

My testimony today prioritizes the 27th Council District's Southeast Queens and as an outlier, impact on the 28th, 31st and 24th Council Districts. I begin with the obvious: a lack of density, because of single-family homeownership, certainly has its impact on this communities' population, but not its political and economic empowerment and cultural influences. All of which is well known and documented locally and nationally. SEQ is home to many political and cultural icons and has its own historic district (Addelsigh Park).

This phenomenon of political empowerment is not by accident; in fact, by all metrics that matter most when it comes to voter participation, are:

- 1. Civic and Faith-Based Engagement**
- 2. Union Participation**
- 3. Homeownership**

While not mutually exclusive, together they help to make up the largest African American and Afro-Caribbean homeownership in the nation; as well as being the most densely populated union community in the most densely populated union state in the country. The social-economic impact on SEQ and its surrounding communities, in particular, (the downtown Jamaica area, which is currently undergoing a major renaissance of housing, transportation, economic development, etc.) is unfortunately, being negatively impacted by the current boundaries of the 27th and 24th Council Lines, which border the North and South sides of Jamaica Avenue:

- 27th... South of Jamaica
- 24th... North of Jamaica

Because of these boundaries, Jamaica lacks continuity, not just in social, cultural and economic development but more importantly because of its delivery of

services. For example, Community Board 12 has the highest numbers of shelter placements in the City of New York. The most densely populated portion of that is on the 24th side of Jamaica Avenue. While there are thousands of newly affordable housing units that have been built and are being built, South of Jamaica Avenue. Conversely we see overwhelmingly market rate new development housing North of Jamaica Avenue, which is not consistent with the economic values of its current residents, which will further lead to gentrification.

Continuity and values are important, just as we have seen in the unification of the Downtown Jamaica BIDS, which was spearheaded in the 27th and 28th Council District. During my time in the Council, while we never acknowledged boundaries, it matters when you create unfair burdens on other Council Districts. Representation should reflect the needs of the masses and exhibit the continuity necessary to maintain upward mobility for these historic communities of color.

These communities deserve representation that share their values and experiences and bring in cultural competency and their voice to City Hall. Furthermore, this attempt to create new opportunities at the expense of the Southeast Queens historic community is unjust and further diminishes the mission of the Voting Rights Act.

In conclusion, Rochdale Village- one of the largest cooperative communities in the nation, deserves such continuity in service and representation. Instead what we see is an attempt to subdivide this enclave of Black resiliency into multiple council districts. This is an inditement of the incompetencies, insensitivity and intentional diminishment of one of the states, the nations, most powerful voting block, what is S.E.Q.

I would suggest if the goals and objectives of this Commision is to expand the footprint of the 24th, it be done: East/West instead of North/South.

Submitted by: I. Daneek Miller

[REDACTED]

From: Wice, Jeffrey
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 2:00 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Queens

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 9:33:46 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>; Wice, Jeffrey [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

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Dear Redistricting Commission,

My name is .Jesse Gitnik.. I am a member of the Central Queens Jewish community. This testimony is in protest of your disregard of communities of interest. You have literally cut Hillcrest out of the district. You have synagogues in one district and members of said synagogues in another. And they're only a block or 2 apart. Also, you cut out the Flushing on The Hill and Cedar Grove communities between the Long Island Expressway and the Cemetery in the most Northeast part of our district. Neighborhoods that are communities of interest along with Kew Gardens Hills.

I ask that you put both these neighborhoods back within the 24 Council District. Here's a link of the 24,23,19 and 20th Council Districts redrawn. <https://districtr.org/plan/136855> This proposal allows for populations to meet your threshold of 5% and doesn't split communities of interest. Please take this map into account especially for the 24th Council District (in blue).

Sincerely,
Jesse Gitnik

August 15, 2022

Sent via E-Mail: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

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

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

My name is Randy Wilson, and I am a resident of the Edgemere community. My neighborhood rests within the 31st 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://district.org/plan/137797>. 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 31st 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.

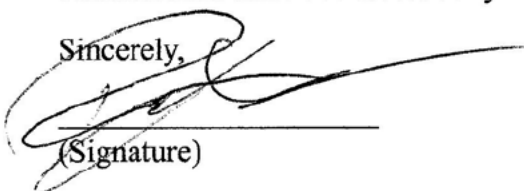
Additionally, the JFK International Airport is a major regional economic engine for this district, and I am pleased the Preliminary map will reunify this asset back under one Councilmanic district – the 31st Council District. It impacts our quality of life most directly. It makes the most sense to restore the entire airport within the 31st district.

Understanding some of the changes that were made ten years ago, it is also worth while to call on the Commission to return the Stop and Shop center and Motebellier Park in Springfield

Gardens to the 31st Council District. Considered a food dessert, by including these two assets into the 31st Council district it would not impact the population number, but it will add much needed park space and offer a seat at the table when we have conversations surrounding health and access to quality food.

In summary, I implore the NYC Districting Commission to keep adopt <https://district.org/plan/137797> as the lines for the 31st Council District. We should not disrupt communities that have historically been united.

Sincerely,



(Signature)

Randy Wilson

██████ Rockaway Beach Blvd
Edgemere, NY 11691

[REDACTED]

From: Tiffany Joy Butler [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 11:04 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Unity Map
Attachments: Unity Plan City Council.pdf

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Hi all,

I'd like to share my support for the Unity Map which I'm attaching here. It protects the voting rights and opportunities of black, brown, immigrant communities who are already marginalized and under-resourced and I see many problems with splitting neighborhoods who have been united for many decades into different districts such as Sunset Park and Woodside. Please re-design the new map of the city council districts. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Tiffany Joy

Tiffany Joy Butler
[REDACTED]

From: Annie Ferdous [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2022 8:30 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

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August 19, 2022

Thank you to the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) for organizing this series of public hearings on the upcoming redistricting cycle.

I am Annie Ferdous and I live in Kensington. I am one of the founders and artistic director of Bangladesh Institute of Performing Arts, in short known as BIPA. BIPA is a community organization that offers weekend Arts & Cultural classes for Bangladeshi children. We have been running our programs for the last 30+ years in Brooklyn Kensington, Woodside and Jamaica Queens. We grew up together in these areas and made our little Bangladesh here. We stayed together to build political and community power. We celebrate our social and cultural identities in many different ways. We made friends with many other organizations that are giving services here.

If this district is divided into parts as proposed and we are split then we are going to lose all the cultural and social power that we have built so far. The community services that we are receiving now will be gone. Our Council Office provides the immigrants many opportunities and services that we don't want to lose for the new proposed district.

Our cultural identity depends on the unity that we already built. I strongly recommend that District 39 stay as it has been.

I thank the commission for committing to an open process and for maintaining a website with information on the redistricting process, upcoming meetings, and submissions. Moving forward, I urge this commission to take a proactive role in engaging with community organizations and ethnic media around the city.

--

এ্যানি ফেরদৌস

Annie Ferdous



[FACEBOOK.COM/BIPAINC](https://facebook.com/BIPAINC)

[REDACTED]

From: CHERYL PHILLIPS [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2022 12:01 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposal to split Council District 28

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My name is Cheryl Phillips and I live in Rochdale Village and vote in Council District 28. If this proposal goes through my residence location would be assigned to District 31.

I do not want Rochdale Village to be separated into different voting districts. All of us in this development need to be able to be represented by the same public officials since what happens anywhere in the development ultimately affects all of us likewise.

I would appreciate your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely
Cheryl Phillips

[REDACTED]

From: Devin D.A Murray [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2022 9:22 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Devin Murray, I am a home owner here in the Rockaways.
It is validly important to the Rockaways that Springfield /JFK remain a part of district 31.
As you know from the census that numbers matter in so many ways.
Not having this remain part of the Rockaways will effect us greatly.
Even our way of life and the resources that this engin brings to the Rockaways.
I humbly asked that it remain a part of the Rockaways district 31.
So much has already been taken away from us these last few years. This will be one more blow that will hurt this community drastically.
Again, I ask you and all the powers that are apart of making this decisions to let Springfield and JFK airport remain in district 31.
Under the great leadership of Selena Brooks Powers.
Please stop this from making our district bleed more than it already is.
Thank you for your time in this matter.
Have a blessed day.

Sincerely,
Devin Murray

From: Howard Moskowitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 11:45 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Testimony

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My name is Howard Moskowitz and I have been a resident of Elmhurst Queens (Council District 25) for the past 32 years, I belong to Elmhurst United, a civic organization. My residence 76 34 Kneeland Avenue, is located on the south of Queens Boulevard and borders on the Maspeth section of Council District 30. The residences are primarily one/two family homes. The physical character of the one and two family homes found in my neighborhood closely resemble the homes located in Maspeth. Many middle school students residing in my neighborhood are zoned to attend IS73Q which is located in Maspeth. Maspeth High School and PS 58Q are close by and are attended by Elmhurst students. Local banks (Maspeth Federal Savings) and shopping (Stop and Shop) are located near by in Council district 30. The common issues that we face as homeowners are similar to those residents in the Maspeth section of District council 30.

I feel the following areas of Elmhurst beginning from the south side of Queens Boulevard, bounded on the east by the Long Island Expressway and including areas west to east by the Long Island Railroad should be incorporated into Council district 30. The physical demographics, interests and needs of Council District 25 on the north side are different from my neighborhood since residences there are primarily apartment buildings and renters on that side of the district. I have always felt our neighborhood was more part of the fabric of Maspeth than Elmhurst. I thank you in advance in considering my request.

Respectfully,

Howard Moskowitz

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

[REDACTED]

From: lynda coral [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 7:09 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep our district together

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As a lifelong resident of Corona I want to express my support for the council district lines that keep Corona, East Elmhurst, Lefrak City united. My family has lived in Corona for over 50 years and our community would like to continue to enjoy the leadership and keep our neighbors together! We have always had LaGuardia Airport, Citifield, Willets Point, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in our district and want to see that continue.

Keep our neighbors together! Keep the District 21 draft map as the final map.

[REDACTED]

From: Mildred Maxwell [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 1:22 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Rochdale into two districts

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Sent from my iPhone

I am for Rochdale Village Inc. remaining as one district. Please do not redistrict Rochdale Village Inc.

I've been a resident at Rochdale Village for 47 years. This will cause the tenants at Rochdale Village Inc quite a bit of confusion and frustration. Please leave Rochdale whole as one and not redistricted.

Thank you Mildred Oliphant

[REDACTED]

From: Shonon Lecadre [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 4:33 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ROCHDALE VILLAGE

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Greetings,

In regard to Rochdale, I'm emailing to voice that Rochdale Village needs to remain as one. For the last 50+this has been ONE community. No division is necessary. We as a community are good.

Im not sure why all of sudden this has become a hot topic to divide us, but please dump this ridiculous idea and move on to more important topics.

Regards,

Shonon LeCadre

A Rochdale Resident

Faith  Hope  Love 

August 21, 2022

Sent via E-Mail: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

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

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

My name is Alexis K. Foote, and I am a resident of the Arverne View community. My neighborhood rests within the 31st 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://district.org/plan/137797>. This map, I truly believe reflects a district that will meet the established criteria for communities of interest.

While, the Commission's Preliminary Lines 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 31st district will remain contiguous and ensure our voices are not diminished.

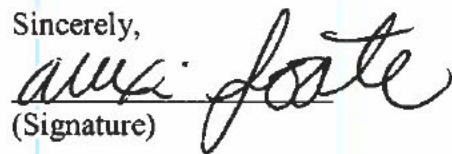
This district was created in the 1980s to give a voice to what has historically been marginalized communities. Our communities are comprised largely of homeowners and we share many of the same issues. When the Arverne by Sea community was developed the overall district benefited and continues to benefit from the economic investments. Whether it be around schools, property taxes, environmental justice, transportation and healthcare access, we have banded together on many occasions to win greater representation and by removing Arverne by the Sea from the 31st Council District would heavily diminish our voice in a time we are beginning to realize progress.

We are a coastal community that enjoy the beautiful Rockaway Beach and Jamaica Bay. 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. It also impacts our quality of life most directly. It makes the most sense to restore the entire airport within the 31st district.

In summary, I implore the NYC Districting Commission to keep adopt <https://district.org/plan/137797> as the lines for the 31st Council District. We should not disrupt communities that have historically been united.

Sincerely,


(Signature)

____ Alexis K Foote _____

(Name Printed)

████████ Shore Front Parkway Apt 1101
Arverne, NY 11692

[REDACTED]

From: Lynn citron [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2022 12:21 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 24th City Council District Redistricting

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To whom it may concern:

We are concerned citizens. We are writing about the proposed redistricting of City Council District 24 which creates lines dividing long established Jewish communities. The lines have synagogues in one district with many of the synagogues' members in another, even as their homes are within two blocks. Of great concern is that the entire community of Hillcrest, and key parts of Utopia and Fresh Meadows that have been cut out of the district, as have the Flushing On The Hill and Cedar Grove communities by the Long Island Expressway, near Mt. Hebron Cemetery, in the Northeast part of the district. Removing these neighborhoods from the District hurts communities of interest.

We implore the commission to reconsider the current map and ensure that these neighborhoods are kept within the 24th City Council District.

Sincerely,
Andrew and Lynn Citron

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2022 5:20 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MY OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED 2022 DISTRICT MAP FOR ROCHDALE VILLAGE

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Dear City Council,

I am extremely opposed to the proposed dividing up of the Rochdale Village Cooperative Complex.. I have lived here for forty-nine years. I have raised my children here as a single mom for 30 years. It took the entire village to have programs and activities that enabled me to work and provide a quality of life that enabled my children to become successful productive citizens. There are many cooperators who share my story. The people of Rochdale are united in ONE Rochdale Village Cooperative. This proposed division will divide and undermine the efforts of our community in providing programs for both the young people and seniors like me who rely on our joint efforts. Rochdale presently provides the help to find and utilize programs that benefit its senior and young people. It took a village to produce the many young aspiring adults who have represented this community and been a beacon of light to aspire the young cooperatives growing up here in the future.. I am a retired Principal from the NYC Department of Education. Divide and conquer has been seen in many other communities where the quality of life, its culture, its creative incentives and the funding has all been changed for the worst. These communities and even schools lose their history and roots. This removes the wonderful accomplishment of those who came before us leaving our young people without legacies to aspire to. Please do the right thing and Leave Rochdale Village WHOLE and UNITED.

Sincerely your,

Priscilla Williams McDougal

August 21, 2022

Sent via E-Mail: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

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

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

My name is Andrea Williams, and I am a resident of the 31 community. My neighborhood rests within the 31st 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 reunified JFK Airport and kept 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 31st district will remain contiguous and ensure our voices are not diminished.

This district was created in the 1990s to give a voice to what has historically been marginalized communities. Our communities are comprised largely of homeowners, as well as five NYCHA developments that work collectively in the interests of a safer, cleaner community. Several of the NYCHA developments in Rockaway are a part of a consolidation, including the Hammels Houses and Carlton Manor, and Beach 41st Street and Ocean Side NYCHA Houses, respectively. This consolidation is a cost saving mechanism for the NYCHA, and having once Council Member represent the interests of our residents is critical in seeing results.

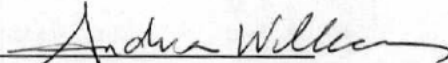
Whether it be around schools, property taxes, environmental justice, transportation and healthcare access, from the mainland to the Peninsula, we have banded together on many occasions to win greater representation changing our district could heavily diminish our voice in a time we are beginning to realize progress.

We are a coastal community that enjoy the beautiful Rockaway Beach and Jamaica Bay. 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. It also impacts our quality of life most directly. It makes the most sense to restore the entire airport within the 31st district.

In summary, I implore the NYC Districting Commission to keep adopt <https://districtr.org/plan/138582> as the lines for the 31st Council District. We should not disrupt communities that have historically been united.

Sincerely,

Andrea Williams 
(Signature)

Andrea Williams
(Name Printed)

Rockaway Beach Blvd.

(Address)

Far Rockaway, ny 11691
(City, State and Zip)

August 15, 2022

Sent via E-Mail: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

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

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

My name is BRIAN SMITH, and I am a resident of the EDGEMERE community. My neighborhood rests within the 31st 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 reunified JFK Airport and kept 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 31st district will remain contiguous and ensure our voices are not diminished.

This district was created in the 1990s to give a voice to what has historically been marginalized communities. Our communities are comprised largely of homeowners, as well as five NYCHA developments that work collectively in the interests of a safer, cleaner community. Several of the NYCHA developments in Rockaway are a part of a consolidation, including the Hammels Houses and Carlton Manor, and Beach 41st Street and Ocean Side NYCHA Houses, respectively. This consolidation is a cost saving mechanism for the NYCHA, and having once Council Member represent the interests of our residents is critical in seeing results.

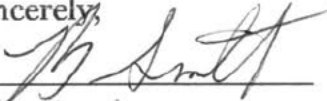
Whether it be around schools, property taxes, environmental justice, transportation and healthcare access, from the mainland to the Peninsula, we have banded together on many occasions to win greater representation changing our district could heavily diminish our voice in a time we are beginning to realize progress.

We are a coastal community that enjoy the beautiful Rockaway Beach and Jamaica Bay. 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. It also impacts our quality of life most directly. It makes the most sense to restore the entire airport within the 31st district.

In summary, I implore the NYC Districting Commission to keep adopt <https://district1.org/plan/138582> as the lines for the 31st Council District. We should not disrupt communities that have historically been united.

Sincerely,


(Signature)

Brian Smith
(Name Printed)

 Beach 37th St Edgemere N.Y. 11691
(Address)

(City, State and Zip)

Edgemere N.Y. 11691

[REDACTED]

From: Crystal Brown <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 6:58 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Selvena Brooks-Powers City Council Member, Dist 31
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting Testimony - NYC Council District 31

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To: Commissioner Walcott and Members of the Districting Commission,

Greetings and Good evening.

My name is Crystal Brown. Since 1987, I have owned my home located at 1 [REDACTED] 230th Place in the Brookville neighborhood in District 31.

Involved in civic affairs for many years, I serve as 1st Vice President of the Springfield/Rosedale Community Action Association, Inc., the civic organization representing over 5,000 families in the Brookville area since 1989.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony, which I offer out of a strong conviction that District 31 must be kept in tact to represent the communities of Arverne, Arverne by the Sea, Brookville, Edgemere, Far Rockaway, JFK International Airport, Rosedale, and Springfield Gardens.

Since the 1980's these diverse communities have historically worked together, with the continuity of representation, to improve our mutually beneficial quality of life and meet dire challenges, including superstorm Sandy and the Covid-19 pandemic. The preservation of the district must be of paramount importance.

Changing the district lines would terribly undermine the character and fabric of our communities and the historic power of our collective voice.

I strongly urge the District Commission to draw a map that respects the many factors that have made District 31 so unique: the cohesiveness of our communities with its many shared interests and contiguous borders.

And I strongly urge the District Commission to adopt the version of the district map supported by our Honorable Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers that will keep the entirety of District 31, completely restoring JFK International Airport and maintaining Springfield Gardens.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal Brown

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Deborah Paradise [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 9:42 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redrawn Council District Map for District 26

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 as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

My name is Deborah Paradise and I am a resident of District 26 living at [REDACTED] 47th Avenue, Sunnyside NY. I am writing to you because I have seen the proposed maps for the new District 26 area and I am concerned with the way the district has been redrawn. District 26, which has historically been a Queens district and has kept Sunnyside and Woodside together, now has separated Sunnyside and Woodside and instead incorporates areas outside of Queens, including Roosevelt Island and parts of Manhattan. The communities of Sunnyside and Woodside have been connected over a host of social and economic issues that are not shared by these new areas outside of Queens. By adding these Manhattan areas to the new district, the needs and voices of Sunnyside and Queens's residents will be diluted. Additionally, by separating Sunnyside and Woodside, again our voices become divided and diluted. I am writing to express a hope that the city will reject the new map for District 26 and will once again combine Sunnyside and Woodside in District 26 and remove Manhattan and other non-Queens areas from our district map.

Sincerely,

Deborah Paradise

August 15, 2022

Sent via E-Mail: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

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

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

My name is Folami Saunders, and I am a resident of the Edgemere community. My neighborhood rests within the 31st 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 reunified JFK Airport and kept 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 31st district will remain contiguous and ensure our voices are not diminished.

This district was created in the 1990s to give a voice to what has historically been marginalized communities. Our communities are comprised largely of homeowners, as well as five NYCHA developments that work collectively in the interests of a safer, cleaner community. Several of the NYCHA developments in Rockaway are a part of a consolidation, including the Hammels Houses and Carlton Manor, and Beach 41st Street and Ocean Side NYCHA Houses, respectively. This consolidation is a cost saving mechanism for the NYCHA, and having once Council Member represent the interests of our residents is critical in seeing results.

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.

We are a coastal community that enjoy the beautiful Rockaway Beach and Jamaica Bay. 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. It also impacts our quality of life most directly. It makes the most sense to restore the entire airport within the 31st district.

In summary, I implore the NYC Districting Commission to keep adopt <https://districtr.org/plan/138582> as the lines for the 31st Council District. We should not disrupt communities that have historically been united.

Sincerely,

__Folami Saunders _____
(Signature)

____Folami Saunders _____
(Name Printed)

____Folami Saunders _____
(Address)

____ Beach Channel Drive Far Rockaway, NY 11691 _____
(City, State and Zip)

August 15, 2022

Sent via E-Mail: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

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

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

My name is Gael Adams, and I am a resident of the Rosedale community. My neighborhood rests within the 31st 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 31st 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

Councilmanic district – the 31st Council District. It impacts our quality of life most directly. It makes the most sense to restore the entire airport within the 31st district.

Understanding some of the changes that were made ten years ago, it is also worth while to call on the Commission to return the Stop and Shop center and Motebellier Park in Springfield Gardens to the 31st Council District. Considered a food dessert, by including these two assets into the 31st Council district it would not impact the population number, but it will add much needed park space and offer a seat at the table when we have conversations surrounding health and access to quality food.

In summary, I implore the NYC Districting Commission to keep adopt <https://districtr.org/plan/138582> as the lines for the 31st Council District. We should not disrupt communities that have historically been united.

Sincerely



(Signature)

Gini Adams

(Name Printed)



148 Road

(Address)

Rosedale NY 11422

(City, State, Zip)

August 15, 2022

Sent via E-Mail: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

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

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

My name is GARRY WRIGHT, and I am a resident of the 31ST DISTRICT community. My neighborhood rests within the 31st 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 31st 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.

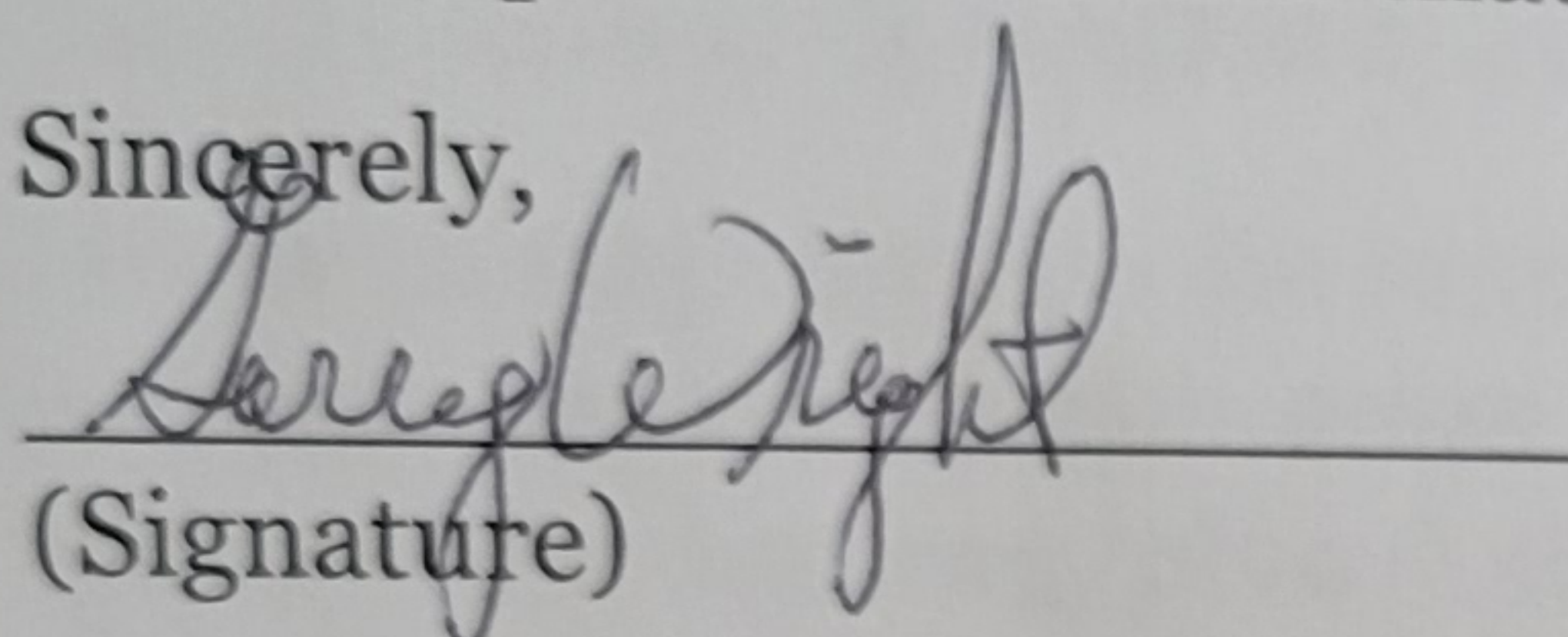
Additionally, the JFK International Airport is a major regional economic engine for this district, and I am pleased the Preliminary map will reunify this asset back under one

Councilmanic district – the 31st Council District. It impacts our quality of life most directly. It makes the most sense to restore the entire airport within the 31st district.

Understanding some of the changes that were made ten years ago, it is also worth while to call on the Commission to return the Stop and Shop center and Motebellier Park in Springfield Gardens to the 31st Council District. Considered a food dessert, by including these two assets into the 31st Council district it would not impact the population number, but it will add much needed park space and offer a seat at the table when we have conversations surrounding health and access to quality food.

In summary, I implore the NYC Districting Commission to keep adopt <https://districtr.org/plan/138582> as the lines for the 31st Council District. We should not disrupt communities that have historically been united.

Sincerely,


(Signature)

GARRY WRIGHT
(Name Printed)

140-15 157th ST.
(Address)

JAMAICA, N.Y. 11434
(City, State, Zip)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 10:44 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Protest and Request

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From: Yaakov Meltzer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 8:03:47 PM
To: NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>; Wice, Jeffrey [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Protest and Request

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Dear Redistricting Commission,

My name is Jeffrey Meltzer, and I am a member of the Central Queens Jewish community. This testimony is in protest of your disregard of communities of interest. You have literally cut Hillcrest out of the district. You have synagogues in one district and members of said synagogues in another. And they're only a block or 2 apart. Also, you cut out the Flushing on The Hill and Cedar Grove communities between the Long Island Expressway and the Cemetery in the most Northeast part of our district. Neighborhoods that are communities of interest along with Kew Gardens Hills.

I ask that you put both these neighborhoods back within the 24 Council District. Here's a link of the 24,23,19 and 20th Council Districts redrawn. <https://distrctr.org/plan/136855> This proposal allows for populations to meet your threshold of 5% and doesn't split communities of interest. Please take this map into account especially for the 24th Council District (in blue).

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Meltzer

[REDACTED]

From: Jennifer Robinson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 6:17 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City council redistricting in Western Queens

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The following is my public testimony on the 2022 proposed city council district maps.

I believe that the only interest group kept together by the proposed District 26 lines is the real estate industry.

The proposed district would not serve residents of Manhattan well; there are 20 outstanding ULURPS within the proposed D26, and 17 of those are in Manhattan — yet Manhattan voters would be a minority in the new district.

More critically, the proposed D26 would not serve the residents of Queens at all. The district would see reductions in the percent of AAPI, Black and Latin residents while becoming plurality white — at a time when the AAPI population in Long Island City is growing rapidly, as The NY Times has reported. Cutting off The Queensbridge community from its neighbor LIC would take away its voice in development of all the areas most immediate to it, in Queens Plaza as well as LIC. And Hispanic areas of south Sunnyside would lose their connection with areas to the north.

For all these reasons, I urge the commission to keep D26 lines encompassing a diverse, Queens-only constituency.

Thank you.

Jennifer Robinson
[REDACTED] 21st Street, 15B
Astoria, NY 11106

Have a great day [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Jessica Cardenas [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 5:40 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Woodside Queens District 26. No rezoning

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 as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

Good evening everyone,

My name is Jessica Cardenas.

I am representing Woodside Queens district 26. I was born and raised at Woodside Queens and currently reside there for 42 years. This has been my home not only to me but generations of hardworking men and women like myself from the Latin community. Many of my neighbors that reside here have lived and settled here for decades and have been informed of a now changing grid. They are elders who have established a home which has brought comfort, familiarity and life lasting bonds. What will happen to them? Where will they relocate if the grid is changed? As of right now, many of the immigrants especially in the Latin communities have not been aware of the change and are wondering what will happen to them. It seems no one reached out to the community to translate, especially in the Latin community. I understand during 2020 many people in the community didn't complete the census and that was due to the COVID pandemic. The community was going through many emotional, physical and mental hurt with family loss, loss of homes, jobs and healing from the COVID. The new grid with district 26 doesn't show much diversity as the immigrants are moved away from district 26.

I Am against the rezoning of district 26. I have done research on the plans that Innovation Queens Project have for our district and I know that we, the community, have requested a hospital. I've also been doing my research on the new buildings that innovation queens project will be installing in this district and there is no hospital noted in the new plan I believe that rezoning in District and adding parts of Manhattan to our district is a Way to give the people of district 26 access to the hospitals and the parts of Manhattan that will now become district 26. I believe that for innovation queens project to withhold their promise to the community members of presenting as in a hospital would be insufficient in that way because it would just be us using a hospital that belong to another district instead of innovation queens project with hold in their promise and create in a hospital in their new plan for the people in the community of district 26. I think that to withhold the plans that innovation queen said they have, they should follow through with their promise to the people in the community and give us an adequate hospital within the new structure that they're going to build instead of having us use the hospital that belongs to another district. I am against the rezoning.

Also Don't use rezoning to cop out on your promises to the people of the community.

Thank you

Jessica Cardenas

Sent from my iPhone

August 15, 2022

Sent via E-Mail: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

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

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

My name is Margaret Hunter, and I am a resident of the Springfield community. My neighborhood rests within the 31st 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 31st 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

Councilmanic district – the 31st Council District. It impacts our quality of life most directly. It makes the most sense to restore the entire airport within the 31st district.

Understanding some of the changes that were made ten years ago, it is also worth while to call on the Commission to return the Stop and Shop center and Motebellier Park in Springfield Gardens to the 31st Council District. Considered a food dessert, by including these two assets into the 31st Council district it would not impact the population number, but it will add much needed park space and offer a seat at the table when we have conversations surrounding health and access to quality food.

In summary, I implore the NYC Districting Commission to keep adopt <https://districtr.org/plan/138582> as the lines for the 31st Council District. We should not disrupt communities that have historically been united.

Sincerely,

Margaret Hunte
(Signature)

Margaret Hunte
(Name Printed)

[REDACTED] 1516 STREET
(Address)

Springfield Gardens, NY 11434
(City, State, Zip)

DeCillis, Michael

From: MICHAEL FEINER <mfeiner555@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 2:58 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Important Redistricting Demand

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Dear Commissioners,

We, the Bayside Hills Civic Association, write to urge you to please maintain Bayside Hills under one New York City Council district. Bayside Hills is a small, distinct community located in the southern portion of Bayside, Queens and is currently solely encompassed within Council District 23.

Our civic comprises 1,200 households, mostly residing in single-family homes and characterized by our street malls and abundant public green space, and located between the 211th Street to the west, Springfield Boulevard to the east, north of the Horace Harding Expressway, and south of 48th Avenue. This area has traditionally been represented within the 23rd Council District, however your most recent draft maps propose to divide our community in two and split us between the 23rd and 19th Council Districts.

It is essential to our community that Bayside Hills remain represented by one Council Member. Issues that arise within our small-knit community are often local and the Bayside Hills Civic Association has traditionally played a central role in solving these issues and upholding the quality of life in our area.

For decades, we have been able to go to one Council Member when issues arise that require a response from government agencies. Splitting our community between two Council Districts would make coordination of services more difficult, as one neighbor would have to contact one office for a problem, while another neighbor would have to contact another.

It would also create a divide within our Civic Association according to which members live in which districts. The proposed new lines for Bayside Hills cuts west of 214th Street and north of 53rd Avenue out of Council District 23. If the Commission decides to move forward with the current proposed map, you will literally be doing the opposite of keeping neighborhoods and communities intact.

Restoring Bayside Hills entirely to Council District 23 will keep the district compact and avoid an oddly shaped district. Respectfully, we urge you not to divide our community, and urge you to keep Bayside Hills wholly in Council District 23— — — **Michael Feiner - President**

Bayside Hills Civic Association
baysidehillscivic@gmail.com



facebook.com/baysidehills

www.baysidehills.info

Testimony NYC Council Redistricting
Milly Wong 8-21-22

Greetings, Members of the Independent Redistricting Commission.

My name is Milly Wong, and I represent Elmhurst United, a group that was formed in 2014 with all its members living in the south side of Queens Boulevard.

It was disappointing that the little Elmhurst Triangle located on the south-side of Queens Boulevard in Elmhurst was not remapped with Maspeth.

This area consists of predominately working class homeowners who live in private two and three family homes. Physical barriers protected this quiet oasis against the more hustle and bustle on the North side. We are asking that you reconsider your decision and allow the area south of Queens Boulevard (aka the Elmhurst Triangle) to be redrawn to be included with Maspeth (Council District 30).

As Queens Boulevard is re-zoned to allow for taller and larger structures, it has changed the landscape and constituency to be more like what we see in Jackson Heights and other larger towns. Developers have overbuilt on Queens Boulevard and are now eyeing the little Elmhurst Triangle area. We're seeing beautifully kept owner-occupied homes bought up by developers and having them converted to multiple family absentee landlord buildings. These new structures destroy the scale and context of the community. Where there were once neatly preserved with similar architectural designed homes, we have newly built ugly eyesores that jut out against the once neat and uniform streets. Long time residents are moving out of the area, allowing developers to infiltrate with little resistance. These changes destabilize a community.

Some of you may remember Eddie Murphy's "Coming to America" movie. It was shot right by where I live in Elmhurst, on Queens Blvd. A few months ago, I was watching it again, and sadly, since that movie was shot, all the one story buildings we saw in the movie around the old Elmhurst Wendy's, including Wendy's, are gone. In its place are huge buildings without any green-space, open-space, or character. Just concrete and steel structures, all built from lot-line to lot-line.

I've heard of comments about keeping the Asian community together with the belief that there may be stronger unified political representation. My neighbors and I are not so naïve to vote for someone based on race. We vote based on character, experience, merit and where they stand on issues that are important to us. The decision on how diverse communities are merged or separated should not primarily be based on race, but rather on how a local community may benefit from a local elected representative that share their interests and values.

For many years, our elected representatives focused their attention on constituents on the North side of Queens Boulevard. This constituency is very similar to the constituency of Jackson Heights. The different needs are so great that many interest and needs that affect our lives are in direct conflict with residents living on the North Side. Our concerns are muted against the more populous and louder voices of these communities.

We need representation from our elected officials that are aligned with our interests..We have very different views on policing and public safety, and on what should be prioritized in the City Budget. Splitting the small area of the Elmhurst Triangle from District 25 will not dilute the Asian vote. It would help protect what is left of a community that consists of homeowner occupied private homes. It will also let the needs of our community be heard and support given to preserve this very essential group.

I could go on and on, but in the interest of time, and with consideration to the other speakers, I just want to conclude with – Elmhurst residents on the south side of Queens Boulevard would be better served if it is aligned with Maspeth and Council District 30.

[REDACTED]

From: miriamlgreenberg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 5:49 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerned

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Dear Redistricting commission- I am a member of the central queens Jewish community. This testimony is in protest of your disregard of communities of interest. The proposed redistricting of city council district 24 creates lines dividing long established communities. The lines have synagogues in one district with many of the synagogue members in another, even if their homes are within two blocks . Of great concern is that the entire community of Hillcrest, and key parts of Utopia and Fresh Meadows that have been cut out of the district. Removing these neighborhoods from the district hurts communities of interest . Please reconsider the current map and ensure that these neighborhoods are kept within the 24th city council district. Sincerely, M. Greenberg

Sent from my iPhone

August 15, 2022

Sent via E-Mail: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

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

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

My name is Alga Hunds, and I am a resident of the Springfield community. My neighborhood rests within the 31st 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 31st 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

Councilmanic district – the 31st Council District. It impacts our quality of life most directly. It makes the most sense to restore the entire airport within the 31st district.

Understanding some of the changes that were made ten years ago, it is also worth while to call on the Commission to return the Stop and Shop center and Motebellier Park in Springfield Gardens to the 31st Council District. Considered a food dessert, by including these two assets into the 31st Council district it would not impact the population number, but it will add much needed park space and offer a seat at the table when we have conversations surrounding health and access to quality food.

In summary, I implore the NYC Districting Commission to keep adopt <https://districtr.org/plan/138582> as the lines for the 31st Council District. We should not disrupt communities that have historically been united.

Sincerely,

Olga Wicks
(Signature)

Olga Wicks
(Name Printed)

[REDACTED] 1574 STREET
(Address)

Springfield Gardens, NY 11434
(City, State, Zip)

Name: Sally Wong

Testimony Date: August 21, 2022

Request: Re-district Elmhurst South in Queens from Council District 25 to Council District 30

My name is Sally Wong and I have lived in Elmhurst South, Queens, for most of my life with deep rooted ties to family, friends and my community. I was disappointed with the preliminary maps released on July 15th and I am here today to respectfully request for the Committee to reconsider districting my area of Elmhurst South from City Council District 25 to 30. The referenced area is the south side of Queens Boulevard from Kneeland Street down to Woodhaven Boulevard.

In 2010, Elmhurst South was redistricted to the 25th Council District. The priorities, population and composition of District 25 are vastly different to the Elmhurst South neighborhood, in economic, social, political ideology, zoning and residential configuration. This change had the unintended consequence of abandoning the needs and interest of my community.

City services are designed to fit the needs of communities as a unified Council district. The priorities of District 25 are immigration, high rise apartment development, expanding Open Streets and bike lanes. Whereas, the majority of Elmhurst South residents own their homes and share the same needs and concerns of lowering property taxes, maintaining water rates, increasing senior housing and services and addressing the growing threat of rising flood waters.

Last September, Hurricane Ida devastated many home owners in this area where basements were flooded with over five feet of water causing significant property damage and infrastructure issues. However, little to no attention or outreach was given to this neighborhood. Nearly a year later, we see no mitigation efforts, safeguarding initiatives or infrastructure studies to prevent future flooding disasters. This is just one example of the neglect Elmhurst South residents experience from their representative.

Our neighboring area of Middle Village and Maspeth in Council District 30 more closely aligns with our issues, values and community interest and needs. Elmhurst South would be best served by inclusion into the 30th Council District. We would be able to access critical resources, obtain assistance for problems confronting our neighborhood and have a unified voice to address the evolving needs of the community.

We elect officials who best serve the needs and interest of the community. So it is important that voters have a choice of candidates who represent our values and advocates for the municipal services that benefit the district. I have heard past testimony regarding concerns of diluting the Asian vote by redistricting parts of Elmhurst. Redistricting Elmhurst South will not dilute the Asian voting power in District 25. I have included Attachment A in my testimony with data sourced from the 2020 Census which shows the Asian representation in District 25 will decrease from 44.1% to 42.6% if Elmhurst South was redistricted to the 30th Council District.

Many of us strive to maintain as well as improve our community's quality of life. It should not be an uphill battle to obtain support and resources from our representatives. Rather, it should be a collaborative relationship which stems from shared priorities and goals. Residents of Elmhurst South would be better served with Council representation in District 30 and we urge the Committee to make this change. I have included Attachment B in my testimony of a map outlining the referenced sector for redistricting.

It was a privilege to be able to speak here today and I thank you all for your time and consideration of my request.

Testimony Sally Wong 8.21.2022

ATTACHMENT A

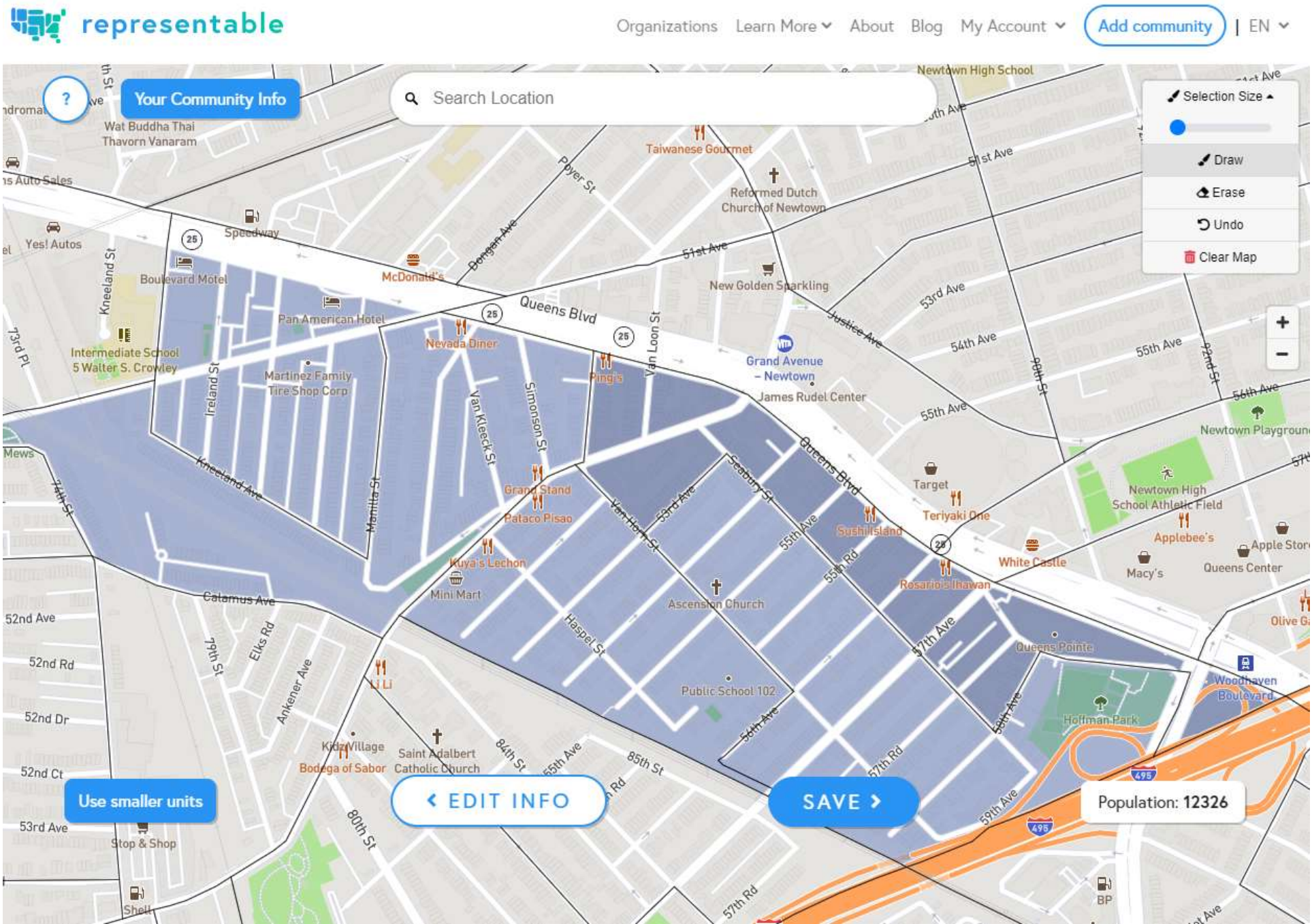
Population by Race Percentage Change

Re-districting Sector 475 & 479 from Council District 25 to Council District 30

2020

Name														
	Total population		Hispanic/Latino (of any		White non-Hispanic		Black non-Hispanic		Asian non-Hispanic		Some other race, non-		Non-Hispanic of two	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	Pop_20	Pop_20P	Hsp_20	Hsp_20P	WNH_20	WNH_20P	BNH_20	BNH_20P	ANH_20	ANH_20P	ONH_20	ONH_20P	NH2pl_20	NH2pl_20P
City Council District 25	171,118	100.0	71,043	41.5	17,330	10.1	2,813	1.6	75,522	44.1	1,648	1.0	2,762	1.6
Sector 479 Manilla	(6,837)		(1,472)		(497)		(356)		(4,379)		(33)		(100)	
Sector 475 57 Ave	(5,489)		(1,442)		(344)		(59)		(3,544)		(31)		(69)	
	<u>158,792</u>		<u>68,129</u>	42.9%	<u>16,489</u>	10.4%	<u>2,398</u>	1.5%	<u>67,599</u>	42.6%	<u>1,584</u>	1.0%	<u>2,593</u>	1.6%

Source: 2020 U.S. Census Data



[REDACTED]

From: SOLOMON STEIMAN [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 8:56 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Redistricting

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Dear Redistricting Commission,

My name is Solomon Steiman. I am a member of the Central Queens Jewish community. This testimony is in protest of your egregious disregard of communities of interest. The proposed redistricting of City Council District 24 creates lines dividing long established communities. The lines have synagogues in one district, with many of the synagogues' members in another, even as their homes are within two blocks, thus dividing longstanding cultural communities. Of great concern is that the entire community of Hillcrest, and key parts of Utopia and Fresh Meadows that have been cut out of the district, as have the Flushing On the Hill and Cedar Grove communities by the Long Island Expressway, near Mt. Hebron Cemetery in the most northeast part of the current district. Removing these neighborhoods from the District hurts communities of interest.

I implore the Commission to reconsider the current map and ensure that these neighborhoods are kept within the 24th City Council District.

Sincerely,

Solomon Steiman

[REDACTED]

From: Daniel Goldschmiedt [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 9:39 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Objection to current redistricting plan for Queens City Council District 24

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Dear Redistricting Commission:

I am Daniel Goldschmiedt, a member of the Central Queens Jewish Community. I am writing to protest the current redistricting lines of Queens City Council District 24 that divides long established communities. The currently proposed lines divide tightly knit and long established communities. As an example, the community of Hillcrest and key sections of Utopia and Fresh Meadows have been cut out of what was previously a unified district. Removing these and other sections of the adjacent neighborhoods of Flushing on the Hill and Cedar Grove hurts a previously unified community.

I respectfully request that you reconsider the current map and ensure that these neighborhoods are kept within City Council District 24. Thank you.

--

Daniel Goldschmiedt

August 22, 2022

Dear New York City Redistricting Commission,

Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to comment on the redistricting maps proposed by the Commission on July 15, 2022.

Attached is the link to maps (<https://districtr.org/plan/137797>) which reflect how I want our community to be redistricted. It also matches the maps submitted by the Queens Civic Congress who are advocating for our identical position while thoughtfully balancing the districts adjacent to ours, throughout the Borough of Queens, and the entire City.

As a long-time resident of District 31, the only change I want is to include all of JFK Airport in the district. My rationale for this is threefold. First, JFK was previously a part of District 31 so this change would simply correct an error from the last redistricting cycle. Second, the communities of Rosedale, Brookville, Laurelton, Springfield Gardens, and Arverne, currently a part of the district, are directly in the airport flight path. Lastly, JFK is currently represented by one Congressional, State Senate and Assembly Member so there is simply no need for two Council Members to retain the airport in their districts. Consolidating JFK under one district umbrella not only makes the most sense, but it will also make it easier to address current and future concerns.

The rest of District 31 should remain intact because of the shared characteristics (e.g., race, political party, geography, and type of home ownership) in each community. See the evidence below to support this statement.

Rosedale, Laurelton, Brookville, and our portion of Springfield Gardens are contiguous. Our communities are Black, and our residents are registered Democrats who are single and two-family homeowners. Our communities are fighting the same battles which include improving education, ensuring access to healthcare, protecting the environment, tackling airport noise, dealing with flooding, creating jobs, and keeping our neighborhoods safe. For decades, the district's civic associations (e.g., Eastern Queens Alliance, Inc., Rosedale Civic Association, Inc., Federated Blocks of Laurelton, Concerned Citizens of Laurelton, Springfield/Rosedale Community Action Association, Inc., Spring-Gar Civic Association, Inc., and Springfield Gardens Taxpayers and Citizens Association) have worked closely together with all levels of government to address these issues and drive the changes needed. We have also launched special task forces (e.g., 116th Precinct Community Task Force, Southeastern Queens Zoning Preservation Task Force, and the Queens Community Task Force Against Illegal Truck Parking) to fight for the new precinct and to focus on the most important "quality of life" issues in our community.

The Rockaways and Arverne by the Sea communities should also remain intact and within District 31 because their demographics are like those in the district's "mainland" communities. For example, the Rockaways' portion of our district is made up of primarily Black Democrats who own single or two-family homes. Any changes here would split the Democratic vote, disrupt the political dynamics, and adversely impact the interests and desires of our residents.

Therefore, to preserve and continually advance the common interests and concerns of the residents in District 31, I petition the Commission to keep our district intact with the only exception being to include all of JFK Airport that will restore the continuity which previously existed.

Thank you again for receiving my comments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gloria Boyce-Charles
Community Advocate
Resident of Springfield Gardens since 1975

[REDACTED]

From: ron schlanger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 7:54 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Changes to the 24th City Council District

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Dear Commission Members,

My name is Myron Schlanger and I am a member of the Central Queens Jewish Community. This testimony concerns your proposed changes to the 24th District which ignores the needs of communities of interest. The proposal creates lines dividing long established communities. The lines have synagogues in one district while many of the synagogue members are in another, even though they are within two blocks of each other. Of great concern is that the entire community of Hillcrest and key parts of Utopia and Fresh Meadows have been cut out of the district. Also cut out are the Flushing On The Hill and Cedar Grove communities along the Long Island Expressway, near Mt. Hebron Cemetery in the most Northeastern part of the current district. Removing these neighborhoods hurts communities of interest.

I implore the Commission to reconsider the current proposed map and ensure that these neighborhoods are kept within the 24th City Council District.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Myron Schlanger
[REDACTED] 71st Avenue
Kew Gardens Hills, NY 11367

August 15, 2022

Sent via E-Mail: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

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

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

My name is PHYLLIS E. HARRIS, and I am a resident of the Far Rockaway community. My neighborhood rests within the 31st 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 31st 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

Councilmanic district – the 31st Council District. It impacts our quality of life most directly. It makes the most sense to restore the entire airport within the 31st district.

Understanding some of the changes that were made ten years ago, it is also worth while to call on the Commission to return the Stop and Shop center and Motebellier Park in Springfield Gardens to the 31st Council District. Considered a food dessert, by including these two assets into the 31st Council district it would not impact the population number, but it will add much needed park space and offer a seat at the table when we have conversations surrounding health and access to quality food.

In summary, I implore the NYC Districting Commission to keep adopt <https://districtr.org/plan/138582> as the lines for the 31st Council District. We should not disrupt communities that have historically been united.

Sincerely,

Phyllis E Harris
(Signature)

PHYLLIS-E. HARRIS
(Name Printed)

Point Breeze Place
(Address)

Far Rockaway, NY 11691
(City, State, Zip)

August 15, 2022

Sent via E-Mail: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

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

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

My name is Dave Boyce, and I am a resident of the Springfield Gardens community. My neighborhood rests within the 31st 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 31st 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.

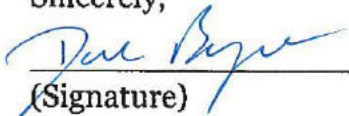
Additionally, the JFK International Airport is a major regional economic engine for this district, and I am pleased the Preliminary map will reunify this asset back under one

Councilmanic district – the 31st Council District. It impacts our quality of life most directly. It makes the most sense to restore the entire airport within the 31st district.


Understanding some of the changes that were made ten years ago, it is also worth while to call on the Commission to return the Stop and Shop center and Motebellier Park in Springfield Gardens to the 31st Council District. Considered a food dessert, by including these two assets into the 31st Council district it would not impact the population number, but it will add much needed park space and offer a seat at the table when we have conversations surrounding health and access to quality food.

In summary, I implore the NYC Districting Commission to keep adopt <https://districtr.org/plan/138582> as the lines for the 31st Council District. We should not disrupt communities that have historically been united.

Sincerely,


(Signature)

Dave Boyce
(Name Printed)

 222nd Street, Apt. 3
(Address)

Springfield Gardens, NY 11413
(City, State, Zip)

[REDACTED]

From: Denean Ferguson <[REDACTED]g>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 3:04 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NYC Council District 31 Districting Testimony

Importance: High

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Greetings, Chairman Walcott, & Districting Commission,

I am Denean Ferguson, a 34-year resident of the Rockaways and member of Arverne Church of God, Inc. (dba Church of God Christian Academy). I am a former 7-year Vice-President for the NYPD 101 Precinct Community Council, and their current Clergy Liaison and Community Partner.

I count it my civic duty and responsibility to offer my testimony to this Commission. As a minority female, this is literally an opportunity that comes at the cost of the blood of my ancestors. I purpose my testimony to be succinct.

The residents of Councilmanic District 31 are best served by keeping the 31st district together as it includes: Arverne, Arverne by the Sea, Brookville, Edgemere, Far Rockaway, JFK International Airport, Rosedale, and Springfield Gardens. This district is somewhat expansive, in that the towns comprising it are on a peninsula, then continue onto the "mainland." Nevertheless, with a horrid list of tragedies...most recent Superstorm Sandy and the COVID-19 Pandemic, the residents of this district remain resilient and unified. Strong and vibrant communities advocating for resources due to decades of neglect exist, and are emerging. Racial inclusion and equity are not mere buzz words, but the people of these communities are aligned in their demographic and urgent needs.

A proposal of exchanging Springfield Gardens for Ozone Park would disrupt the current alignment of NYC Council District 31. Springfield Gardens is contiguous to the district and bounded by several towns with mirrored interests. We reject having our voice, our power, demurred by the stroke of a pen! The best map proposed plan for District 31= <https://districtr.org/plan/138582>.

Chairman, and Commission members, please accept my heartfelt gratitude for your undertaking of this arduous task and your kind consideration of my testimony as you serve the people of the 31st Councilmanic District, and NYC at large. Godspeed!

Respectfully submitted,

Denean Ferguson
[REDACTED] Deerfield Rd.
Far Rockaway, NY 11691

[REDACTED]

From: George L Stamatiades <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 12:35 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting Testimony

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I'm against this plan as I don't think multi borough representation will serve either borough effectively. Each Community has its specific problems that needs the full attention of our representative. Multi borough responsibilities will make it very difficult for the representative and their staff in their service to the community. It will also lead to Questioning "why are they getting more attention than we are?" Thank You for the opportunity to respond.
George L. Stamatiades
Dutch Kills, Queens, NY.

August 23, 2022

The New York City Districting Commission

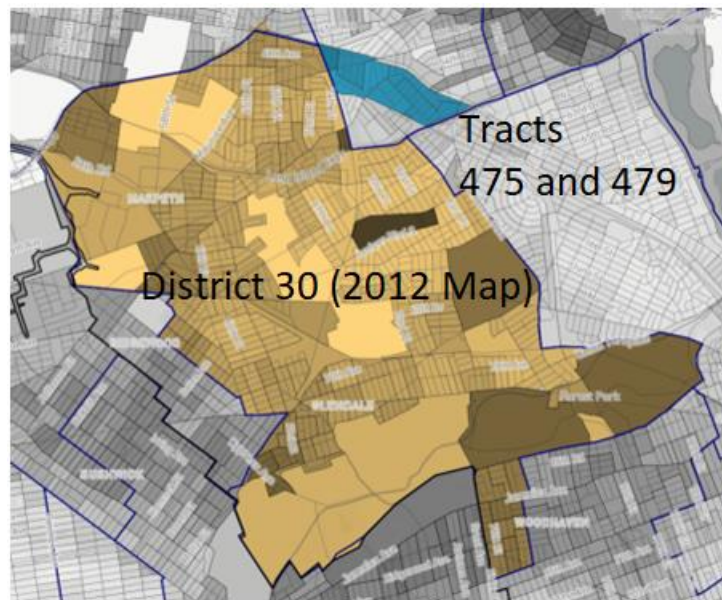
RE: Incorporation of US Census Tracts 475 and 479 to District 30 of Queens

Dear Redistricting Commission,

Please accept this revision to my previous petition to integrate and expand my neighborhood to include US census tracts 475 and 479 to City Council District 30 of Queens.

My community is made up of mostly single and two family homes, closely matching what is found in District 30 represented by mostly resident homeowners.

<https://districtr.org/plan/138957>



The area I suggest to incorporate with District 30 is made up of US Census tracts 475 and 479. Joining the 2012 district map of District 30, the integration of tracts 475 and 479 will decrease the ratio of White, non-Hispanic from 45.8 % down to 31.1% and Hispanic from 33.8% down to 28.3%. The Asian population in the district rises from 12% to 15.6% when adding these two tracts.

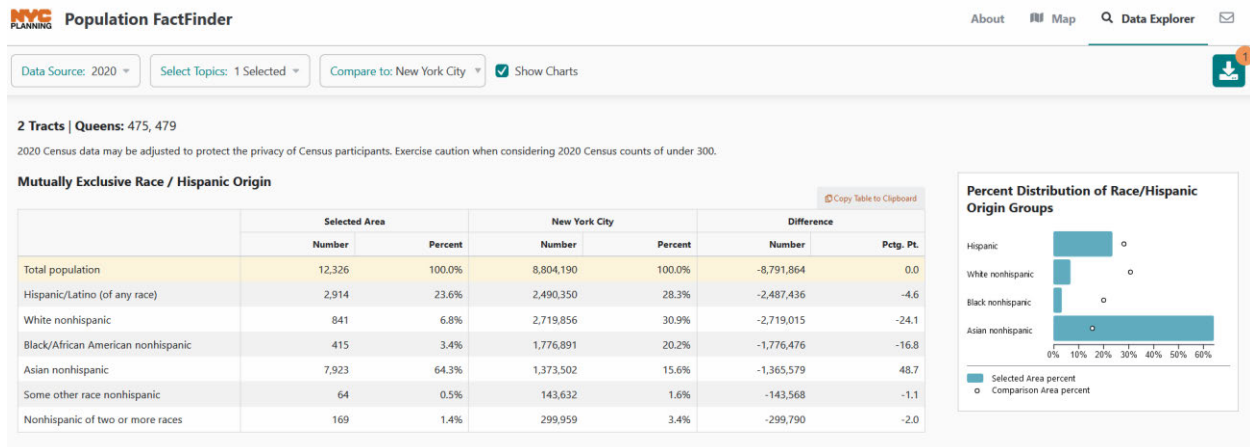
	Wh/Oth	Hispanic	Asian	
1	7.5%	27.8%	67.1%	Census Tracts 475 and 479 District 30 (2012 map)
2	45.8%	33.8%	12%	
3	0%	0%	0%	

The census numbers provided by the city through the 2 linked platforms, bring the race ratios of Whites, Hispanics and Asians more inline of the ratios overall in the city. 30.9%, 28.3% and 15.6% respectively.

51	0%	0%	0%
Overall	31.1%	28.3%	15.6%

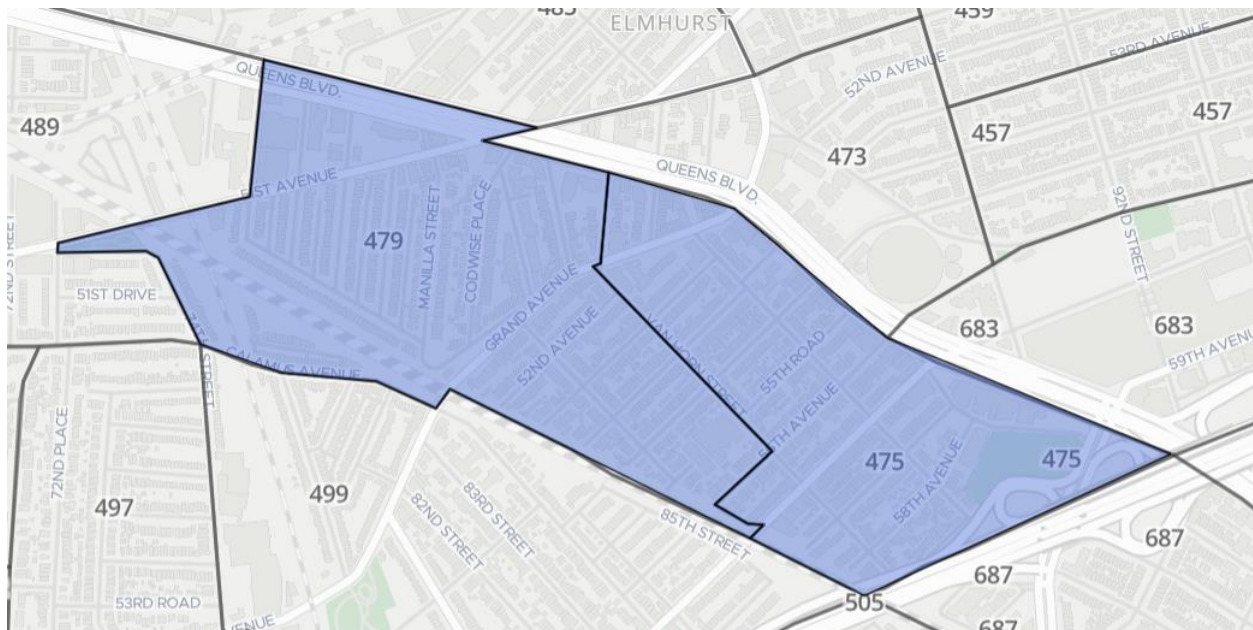
Incorporated District 30

The census numbers provided by the city through the 2 linked platforms, bring the race ratios of Whites, Hispanics and Asians more inline of the ratios overall in the city. 30.9%, 28.3% and 15.6% respectively.



<https://popfactfinder.planning.nyc.gov/explorer/selection/7697e57ef87465903b109340027e954495443482?censusTopics=mutuallyExclusiveRaceHispanicOrigin>

We are surrounded by these natural boundaries: From the current District 30 border on the west of tract 479, following the north border of the LIRR east to the LIE (Interstate 495) to the south side of Queens Blvd. back to the District 30 border.



We feel more bonded to this district. My family and neighbors do their grocery shopping at the local Stop and Shop as well as provide for other needs at Home Depot in Maspeth, BJ's in Middle Village and Atlas Park in Glendale. My family and I have doctors and dentists in these neighborhoods. Juniper Park is our destination for summer events and exercise which all makes us feel a part of the culture. Some in our community take their kids to Juniper Park for organized sports.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,
John Schaffer
Elmhurst United

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Tzerel [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 8:51 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting issues.

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Dear Redistricting Commission:

My name is Cecelia Goldschmiedt, a member of the Central Queens Jewish Community. I am writing to protest the current redistricting lines of Queens City Council District 24 that divides long established communities. The currently proposed lines divide tightly knit and long established communities. As an example, the community of Hillcrest and key sections of Utopia and Fresh Meadows have been cut out of what was previously a unified district. Removing these and other sections of the adjacent neighborhoods of Flushing on the Hill and Cedar Grove hurts a previously unified community.

I respectfully request that you reconsider the current map and ensure that these neighborhoods are kept within City Council District 24. Thank you.

-- Cecelia Goldschmiedt

This testimony concerns district 25 Elmhurst and district 30 Maspeth of Queens.

My name is Linda Lam and I am a homeowner and resident of Seabury Street of Elmhurst, on the south side of Queens Boulevard. I am also a board member of the Newtown Senior Center, Vice President of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater New York (CACAGNY), and a block captain of the civic organization Citizens of Maspeth and Elmhurst Together (COMET). I've been a resident and homeowner on the same street for 48 years.

The affected area is about 20 plus streets, with Kneeland Street on the West, Queens Blvd on the North, Woodhaven on the east and the Long Island train track on the South. (Please see attached map area marked in blue.) This small area is currently included under city council district 25 Elmhurst. Before 2014 this area was included in district 29, Rego Park.

These 20 plus streets are zoned R4B, made up of mostly 1- 2 family homes and is compatible to the neighborhood of Maspeth. We go shopping, our children go to schools, and we go playing, picnicking and have our little league games at Juniper Valley Park, all on the south side of Queens Boulevard. The north side of Queens Boulevard, which comprised of most of district 25, is made up mostly of apartment buildings and shops, and have seen many large apartment complex being added steadily in the past few years. The needs of what are mostly rental apartment dwellers and small businesses are very different from me and my neighbors on the south side of the Queens Boulevard.

Because of the difference of the zoning characteristics, the focus of constituent services naturally are different for my areas and the residents and the business owners of the north side of Queens Blvd. For me and many of my neighbors, over the years we learned that in order to get the constituents' services that we need, we usually have to go to the neighboring district 30 because our needs are mostly not met by our own district. These include constituent service such as workshops and services to help with property assessment, issues with sidewalk violations, illegal commercial parking on residential areas, flooded basement, stolen catalytic car converter, seniors' transportation and health assessments, and assistance for seniors with snow removals etc. We understand that each district office is only allowed a limited budget and they cannot provide

everything for all the constituents and each office have to pick and choose and spend the budget on what matter most to the majority of its constituents or their most pressing needs.

My neighbors and the seniors in our areas strongly believe that it's only fair that our area be put together with a district with constituents services matching our needs. After all, every 3 year our property taxes are up 15% and we paid our taxes diligently and it is hard to fathom we have to go search for services outside our district. We were extremely disappointed that our request for redistricting in the May hearing was not reflected in the most updated redistricting map.

In the last hearing, I heard people mention that Elmhurst should be kept whole because by making any changes, it might affect the makeup of racial groups and dilute their local representation. Elmhurst's population, as of the last census, is made up of 41.5 % Hispanics, 44% Asians and 10% whites. Our proposal, which aligns with the Queens Civic Congress's proposal of moving these 20 plus streets to district 30 will have a neglectable impact of changing any racial groups distribution, it would be a mere change of +1.4% for the Hispanics and -1.8% for the Asians and will not have any electoral or political impact on these groups.

I urge the commission to consider our request of redistricting these 20 plus streets to district 30 so we will be in the district that has the common interest as ours, same housing stocks, and same emphasis of the type of constituents' services. Our seniors, members, neighbors and my family deserved to receive the much needed constituent services and we will be best served under district 30. We long for the days that we will not have to wait at the end of the line when unclaimed slots are available for non-district residents. When we ask for services, our voice can be louder and we do not have to say "I'm sorry I'm not from your district but I would like to have services from your office!"

Thank you very much on behalf of my family, my neighbors and the seniors in the affected areas!

To: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

August 22nd, 2022

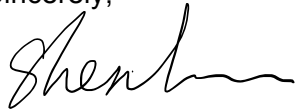
Dear Commissioners,

My name is Jun Shen and I am the President of Shanghai Association in USA, an organization representing ethnic Shanghainese in New York City and in the United States. We, the members and leadership of Shanghai Association in USA, write to express concern with the draft maps you have proposed, which would divide our members living in Bayside Hills and Oakland Gardens between Council Districts 19 and 23 and dilute the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community's political voice. We instead urge that you maintain the District lines as currently drawn or consider expanding District 23 north to Northern Boulevard, a well-recognized and understood boundary line.

The neighborhoods of Bayside and Bayside Hills have experienced a significant increase in the proportion of Asian American residents over the last decade. Across Queens, the 29% growth of the AAPI community in Queens since 2010 contributed partly to the election of a historic number of AAPI Council Members in 2021. Due to our increased representation locally, District 23, a majority-minority district, elected the first Korean-American, first person of color, and the first woman to represent it last year. However, the proposed Draft Map transfers residents west of 214th Street and north of 53rd Avenue, a population that is 60% AAPI, to District 19, a majority-White district, thereby effectively diluting the political voice of these minority communities.

The goal of redistricting is to keep communities intact and ensure they are adequately represented by their elected officials. Given the increases in the AAPI population in Northeast Queens in recent years, as seen through census data and our increased representation at all levels of government, it is critical that you not divide AAPI communities but rather ensure that our voices are empowered. We ask that you restore District 23 to its current lines and consider expanding District 23 to Northern Boulevard to include neighboring majority-AAPI areas into a plurality-AAPI district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shen' followed by a stylized flourish.

Jun Shen

President of Shanghai Association in USA, Inc (美國上海同鄉會)

Statement from Phil Wong Regarding Redistricting a Small Section of Elmhurst from the Existing D25 into D30

August 26, 2022

**Chairman Dennis Walcott, and Fellow Commissioners of the NYC
Districting Commission:**

My name is Phil Wong, I am a resident of Elmhurst Queens since 1976. I grew up here and my 3 kids attended public schools here. I am a founding member of the civic group Elmhurst United, a civic organization active since 2014.

I would first like to thank all the work this commission has done and will be doing, drawing district maps is hard work and often thankless.

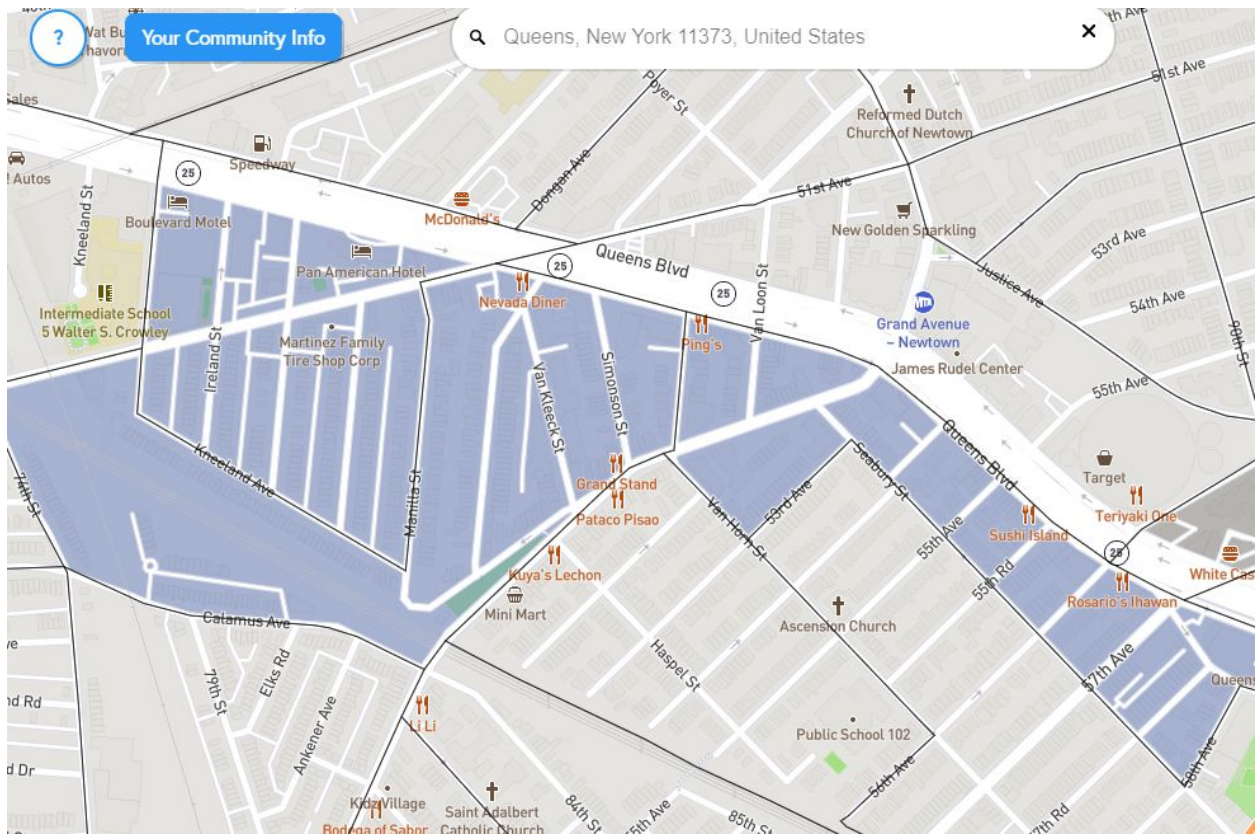
I am respectfully requesting that a small section of Elmhurst to be re-districted from D25 into D30. (hereafter as “the Elmhurst Triangle” see attached map below)

Residents of the Triangle have several common issues with Maspeth and Middle Village residents: a) the homes in the Triangle are mostly 1, 2 or 3 family homes, b) the kids residing in the Triangle attend the same K-8 school as D30 residents, c) the residents in the Triangle all attend the same civic association meetings in Maspeth (Juniper Civic, and COMET as D30 residents, d) the residents in the Triangle all shop in the same supermarkets as D30 residents.

In previous hearings I have heard opposing arguments from a Woodside group that they want to keep all Asians together in D25, so it is a reason to keep Elmhurst together. This does not hold water as there is a large Asian population in Maspeth and Middle Village and residents in the Elmhurst Triangle works with **them** on local issues. Organizations should not try to stop our sector from being re-districted so that they can vote in certain candidates

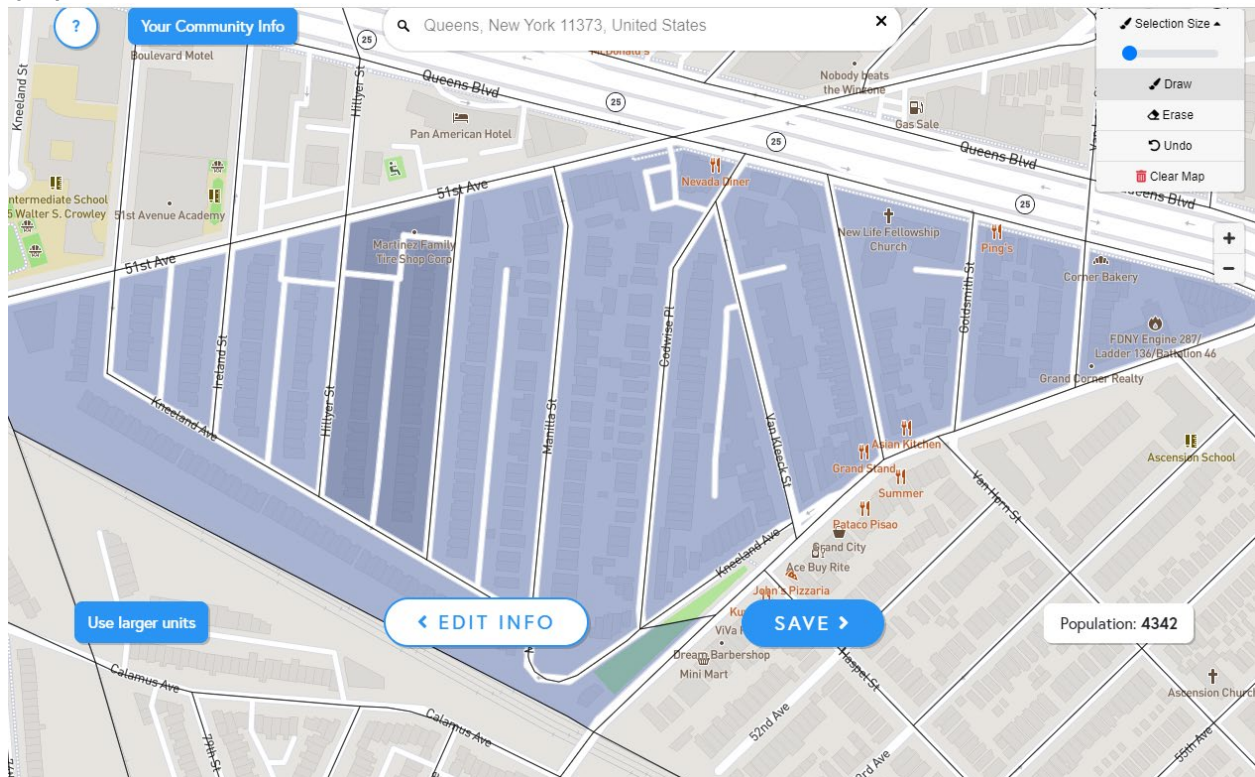
Please consider my request, and echoed by other residents living in the Triangle. Thank you.

Phil Wong



Proposed area of D25 to be redistricted into D30.

Ray Wong
NYC redistricting testimony
5/26/22



Redistrict District 25 Elmhurst the south side of Queens Blvd and Grand Av be redrawn to be included with Maspeth (district 30).

:

Many years ago this section was included in District 30. The redistricting of this section has diluted our voices on important issues for single and two family owner occupied. In District 25, over the past 15 years there has been large new apt buildings being developed at a frenzy pace and major commercialization of the area. If you look at the movie "Coming to America" which was filmed in the district you can see the dramatic change in the area. I want to maintain this sector as prevailing one- and two-family character of the neighborhood and ensure that new residential development reflects the context and scale of the area's existing housing mix.

There are many examples of this sector not being represented – most telling occurred with Hurricane Ida. This Sector is a low lying area and is prone to flooding during heavy rainstorms. So after the devastation of Hurricane Ida, many houses in the area had over 6 feet of water for days some for weeks. Our first concern was to get the water out, to remediate the damage and stop mold from forming. We were unable to do that since the sewers in the area were filled so we were pumping the water out only for it to come back in through the foundation. We felt hopeless. After Ida, District 25 was concerned about getting food to it constitutes. Little attention was given to the homeowners whose life savings were invested in the homes and we were in jeopardy of losing it all...Again the priorities of the council in district 25 did not reflect the ones in Elmhurst South.

August 15, 2022

Sent via E-Mail: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

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

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

My name is Ronald Summers, and I am a resident of the Laurelton community. My neighborhood rests within the 31st 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 31st 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]

From: Stephanie A [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 28, 2022 11:11 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Queens

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It is completely ridiculous to put western queens and the upper east side in the same district. I live in queens and work in the upper east side and as someone intimately familiar with the two neighborhoods I can assure you they have absolutely nothing in common. Completely different values and priorities. Not to mention income levels, socioeconomic status and ethnic backgrounds. Anyone who has ever been to New York City should know better than to group these two communities together. A river separates us for a reason. I am extremely disappointed and disheartened by this decision. Now my vote will be overpowered by all the people with generational wealth that live on the upper east side. At least when they're not at their Hampton's home.

Stephanie Auriemmo

[REDACTED]

From: Sinan Asa [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2022 5:34 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep Bayside Hills under Council District 23

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Dear Commissioners,

I would like to express my sadness and frustration over the Commission's proposed map and how it relates to my community and district Council District 23.

The proposed map cuts the northeast portion of Bayside Hills out of Council District 23 and places it into another Council District. I have personally spoken with my neighbors who all agree that we want to stay together under our current Council District. The Commission is supposed to keep neighborhoods and communities intact, however, the proposed map does the opposite of that and separates me from my neighbors. Therefore, I respectfully request for the Commission to redraw the map to include Bayside Hills solely under Council District 23.

Sincerely,

Sinan Asa

[REDACTED] Bell Blvd, Bayside Hills, NY 11364

[REDACTED]

From: dale cohen [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 9:28 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Is this a Power Grab by Walcott for his native Queens?

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Is this bizarre new map a Power Grab by Denis Walcott for his native Queens?
Why else would this group decide to gobble up part of Manhattan and place it in Queens?
Mr. Walcott I cannot imagine another reason why you would make this proposal.
You seem to be determined to break up existing neighborhoods.
I have to ask why? This cannot be just about the numbers.

I would like to see the real conversations that took place to allow you think that this map was a smart move.
The public has the right to know.

dale b. cohen, assoc aia

[REDACTED]
new york city | hamptons

IN [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:49 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Protest and Request

From: Yaakov Meltzer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 8:03 PM
To: NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>; Wice, Jeffrey [REDACTED] >
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Protest and Request

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Dear Redistricting Commission,

My name is Jeffrey Meltzer, and I am a member of the Central Queens Jewish community. This testimony is in protest of your disregard of communities of interest. You have literally cut Hillcrest out of the district. You have synagogues in one district and members of said synagogues in another. And they're only a block or 2 apart. Also, you cut out the Flushing on The Hill and Cedar Grove communities between the Long Island Expressway and the Cemetery in the most Northeast part of our district. Neighborhoods that are communities of interest along with Kew Gardens Hills.

I ask that you put both these neighborhoods back within the 24 Council District. Here's a link of the 24,23,19 and 20th Council Districts redrawn. <https://districtr.org/plan/136855> This proposal allows for populations to meet your threshold of 5% and doesn't split communities of interest. Please take this map into account especially for the 24th Council District (in blue).

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Meltzer

[REDACTED]

From: Jennifer Chu [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 7:14 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Queens - City Council Districts 25 & 30

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To the Districting Commission:

My name is Jennifer Chu. I am 45 years old and I have lived in Elmhurst my whole life, initially on the north side of Queens Blvd at Broadway and 82nd St up until 1985, and at my current residence on the south side of Queens Blvd on Manilla St since then.

Currently my area of Elmhurst is in District 25 (Elmhurst, Jackson Heights), but at the southern edge of District 25. My area of Elmhurst borders District 30 (Glendale, Maspeth, Middle Village, Ridgewood, Woodhaven, Woodside). Please see this link - <https://districtr.org/plan/139498> - for a delineation of my area of Elmhurst.

My area of Elmhurst, south of Queens Blvd, is very different from the rest of Elmhurst in District 25, north of Queens Blvd, and is more similar to the adjacent neighborhood to the south, Maspeth, in District 30. Therefore, I would like to request that my area of Elmhurst be part of District 30 instead of District 25.

First of all, Queens Blvd is a major roadway, very wide with more than 10 lanes, and with heavy traffic; it forms a natural barrier, separating the neighborhoods on either side of roadway. Crossing Queens Blvd, especially with kids, is a big deal; you don't do it unless you have to. Because of Queens Blvd, my area of Elmhurst is physically and psychologically separated from the rest of District 25. Residents in my area of Elmhurst are physically closer to residents in District 30 and therefore more readily identify with them.

Secondly, the concerns of residents in my area of Elmhurst seem to be different from the concerns of Elmhurst residents on the north side of Queens Blvd. Based on conversations with the Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs) from the 110 Pct, which covers Elmhurst on both sides of Queens Blvd, and from speaking with staff at the District 25 & District 30 offices, Elmhurst residents on the north side of Queens Blvd need to deal with gang activity and prostitution and need immigration and housing services. Meanwhile, Elmhurst residents on the south side of Queens Blvd have problems with noise complaints and commercial vehicles parked in residential areas, and need services related to senior citizens, similar to District 30 residents.

Furthermore, the local civic group Communities of Maspeth and Elmhurst Together (COMET), specifically serves Maspeth and the area of Elmhurst south of Queens Blvd; it does not serve the area of Elmhurst north of Queens Blvd. The area of Elmhurst north of Queens Blvd is served by another civic group, the Newtown Civic Association. Civic groups naturally form and develop around the specific needs and initiatives of local communities. That there are separate civic groups for Elmhurst residents on the north side of Queens Blvd versus the south side of Queens Blvd is a clear indication that the community needs are different for these two neighborhoods.

In closing, the interests of the residents in my area of Elmhurst more closely align with those of the residents in neighboring Maspeth in District 30 than with the interests of the Elmhurst residents on the north side of Queens Blvd in District 25. Therefore, please consider placing my area of Elmhurst in District 30 and not in District 25.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Chu

[REDACTED]

From: Barbara Kaminetzky [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2022 12:38 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 24th city council district

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Dear Redistricting Commission:

My name is Barbara Kaminetzky and I am a member of Central Queens Jewish Community. I must strongly object to your total disregard of the interests of my community in your proposed redistricting of City Council District 24 which would divide our longstanding community. The new lines would divide us from our synagogues and our neighbors and friends and in my case, other family members. Of great concern is that the entire community of Hillcrest, key parts of Utopia and Fresh Meadows have been cut out of the district as have Flushing on the hill and Center Grove communities by the L.I. Expressway, near Mt. Hebron Cemetery in the most Northeast part of the current district. Removing these neighborhoods does severe damage to our community.

Sincerely,

Barbara Kaminetzky

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2022 11:26 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Fw: Redistricting

From: Sharon Petrushka [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 4, 2022 6:44 AM
To: NYC Redistricting <NYCRedistricting@redistricting.nyc.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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Dear Redistricting Commission,

My name is ..Sharon Petrushka..... I am a member of the Central Queens Jewish community. This testimony is in protest of your disregard of communities of interest. You have literally cut Hillcrest in half. You have members of shuls in one district and their shuls in another. Also, you cut out the Flushing Heights community between the Long Island Expressway and the Cemetery in the most Northeast part of our district. Another neighborhood that is a community of interest along with Kew Gardens Hills.

I ask that you put both these neighborhoods back within the 24 Council District. Please find below a link of the 24,23,19 and 20th Council Districts redrawn. This proposal allows for populations to meet your threshold of 5%. Also, no communities of interest are split. Please take this map into account especially for the 24th Council District in blue.

Here is my proposed map

<https://distrctr.org/plan/136855>

Sincerely,

Name

Sharon Petrushka

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August 29, 2022

Testimony Winnie Jung

Request to redistrict the Elmhurst triangle from City Council District 25 to 30

Greetings Members of the Independent Redistricting Commission. In the preliminary maps released in July, it was disheartening that the little Elmhurst triangle (located on the south side of Queens Boulevard) was not re-districted to be alongside with Maspeth. The two sister communities share so much in common. We go to the same schools, churches, civic meetings, stores, etc. We have the same housing stock. Families have lived in the area for generations, and have bought homes in the two areas. I am respectfully requesting the Committee to reconsider this decision and allow the south side of Queens Boulevard (aka the Elmhurst triangle) to be redrawn and included with Maspeth (District 30).

This part of Elmhurst was once in the same district as Maspeth. Our leaders understood and supported the needs of the area. Removing this part of Elmhurst from Maspeth lessened the voices of residents who live in this sector because our needs do not align with the population on the North side of Queens Boulevard and Jackson Heights.

Some examples of this neglect:

-the FDNY Elmhurst Eagles firehouse is in jeopardy of collapsing because the developer on the adjacent property compromised their foundation. The damage is beyond repair. It will take approximately eight years to build a new firehouse in its place. No one knew about this issue so little attention was paid to it. There continues to be a lack of urgency and communication regarding contingency plans.

-In September 2022, the area experienced massive flooding from Hurricane Ida and other strong storms. Basements and streets were flooded because the sewers were not maintained. Residents have repeatedly asked for increased infrastructure improvements and routine maintenance, but funding and resources seem to be constantly diverted to other programs that benefit the North side.

-There has been little attention paid to the graffiti that has proliferated the area. It has been six months, and much of the graffiti still has not been removed.

Please consider my request to redraw the NYC Council maps to have the Elmhurst Triangle included with Maspeth. Residents who live in Elmhurst on the south side of Queens Boulevard would be better served if we were re-districted from City Council District 25 to District 30.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Winnie Jung