



Coalition For Asian American  
Children+Families

**CACF Testimony for NYC Districting Commission #2:  
Keep Chinatown and Lower East Side Whole, Do Not Dilute AAPI Power**

Date: 09/30/22

Format: Written

Thank you to Chair Walcott, the Districting Commissioners, and Commission staff (Ali, Eddie, Grace, etc.) for your hard work and for providing the opportunity for continuous feedback. My name is Lloyd Feng, born and raised New Yorker and I am writing on behalf of my organization, the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF). Since 1986, CACF has been the nation's only pan-Asian children and families' advocacy organization, leading the fight for improved and equitable policies, systems, funding, and services to support the diverse Asian American diasporic community here in New York. CACF is a membership organization of over 60 community-based organizations that serve the diverse needs of Asian New Yorkers across the five boroughs.

CACF's main priority in this redistricting process is to advocate for a final district map that protects and uplifts the most marginalized members of the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community along with the marginalized in all other communities. As a member of the APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force, CACF is proud to support the Unity Map proposal whose mission is to safeguard the civil rights and voting rights of racial groups explicitly protected in the Voting Rights Act.

**In response to yesterday's (09/29/22) discussion between Commissioners on shifting parts of Chinatown and Lower East Side from Council District 1 to Council District 2, CACF is writing to strongly oppose that suggestion and to urge the Commissioners to reject such a change.** CACF counts as many as 20 member CBOs that are active in serving the myriad needs of Chinatown and the Lower East Side's most marginalized Chinese community. Chinese residents depend on the culturally competent services that CBOs based there can offer ranging from healthcare, domestic violence support and protection, elderly care, childcare, legal services among many more. The local police precincts in the community, although in much need of reform and revamping, are also much better equipped and have more relevant experience to engage with the needs of Chinese residents than those in District 2. Furthermore, given the disturbing increase in attacks on Asians in New York City, it is especially concerning that Commissioners would consider dividing Chinese residents of Chinatown and the Lower East Side from one another. Such a move would dilute a longstanding community of interest for not only the marginalized Chinese American and AAPI communities, but also of New York City.



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**Therefore, we implore the Commissioners to reject calls to divide Chinatown and Lower East Side and dilute AAPI voting power. Keep all of our Chinatown and Lower East Side community of interest whole as the Commission's draft map and even the rejected map does.**

Thank you so much for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Lloyd Feng  
CACF  
Policy Coordinator