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**THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**
FARAH N. LOUIS
COUNCIL MEMBER · 45TH DISTRICT · BROOKLYN

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BROOKLYN DELEGATION

October 20, 2022

Dennis Walcott
Chair
253 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Walcott and Members of the Districting Commission,

The New York City Charter requires that before the Districting Commission adopts a final plan for City Council Districts, it considers the comments, objections and observations of the elected Council Members. Section 51(d) specifically requires the Speaker to forward comments from the Council. I am writing to both comment on the work of the Commission and forward recommendations that have been received by my office from the community.

From the beginning of this process, I have recognized the difficulty of the task assigned to the members of this Commission. I have argued that the commission had a critical mission to both adhere to the mandates in the City Charter and maintain unity and historical trends in the shape and makeup of our neighborhoods.

In the most recent revision of the maps drafted and released in the beginning of October 2022, there are incongruities with the mandate of the Commission to draft a map that equalizes the population across all Council Districts. While the mandate indicated in Section 52 of Chapter 2-A of the New York City Charter indicates a mandate for a maximum deviation of 10 percent from other Council Districts, the state mandated maximum deviation of 5 percent has introduced complexity to this process and negatively impacts more densely populated areas such as Council District 45, and leads to a more vulnerable population in this Central Brooklyn community. The resulting issues from this change need to be seriously considered in this process.

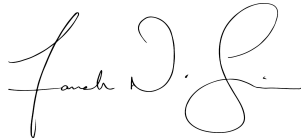
As natives, immigrants, and other residents come to Council District 45 in search of opportunity, refuge, and security, economic gains and population density are rapidly changing, and concerns regarding specific population centers being removed from the District must be heeded to balance the Charter's mission to equitably distribute the population between all 51 Districts in the City of New York and to preserve the ties that our residents have with their communities and institutions. These considerations must be made to preserve this Central Brooklyn district and maintain minority and community representation in our City.

Specifically, I am requesting the following:

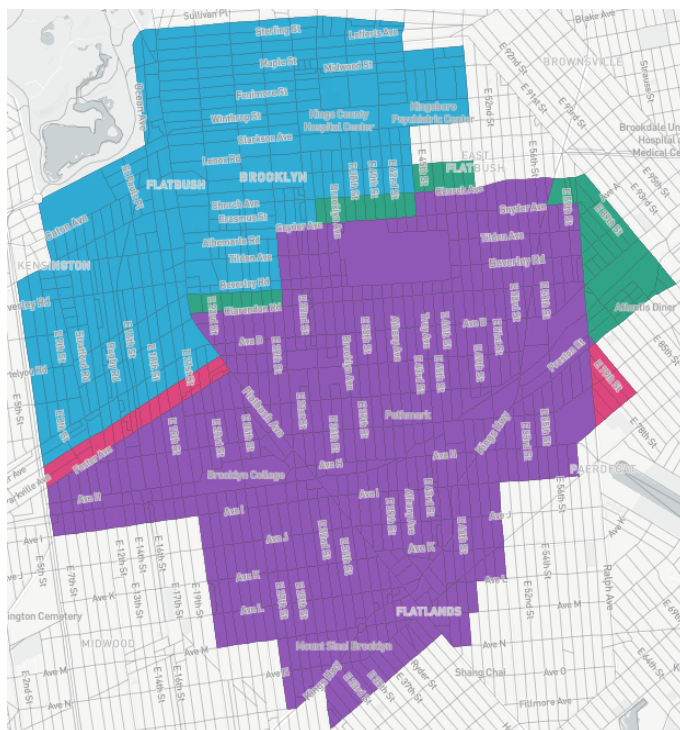
- Addition of the area bounded by Cortelyou and Clarendon Roads between Flatbush and Rogers Avenue. Our district has long been deprived of critical health resources and this area includes clinics that our residents urgently need to improve the health care outcomes for our families.
- Addition of the areas bounded by Church and Snyder Avenues between East 34th Street and Troy Avenues, and Linden Boulevard between Troy and Utica Avenues. Council District 45 has made many inroads to improve the quality of life and access to services for the small businesses on this corridor and thus we want to preserve this connection.
- Addition of the Remsen Village subsection of East Flatbush bounded by Church and Foster Avenues east of Ralph Avenue. Residents of this part of Council District 45 will be separated from our two largest public school campuses that have historically been a part of this district for generations.
- Removal of the sections bounded by Foster Avenue and Glenwood Road east of Ralph Avenue between East 77th and 80th Streets and the section bounded by Newkirk and Foster Avenues between Ocean Parkway and Flatbush Avenue ensuring no overpopulation occurs after these changes.

Below is a map of the district that outlines the recommended changes alongside the currently proposed map. The changes are supported by my colleagues in neighboring districts and included is a joint submission for the makeup of a neighboring district. I hope the recommended changes are implemented to address the disparities on the proposed map, as it should be the priority of the Commission to ensure that every district is not subject to continual under-population causing a systemic lack of resources. I have confidence that these modifications will effectively resolve these concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Farah N. Louis
Council Member, District 45



- Purple:** included in the proposed map
- Green:** excluded from the proposed map, requested to be added
- Red:** included in the proposed map, requested to be removed
- Blue:** jointly proposed map with CD40

See online at
<https://districtr.org/plan/146129>