

COMMUNITY OFFICE:

58-38 69th Street
Maspeth, NY 11378
(718) 366-3900
FAX: (718) 326-3549

CITY HALL OFFICE:

250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1781
NEW YORK, NY 10007
(212) 788-7381



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October 18, 2022

The Honorable Adrienne A. Adams
Speaker
New York City Council
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Adams,

As required by the New York City Charter, I am writing to comment on the proposed redistricting plan by the New York City Districting Commission.

While I understand the difficulties of going through the arduous process of restructuring City Council lines based on the US Census, several issues with the proposed District 30 should be addressed.

In the southern portion of the proposed district, the community of Glendale was split in half, with eastern portions of the neighborhood being moved into District 32.

Glendale is an integral part of Council District 30 and Community Board 5—which is the majority of Council District 30.

Removing parts of Glendale from the rest of the district, which has a similar housing stock and is part of a district that is considered fair play competitive, otherwise known as gerrymandering, also poses serious challenges that must be addressed. This also violates Section 52(c) of the New York City Charter.

Council District 30 is home to the largest population of Polish citizens in New York City. With a growing Polish-speaking population within Glendale and throughout Council District 30, I believe that the proposed splitting of Glendale also violates Section 52(b) of the New York City Charter, Section 17-206 of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Diluting their vote abridges their rights as citizens and lessens their ability to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice.

My office has worked hard in the neighborhood of Glendale, and I have appropriated millions of dollars in expense and capital funding for local parks, schools, a library, and other projects.

The neighborhood shares School District 24 with much of Council District 30 and would be disenfranchised if it were split.

The Districting Commission totally also ignored the testimony of Glendale residents who requested that they **NOT BE** removed from Council District 30.

The New York City Council should rectify the massive error that the Commission made while drafting this proposed plan and reunite all of Glendale.

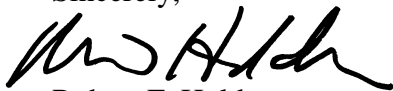
There is a concern that since Glendale was recently split up by Congressional, State Assembly, and State Senate districting commissions, further removing it from a Council District it has been in since the New York City Council districts were created is unconscionable, and should not be occurring.

There is also a violation of Section 52(c) of the New York City Charter with the northwestern portion of the proposed district in Rego Park. The proposed plan added the Rego Park "Crescents" but continued to add north of Alderton Street to District 30. The area in question, bounded by the Long Island Expressway and Eliot Avenue to the west, Alderton Street to the south, Selfridge Street to the east, and Queens Boulevard to the north, should be moved back into District 29 or be added to Council District 32, as the housing stock is similar.

I look forward to meeting with you and your staff to discuss the serious issues and violations of the Districting Commission's proposed plan and find ways to correct them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Holden", written in a cursive style.

Robert F. Holden
Council Member, District 30

Cc: New York City Districting Commission