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THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**Alexa Avilés**

COUNCIL MEMBER  
38<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

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PREVENTION

September 30, 2022

Dear Chair Walcott and Commissioners,

I am writing to thank you for your work once again on the revised New York City Council districting maps and to urge you to fine-tune the proposal that the Commission ultimately decided against submitting to the Council on Thursday, September 22.

The draft proposal represents a marked improvement over the initial draft, which could have been challenged for violating the Voting Rights Act as the Commission's own legal counsel testified last Thursday. Importantly, the revised plan creates a crossover district between Staten Island and Brooklyn. The revised plan creates an Asian-majority Council district in Brooklyn that incorporates Bensonhurst as a whole. The revised plan keeps Sunset Park and Red Hook together, without which Latino voices and communities of color in Southern Brooklyn would be drowned out of the political process.

I am proud that our district produced more public comments than almost any other, from all parts of our district, and that those comments represented a very diverse array of views. While no single map is sure to please everyone, this process is more than a simple exercise in approving or disapproving of one plan over another. Understandably, this is a process of give and take.

I encourage the Commission to fine-tune its draft revised plan in several ways. First, many comments from District 38 residents encouraged the Commission to put Red Hook, Gowanus and Carroll Gardens together. The draft revised plan adds some blocks of Gowanus to District 38, while splitting up historically Latino blocks in South Slope between 5 Avenue, 10 Avenue and the Prospect Expressway. The Commission should revisit the district lines along the southern portion of District 38, which extends into significant portions of Dyker Heights and even Bath Beach, while cutting Sunset Park at 6 Avenue instead of 7 Avenue. Voters deserve more intuitive district boundaries than these.

I thank the Commissioners and Commission Staff once more for your determined work on this matter. I urge you to do right by our City, preserve the advances made in the draft revised plan, and fine-tune its most recent proposal to guarantee New Yorkers fair districts and fair representation for the next 10 years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexa Avilés".

Council Member Alexa Avilés  
District 38, Brooklyn