

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

7TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

October 6, 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 of New York's 7th Congressional district which encompasses Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens, I write to express my concern with the proposed New York City Council redistricting map and annexation of NYCHA's Vladeck Houses (Vladeck 1 & 2) located in the Lower Eastside (LES) community in Manhattan.

The Vladeck Houses development consist of approximately 1,761 units with more than 2,600 tenants. This development is situated contiguously and adjacent to Rutgers Houses and LaGuardia Houses, another similar NYCHA housing development. Latinos, Blacks and Asian make up the racial representation at Vladeck Houses, again, like adjacent complex. The residents here share similar social and economic status as their neighbors.

Today, New York City has a once in a decade opportunity to ensure that the Latino community in the LES has fair and equitable representation. It has come to my attention that the NYC Districting Commission is planning to vote for newly proposed lines and boundaries for the 2nd City Council District. As proposed, the map will disenfranchise the families of Vladeck Houses and its neighboring NYCHA development. I believe these communities of interest, which are compact, reflect the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and the Commission should exercise all efforts to keep these neighborhoods of interest together. They have been united in the LES for decades and now the proposed map for this City Council district disregards and disempowers the people of the 2nd City Council District.

A more inclusive and engaged society is critical for the advancement of our citizens. The map for this district should reflect their right to ensure access to candidates that represent their community's interest and needs. Fairness and equal representation should be the goal of this redistricting process.

Therefore, I sincerely ask that the vote be delayed allowing for an in-depth review and consideration of this district's boundaries. Thank you for your consideration of this matter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Nydia M. Velazquez
Member of Congress