



DISTRICT OFFICE
1377 JEROME AVENUE
BRONX, NY 10452
PHONE: 718-588-7500

THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
ALTHEA V. STEVENS
COUNCIL MEMBER
16TH DISTRICT, BRONX

CITY HALL OFFICE
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1872
NEW YORK, NY 10007
PHONE: (212) 788-6856

September 30, 2022

Dear Chair Walcott and Members of the Districting Commission,

As the duly elected Council Member, I am sending the following comments regarding the 16th Council District of New York City for consideration by the 2022 New York City Districting Commission:

- The revised draft map, released on September 22, 2022, was much more reflective of the demographics of the community. I applaud the unification of the West Bronx waterfront and the Highbridge neighborhood. Additionally, I support the inclusion of Franz Siegel and Joyce Kilmer Parks in Council District 16, putting the parks and the local residents who use them in the same district, which will ease issues of community coordination and partnership. In the next set of revised maps, I hope the Commission will preserve these features.
- Regarding the eastern edge of Council District 16, I implore the Commission to reunite Woodstock Terrace Mutual Housing (890 Trinity Avenue & 920 Trinity Avenue) with the rest of Council District 16 where it has been a feature of the district for decades. I have had a strong partnership with the residents and board of Woodstock Terrace, where we have collaborated to support the buildings as community institutions, acting as site for information distribution, COVID-19 resource disbursements, and much more on the eastern side of Council District 16. As a site where the African-American population of the Bronx has had a longstanding presence and long history of active community leaders, it is imperative to keep Woodstock Terrace united with other African-American communities in the West Bronx to preserve their voice and allow them to remain in a community with common interests. Although Council District 16 was described as a Black Opportunity District in the previous public meeting, the Black population of the district was cut from 40% to 36%. I urge the Commission to include Woodstock Terrace (890 Trinity Avenue & 920 Trinity Avenue) in the final lines of Council District 16 to preserve the historical demographics of the district and respect the strong cultural ties of these buildings to the rest of the district.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my testimony and provide feedback on the revised maps. I urge the Commission to take the above issues and communities into consideration as you continue to discuss the Council District lines.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these points further, you may reach out to me at astevens@council.nyc.gov or my Chief of Staff at kconnolly@council.nyc.gov.

Thank you,

Council Member Althea Stevens - District 16, Bronx

My name is Arona Testamark and I represent Woodstock Terrace Mutual Housing as the President of the Board. Woodstock Terrace encompasses 890 Trinity Avenue and 920 Trinity Avenue in the Morrisania neighborhood of the Bronx.

On behalf of the residents of Woodstock Terrace, I am making a final request to have Woodstock Terrace remain a part of Council District 16. With the first draft of maps and those released last week, Woodstock Terrace was removed from Council District 16, which would have a huge impact on the community.

Although she has only been in office since January, we have a strong partnership with Council Member Stevens and have had a strong partnership with Council District 16 for over a decade. Our community, a diverse but predominantly African-American population, is more aligned with the rest of Council District 16, not Council District 17. As a civically engaged community, we have worked to ensure that we have elected proper representation for our community needs. By removing us from our current district, and throwing us in another one, we will now be represented by elected officials that are not acquainted with what our community needs and wants are.

There are many seniors who live in this community, especially in Woodstock Terrace. If you asked them what district they are living in, their response would be District 16. This District has aided this community for several years and is part of the local identity. Woodstock Terrace is the only co-op in this area, and is a landmark and point of pride in District 16.

Our board appreciates the task you have in front of you and respectfully asks for you to include Woodstock Terrace (890 Trinity Avenue & 920 Trinity Avenue) in the final drafts of the map.

Thank you, -

Arona Testamark President 9/29/22
Mam A. Abdullah Secretary 9/29/22
Betty Peelle Vice President 9/29/22
Patricia Treasurer