

HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2433 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5936  
DISTRICT OFFICES:  
CENTRAL BROOKLYN OFFICE:  
65 HANSON PLACE, SUITE 603  
BROOKLYN, NY 11217  
(718) 237-2211  
SOUTH BROOKLYN OFFICE:  
445 NEPTUNE AVENUE, FIRST FLOOR  
BROOKLYN, NY 11224  
(718) 373-0033  
JEFFRIES.HOUSE.GOV

October 5, 2022

Dennis M. Walcott  
Chair of New York City Districting Commission  
253 Broadway, 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chairman Walcott:

As the Representative for the 8th Congressional District in New York, I write to express deep concern with the proposed New York City Council district map. The 8th district includes the South Brooklyn neighborhoods of Mill Basin, Manhattan Beach, Brighton Beach, West Brighton, Coney Island and Sea Gate.

At this critical moment for our democracy, the redistricting process provides a once-in-a-decade opportunity to ensure that these communities have the fair and equitable representation they deserve. The New York City Districting Commission is a crucial part of this process, ensuring that the 51 new City Council district lines maintain the social, cultural and geographic integrity of all neighborhoods and communities.

It has come to my attention that the NYC Districting Commission is planning to vote on Thursday, October 6 for newly proposed boundaries of the 47th District that would significantly disenfranchise many of the neighborhoods I am privileged to represent. As a result, numerous South Brooklyn residents, community leaders and officials have provided written testimony expressing their strong desire to maintain the NYCHA developments in Coney Island and the Marlboro Houses in the same district, together with neighboring communities such as Sea Gate, Luna Park, Warbasse, parts of Brighton Beach, Gravesend, parts of Bensonhurst and Bath Beach.

Nevertheless, the Commission proposed to carve out four neighborhoods: Bensonhurst, Gravesend, Homecrest and Warbasse from the 47th District. Additionally, at the last mapping session, it is my understanding that the Commission even suggested shattering the Warbasse Houses in half and moving three out of the five buildings from the 47th to the 48th District. That is unconscionable and suggests that some individuals are not proceeding in good faith.

The proposed map clearly disenfranchises long-standing Russian-speaking immigrant neighborhoods, Pakistani-Americans, public housing residents and long-standing communities of interest along the Coney Island peninsula. It unnecessarily draws boundaries that dilutes the ability of these constituent groups to elect the candidate of their choice. If the Commission fails to take the time to consider suitable alternatives, the adverse impact will be devastating.

With these concerns in mind, I respectfully request that the Commission postpone the vote scheduled for October 6 and hold additional mapping sessions to address the concerns raised by South Brooklyn residents. Thank you in advance for your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



HAKEEM JEFFRIES  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

CC: Mayor Eric Adams  
Council Speaker Adrienne Adams  
Hon. Marilyn D. Go  
Maria Mateo, Esq.  
Joshua Schneps  
Lisa Sorin  
Monsignor Kevin Sullivan  
Kai-Ki Wong  
Maf Misbah Uddin  
Michael Schnall  
Kristen A. Johnson  
Yovan Samuel Collado  
Gregory W. Kirschenbaum  
Marc Wurzel  
Kevin John Hanratty  
Dr. Darrin K. Porcher