



# Pakistani American Youth Organization

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*YOUTH IS THE SOLUTION, NOT THE PROBLEM*

To the NYC Districting Commission,

My name is Waqil Ahmed and I am the President for Pakistani American Youth Organization, which provides numerous services such as Food Pantry, After school program, ESL, Citizenship Exam program. I am writing to provide testimony to support keeping the lines consistent for the South Asian community and having representation from two different council members to ensure proper resources and support in our communities. It is important that we continue to work with the individuals that have supported our initiatives, our children, our elderly, our businesses, our houses of worship, and our schools. It is not the time for us to begin to divide the South Asian community and we need to ensure that we have as much support as possible throughout this community, which is rapidly growing by the year. Having support from multiple elected officials is crucial for the South Asian community. In the last 10 years we have been able to create commercial and residential corridors that represent the South Asian communities individually and collectively with the support of the Council Members from the 45th, 40th, and the 37th Council Districts.

Within the 40th Council District, I largely agree with the Commission's proposed changes which has mostly kept the 2012 lines, but now extends the new lines several blocks east into Council District 41 and includes blocks in Council District 45 between Church & Snyder Avenues. We want to revert this change by keeping the lines of the 45th Council District the same and increase the population size to restore the lines on Cortelyou Road to reestablish the district's original boundaries from 2012.

Another change we seek to implement is to add back in sections in the western and southwestern part of the district, namely; the area of 7th Street from Church Avenue to Avenue H, and the area that includes 18th Avenue to the north, Avenue H to the South, East 8th/East 10th to the east, and Ocean Parkway to the west. This would include our South Asian neighbors. Currently, they are split between three districts. The advantage to this is that they have more than one representative that is fighting for their interests and ensuring that our population has the right balance of representation from our elected officials.

Sincerely,

*Waqil Ahmed*