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THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
SELVENA N. BROOKS-POWERS
MAJORITY WHIP
31ST DISTRICT, QUEENS

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September 30, 2022

Chairman Dennis Walcott
New York City Districting Commission
253 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear NYC Districting Commission:

Thank you to the NYC Districting Commission for their commitment to creating a map that includes areas of interest representative of the diversity of New York City. As the “World’s Borough” Queens is home to many diverse communities, including unique Black suburban enclaves in Southeast Queens, like Laurelton and Springfield Gardens.

The Council District 31, a black stronghold in Southeast Queens, currently includes Arverne, Brookville, Edgemere, Far Rockaway, Laurelton, Rosedale, and Springfield Gardens; I would like to remain firm in my desire to ensure Springfield Gardens, as it currently exists, remain in my district. We are in support of the portion of Springfield Garden included in the recently released map that was voted down for District 31, which includes points of interest, like the Stop and Shop Shopping Center at the intersection of Merrick Boulevard and Springfield Boulevard, and along the business district, which allows my community to thrive. Following community meetings with business owners, residents, religious stakeholders, and other community stakeholders, this area should remain in Council District 31, as drafted in the SEQ Strong Map.

I would also like to reiterate my appreciation to the NYC Districting Commission for addressing issues raised in the letter and the last iteration of the map, which encompasses many issues raised in the SEQ Strong map, including but not limited to ensuring communities remain together and assets of interest are included. The recently released map by the NYC Districting Commission, with the inclusion of the current Springfield Gardens, would accurately accounts for a council district that remains contiguous and similar to its existing population configuration.

Thank you for your time reviewing this letter and proposal. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at district31@council.nyc.gov.

(<https://districtr.org/plan/138607>)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Selvena N. Brooks-Powers', written in a cursive style.

Majority Whip Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
New York City Council
District 31, Queens