

September 21, 2022

Dear Members of NYC Districting Commission,

**I am Raisa Chernina, an Executive Director and Founder of Be Proud, Inc., the prominent non-for-profit organization in Southern Brooklyn.**

According to the City Charter, Council district lines should keep neighborhoods and communities intact. They also should keep districts compact.

Currently, the lines of the 47<sup>th</sup> District do not meet any of these criteria's. The new proposed preliminary map of the 47<sup>th</sup> District includes Bay Ridge which is part of Community Board 10 – clearly a great distance apart from Coney Island, Sea Gate, Warbasse and Gravesend. According to this proposal, Bay Ridge and Coney Island are connected through a long, thin, two block stretch

The current 47<sup>th</sup> Council District includes Warbasse Houses, but does not include neighboring high risers Trump Village, Luna Park and Brightwater Towers. It also does not include any parts of Brighton Beach (from Ocean Parkway to Coney Island Avenue) this would be the natural part of the District given the similar demographics, local issues, close proximity and their traditional inclusion into districts of Community Board 13, the 60<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct, the 46<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, the 23<sup>rd</sup> State Senate District and the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. The current lines of the 47<sup>th</sup> District include the entire Boardwalk and the beaches of both Brighton Beach and Coney Island, but do not include any parts of Brighton Beach.

I urge the Commission to include in the 47<sup>th</sup> District the territory between Belt Parkway and the Boardwalk, from West 12 Street to Coney Island Avenue. This way the new lines will naturally unite similar neighborhoods and communities of interests that historically were represented by the same local civic institutions, community groups and elected officials. **I strongly disagree with these new proposed lines. Please, do not split the Southern Brooklyn communities in the 47<sup>th</sup> District and keep it intact!** The 47<sup>th</sup> Council District should include parts of Brighton Beach, Coney Island, Trump Village, Warbasse, Luna Park, Brightwater Towers, Beach Haven, as well as parts of Gravesend, Bensonhurst and Bath Beach - not Bay Ridge or Dyker Heights.

If you have additional questions, do not hesitate to contact me at: [raisac@msn.com](mailto:raisac@msn.com)

Sincerely,

Raisa Chernina,  
Executive Director and Founder of Be Proud, Inc.