

July 2022

Commissioners,

Far too often the good people of Staten Island, as citizens of the city of New York, have been deterred; seemingly dissuaded, from participation in city governance.

A two hour commute to city hall is exceedingly prohibitive and little opportunity within our borough to offer redress of issues is ever made. The agencies of city government making decisions which greatly impact our communities, communities to which those decision makers have rarely, if ever, visited are too far removed from our backyards and playgrounds, our side streets and strip malls. Their decisions; which weigh heavily on our daily lives, rarely, if ever, take into consideration our special way of life on Staten Island.

It is imperative that the only Staten Island representatives at the city level, our three members of city council, remain true representatives of Staten Island. The notion of reinstating inter-borough representation combining Staten Island with portions of south Brooklyn would further alienate the people of Staten Island and work to silence the voice of the Borough of Parks.

Further, here on Staten Island our three council districts should wholly represent the unique communities across the north shore, the mid-island and the south shore.

Currently, Staten Island's three council districts appear a bit fractured, with district 51 actually representing communities north of the mid-island. Similarly, an area of the north shore's 49<sup>th</sup> district spills well beyond the upper reaches of the mid-island's 50<sup>th</sup> district. Rather, the island would benefit from representation across three, distinct, consistent districts. For example, the daily lives of people in New Springville seem to have more in common with folks in Bay Terrace and New Dorp than those living in Tottenville. Land-use and zoning issues, traffic congestion, commute times and access to public transportation should weigh more heavily on the formation of council districts than the need for sharing and diluting the votes of one neighborhood for another.

Respectfully submitted,

Clifford Hagen

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 18, 2022 5:10 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] clove lakes park

**Michael P. Schnall**  
Commissioner  
[2023 NYC Districting Commission](#)

[REDACTED]  
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

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**From:** Michael Arvanites <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 18, 2022 3:31 PM  
**To:** Schnall, Michael <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] clove lakes park

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Hello Commissioner, thank you for speaking with me about this matter of great importance.

First, allow me to say that the commission is doing great work and especially as Staten Island is concerned, done right by the people keeping our three districts within the borough. Kudos!

I would like to submit a request that Clove Lakes Park and some of the surrounding communities get reconsidered as included in the 50th or Mid-Island district. Presently, we are part of the 49th or North Shore district. everything south of clove road should be included in the Mid-Island as the children attend PS29 (also where we all vote) traditionally associated with the 50th district. This area is also part of the Mid-Island or 63rd Assembly District. continuity and joint representation will lead to more state and city funding of educational and recreational programs and facilities.

The present map will necessitate the redrawing of election districts that have united people surrounding the park for decades. As evidenced by one of the most active civic associations on the Island, Clove Lake Civic.

This area has been part of the 63rd since its creation in 2002. While Westerleigh, Castleton Corners and Sunnyside which surround the park have been added to the Mid-Island 50th District in the last redistricting, it seems those of us south of Clove Road have been left out again, in this draft proposed map.

Thank you for your consideration of this small change and thank you for all the work you and the commission are doing for the whole City.

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Michael Arvanites  
Surveyor  
New York City Board of Elections  
1 Edgewater Street, 4th floor  
Staten Island, NY 10305

Trustee  
City University of New York  
245 East 42nd Street, 7th floor  
New York, NY 10017  
(917) 816-1123