

From: Bleecker Area Merchants and Re <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 10:06 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SoHo/NoHo inclusion in Council District 1

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In light of the latest hearings following the rejection of the proposed City Council district map, we are submitting testimony below to re-emphasize the importance of keeping SoHo and NoHo, up to West Third Street (including Washington Square Village and Silver Towers / University Village), together in District 1.

We continue to hear from many in the community that separating these neighborhoods will have serious detrimental effects on their residents and businesses. Not only have these areas always functioned as a single community of

interest, the City itself considered and treated them as such in its recent SoHo/NoHo rezoning plan.

Even more urgently, these areas will be facing the same complex and profound pressures, disruptions, and challenges as the new zoning and related financial demands begin to impact the community. These challenges, unique to SoHo and NoHo together, will demand ongoing and effective representation that is not diluted by falling in separate City Council districts.

For many of the same reasons, we believe we should move the northern border of District 1 west of Broadway to West Third Street from West Houston Street, to include Washington Square Village and Silver Towers / University Village in the district. The added area has a population of 3,575, bringing the population of District 1 to 179,639, which is well within the 5% deviation limit.

We strongly urge you to reconsider the impropriety of splitting these communities in your final maps.

Respectfully

Mark Fiedler, Secretary

Bleecker Area Merchants' and Residents' Association