

Save our communities!

Open Letter to NYC Districting Commission

We, Southern Brooklyn Community Leaders, are writing to you to express our outrage that the Commission completely ignored countless testimonies from so many organizations, community leaders and other residents of Southern Brooklyn, asking to keep neighboring communities of interest together in the 47th District.

We represent the communities of Sea Gate, Coney Island, Warbasse, Beach Haven, Gravesend, Bensonhurst and Bath Beach. We wrote many letters to the Commission and testified in person. All our testimonies were disregarded. Instead of bringing together communities of interest, the Commission carved out four (!) neighborhoods from the District and connected Coney Island with Bay Ridge through a tiny, two blocks "tunnel" creating a very odd shape District.

We are very sympathetic and in full support of the idea of creating a new Asian American District. But it could be done without tearing neighborhoods and communities apart. It is possible to do it without cutting several neighborhoods of the 47th District.

We strongly oppose the last proposed map that cut Bensonhurst, Gravesend, Homecrest and Warbasse Houses from the 47th District. Instead, the Commission should include Sea Gate, Coney Island, Warbasse, Luna Park, parts of Brighton Beach, Gravesend, Bensonhurst and Bath Beach into one District.

Bay Ridge, Fort Hamilton and Dyker Heights should not be connected to Marlboro Houses and Coney Island in one Council District because they have very different demographics and socioeconomic status, located far away from each other and have different issues and interests.

We request another public hearing of the Commission in Southern Brooklyn, so we can have a chance to express our voice and to protect our communities.

Sincerely,

Pervez Siddiqui, President, APNA Brooklyn Community Center, one of the leaders in the Pakistani American Community
Amarilys Herrera, President, Marlboro Resident Association,
Jack Spatola, President, Federation of Italian American organizations of Brooklyn,
Vladimir Epstein, President, Russian American Voters Educational League
Margarita Kagan, President, American Association of Jews from the former USSR
Sam Sutton and Ron Tawil, President and Chair, Sephardic Community Federation
Michael Silverman, President, Board of Directors, Amalgamated Warbasse Houses
Nancy Tong, Democratic District Leader, 47th Assembly District

Yiatin Chu, President, Asian Wave Alliance

Lina Chen, Health Essential Association

Michael Kremerov, President, American Brotherhood for the Russian Disabled

Gregory Vayngurt, CB 13 member, Warbasse resident

Olga Fort, Esq., CB 13 member, Brighton Beach resident and Board Member, JCC of Greater Coney Island

Priscilla Santos, President, Coney Island Sharks

Pavlo Makovski, President, Association of Ukrainian Natives in the USA

Shahbaz Wattoo, Business owner in Bath Beach, one of the leaders in the Pakistani American Community

October 1, 2022

Thank You, Marlboro TA President Amarilys Herrera

[REDACTED]

From: Avi Szenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 1, 2022 4:10 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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Dear Commissioners,

As a member of the Orthodox Jewish Midwood/Flatbush community, we ask that you keep our community combined and united in two Council districts- the 44th and the 48th.

We are a unique community that shares common values and many of the same needs. We share the same synagogues, yeshiva schools, kosher food stores, shopping centers, and religious practices and observance. Due to the Sabbath religious travel restrictions, all synagogue members need to be within walking distance.

It is therefore critical that our communities' unique character be maintained in a manner where our expanding communities are represented by elected officials who understand and respond to our needs.

The 44th City Council District includes Borough Park, primarily a Hasidic community, and parts of Midwood and Kensington that are Orthodox Jewish communities. The 44th District for decades has been a Jewish City Council seat and was the only district that had an Orthodox council member for over 3 decades, it is crucial that this be maintained.

The 48th Council District similarly has a sizable share of Orthodox Jewish residents and we are asking to add blocks to the North and East that have considerable Orthodox Jewish residents and were unfairly excluded in the last redistricting.

For your convenience, here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 44th Council District: <https://districtr.org/plan/142599>.

Here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 48th Council District: <https://districtr.org/plan/142670>

Thank you for your consideration.

Avi Szenberg
Szenberg & Okun PLLC
[REDACTED] West 57th Street, 23rd Floor
New York, NY 10019

212.904.1430
www.szenok.com

[REDACTED]

From: Leah Klahr [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, October 1, 2022 9:26 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City Redistricting

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Thank you for your consideration.

Isadore Klahr

Director of Timekeeping, NYCTA, Retired

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 1, 2022 9:43 PM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Insanity

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Dear Members of the Districting Commission:

I am outraged that you completely ignored testimonies and letters from so many organizations and community leaders in Southern Brooklyn. The proposed boundaries of the 47th Council District disenfranchise many communities of interest, including but not limited to: African Americans, Russian speaking Americans, Pakistani Americans, Chinese Americans, Jewish Americans, Italian Americans...

The shape of the proposed 47th District is odd and does not fit any objective or fair criteria of the City Charter. It is not compact, and communities inside the district are not intact. Bay Ridge should not be included together with Coney Island and Marlboro Houses in the same Council District because these neighborhoods have very different demographics and socioeconomic status, located far away from each other & have different issues and priorities.

I urge Districting Commission to keep Sea Gate, Coney Island, Warbasse, Beach Haven, parts of Gravesend, Bensonhurst and Bath Beach in the 47th District. Stop dividing our communities and neighborhoods!

Sincerely,
Jane Martin-Lavaud
Resident of Gravesend

[REDACTED]
October 1, 2022

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

[REDACTED]

From: Miriam Josefovici [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, October 1, 2022 8:11 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] [REDACTED]

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Thank you for your consideration

[REDACTED]

From: Ping Tran [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 1, 2022 10:37 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Fleteau, John
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 47th Council District

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I urge Districting Commission to keep Sea Gate, Coney Island, Warbasse, Beach Haven, parts of Gravesend, Bensonhurst and Bath Beach in the 47th District. Stop dividing our communities and neighborhoods!

Name: Ping Tran

Date: 10/1/2022

Email address: [REDACTED]

Dear Members of the NYC Districting Commission!

I am Dr. Tim Law, one of the leaders of the Asian Community in Southern Brooklyn.

First, I would like to thank the Commission for considering the creation of the new Asian American district based in Bensonhurst. It is very important and timely, given the rapid growth of the Asian American community in Bensonhurst.

At the same time, I would like to express my serious concerns regarding the proposed shape of the 47th District that is currently represented by Council Member Ari Kagan. The creation of Asian American District should not tear neighboring districts apart. It is entirely possible to reconfigure the current 47th District, so it will stay compact, include communities of interest and connect similar neighborhoods located close to each other.

I urge the Commission to include parts of Bath Beach and Bensonhurst, most of Gravesend, Beach Haven, Warbasse, Coney Island and parts of Brighton Beach in the 47th District. This way communities of interest will be united in Southern Brooklyn and the new district with Asian American majority would be created without tensions with our great neighbors.

Best,

Dr. Tim Law

[REDACTED]

From: Geni [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, October 1, 2022 10:32 PM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

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Name: Yevgeniya Shpak

Date: 10/1/2022

Email address: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Amy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 1:15 AM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Flateau, John; jschneps@schnepsmedia.com; Wong, Kai-Ki; Go, Marilyn; Sorin, Lisa; Mateo, Maria; Schneps, Joshua; Wurzel, Marc; Hanratty, Kevin; Porcher, Darrin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Map: Council District 43 (Brooklyn)

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Dear New York City Re-districting Commission Members,

I submitted testimony back in mid-May this year in support of an Asian majority district in Brooklyn; this has become a contentious issue for some current elected officials. Some want bits and parts for their own selfish purposes resulting in dividing up the Asian American residents who settled in various Brooklyn neighborhoods creating small enclaves of immigrants

Historically, the Manhattan Chinatown area was majority Asian American and slowly over the years, the area has changed. Newer, younger, more affluent residents have moved in and their concerns and political beliefs are vastly different from those living out their golden years in Chinatown. Historic Chinatown, a neighborhood that raised multiple generations of Asian Americans is now being violated by a tower jail being built and surrounded by homeless shelters for drug addicts and formerly incarcerated men. It is no surprise that crime and violent attacks on residents have increased. There are too many examples of violent attacks, sexual assaults to name them all but Christina Yuna Lee should ring a bell. The Manhattan Detention Complex already exists in the area. Why displace a senior citizen center, multiple restaurants and stores to build a NEW tower jail? This happened because there is nobody truly supporting the needs of the older generation at the local or state level of government. Nobody is fighting for the Chinatown residents, to protect the elderly and the schoolchildren, to prevent the decimation and elimination of historic Chinatown. It is a very sorry state of affairs.

I make the point above because it is of utmost importance that we obtain sincere and unapologetic representation of our communities before it becomes too late. I urge former Chancellor Walcott, Judge Go, Mr. Wong and the other members of this commission to give us fair representation by keeping Asian American communities together. Please approve the preliminary map that was drawn for Council District 43 (Brooklyn) back in July.

I thank you for your time and appreciate all the hard work on the redistricting maps that will affect us for the next ten years.

Sincerely,
Amy Tse

[REDACTED]

From: Arthur Melnick [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 4:59 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Flateau, John
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 47 CD

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To: Members of the Districting Commission

The 47th CD is one of the most diverse areas in the city. Ari Kagan has been an active member of the community for many years, working to improve lives and businesses in so many ways. He has served all living and working in the 47th CD and surrounding areas which includes African Americans, Russian Americans, Pakistani Americans, Chinese Americans, Jewish Americans, Italian Americans and others, young and old. His election has been welcomed by most, inspiring great hope for the future. In electing him, his constituents were looking forward to working together with him for many years to come.

The boundaries of the proposed 47th CD are a grave disservice to those in the current district as well as a violation of the objectives and fair criteria of the City Charter. It creates splits in existing communities; it divides those that have been working together. The district as proposed combines separate communities with very little in common, disenfranchising the minority portion. This proposal is destructive to those living and working in the current 47 CD as well as many in other affected districts.

This new proposal makes no sense whatsoever and does great harm to so many. There is absolutely no way that it can be legitimately justified.

Arthur Melnick
October 2
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: barbara falik [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 4:23 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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To the Committee for redistricting.

I am a resident of the Flatbush community.
I am concerned about the plans for redistricting NYC.
I ask that our community's integrity be maintained.

Thank you,

Barbara Falik
[REDACTED] Ocean Avenue 1A
Brooklyn, NY 11230

[REDACTED]

From: Brandon Ho <b[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 2:15 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Fleteau, John; jschneps@schnepsmedia.com; Wong, Kai-Ki; Go, Marilyn; Sorin, Lisa; Mateo, Maria; Schneps, Joshua; Wurzel, Marc; Hanratty, Kevin; Porcher, Darrin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep preliminary drawn map for NYC Council District 43

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To NYC Districting Commission members,

This is Brandon ho. I am writing to you in support of the preliminary map that was drawn for the redistricting of NYC Council District 43. I strongly believe this is the redistricted map that truly represents our Asian American communities.

Best Regards,
Brandon Ho

[REDACTED]

From: Eli Cohen [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 11:06 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Flateau, John
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony

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I am submitting this testimony as Executive Director of Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, Inc, a representative council of the seventy+ Chasidic Jewish communities that are serve the Chasidic community of Crown Heights and East Flatbush.

I testified previously as to how the Jewish Community of Crown Heights, though relatively small and compact, is diluted by being spread over at least 3 Council districts.

It seems that subsequent drafts of the new planned district maps have barely addressed our concerns.

There is one easy fix that would accommodate a number of member families in the community and eliminate an anomaly that has no good explanation.

This would be to move the planned easterly boundary of the 35th Council District one block further eastward to align with the natural boundary of the community at the edge of Lincoln Terrace Park (Rochester Avenue) and include one additional block of Union St, President St, Carroll St and Crown St., from Utica Ave to Rochester Avenue that are currently left out of the district where most of the members of their community are now located.

With thanks,

Eli Cohen

--

Rabbi Eli Cohen
Executive Director

Crown Heights Jewish Community Council
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Eliezer Graber [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 1:10 AM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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It is therefore critical that our communities' unique character be maintained in a manner where our expanding communities are represented by elected officials who understand and respond to our needs.

The 44th City Council District includes Borough Park, primarily a Hasidic community, and parts of Midwood and Kensington that are Orthodox Jewish communities. The 44th District for decades has been a Jewish City Council seat and was the only district that had a Orthodox council member for over 3 decades, its crucial that this be maintained.

The 48th Council District similarly has a sizable share of Orthodox Jewish residents and we are asking to add blocks to the North and East that have considerable Orthodox Jewish residents and were unfairly excluded in the last redistricting.

For your convenience, here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 44th Council District:
<https://districtr.org/plan/142599>.

Here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 48th Council District:
<https://districtr.org/plan/142670>

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

From: Elliot Tokayer [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 5:46 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Flatbush redistricting

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Thank you for your consideration.
Elliot Tokayer

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 6:08 PM
To: Public Testimony
Attachments: text_0.txt; ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm

Dear Members of NYC Districting Commission! I am Grigoriy Berdichevskiy, Brighton Beach resident, member in the Russian speaking community. According to the City Charter, Council district lines should keep neighborhoods and communities of interest intact. They also should keep districts compact. The last proposed map of the 47th District included Bay Ridge that is a part of the Community Board 10 - far away from Coney Island, Sea Gate, Warbasse, Beach Haven and Gravesend. I strongly disagreed with new proposed lines that also created a very odd shape of the 47th District. Bay Ridge, Fort Hamilton and Dyker Heights should not be included in the 47th District! These neighborhoods have very different demographics, issues and socioeconomic status. They are also located far away from Coney Island. I am very glad that the Commission rejected this plan. The 47th Council District should unite Coney Island, Sea Gate and Warbasse Houses with neighboring Trump Village, Luna Park and Brightwater Towers. It also should include parts of Brighton Beach (from Ocean Parkway to Coney Island Avenue). These neighborhoods would be natural part of the 47th District given the similar demographics, local issues, close proximity and their traditional inclusion into the same Community Board 13, the 60th Police Precinct, the 46th Assembly District, the 23rd State Senate District and the 8th Congressional District. I strongly urge the Commission to include in the 47th District the territory between Belt Parkway and Boardwalk, from West 12 Street to Coney Island Avenue. This way new lines will naturally unite similar neighborhoods and communities of interest that historically were represented by the same local civic institutions, community groups and elected officials. Please, do not split the Russian speaking community in the 47th District and keep it intact! The 47th Council District should include parts of Brighton Beach, entire Coney Island, Trump Village, Warbasse, Luna Park, Brightwater Towers, Beach Haven, as well as parts of Gravesend, Bensonhurst and Bath Beach. Thank you. Grigoriy Berdichevskiy, Email [REDACTED]



This message was sent to you by a T-Mobile wireless phone.

[REDACTED]

From: Joseph Itzkowitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 11:23 PM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John
Cc: info@flatbushjewish.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting NYC

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Thank you for your consideration.

-

[REDACTED]

From: Flateau, John
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 2:06 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Support preliminary map drawn for NYC Council District 43.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lailing Yu [REDACTED]
Date: October 2, 2022 at 1:42:38 PM EDT
To: "Flateau, John" <JFlateau@redistricting.nyc.gov>, jschneps@schnepsmedia.com, "Wong, Kai-Ki" <KKWong@redistricting.nyc.gov>, "Go, Marilyn" <MGo@redistricting.nyc.gov>, "Sorin, Lisa" <LSorin@redistricting.nyc.gov>, "Mateo, Maria" <MMateo@redistricting.nyc.gov>, "Schneps, Joshua" <JSchneps@redistricting.nyc.gov>, "Wurzel, Marc" <MWurzel@redistricting.nyc.gov>, "Hanratty, Kevin" <KeHanratty@redistricting.nyc.gov>, "Porcher, Darrin" <DPorcher@redistricting.nyc.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support preliminary map drawn for NYC Council District 43.

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Dear Sirs/Madms:

I believe the preliminary map that was drawn for the redistrict of NYC Council District 43 will be uniting all different ethnics of Asian communities which is extremely important to our survival since we have been tremendously under represented. Our Asian needs have never been addressed by any elected official who have no understanding of diaspora of Asians. There are more than 20 Asian languages. Chinese alone has about 50 dialects.

How can our Asian concerns be properly addressed if we get divided? We Asians are the smallest group of minority. Our Asian - American votes have the lowest percentage that won't have any impact on any decision making by the elected official. But our Asian - American votes will have a higher percentage for consideration of any elected official if the preliminary drawn map for NYC Council District 43 is kept to unite all Asians.

Ms. Lailing Yu
[REDACTED]

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Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

[REDACTED]

From: Lillian Lieberman [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Flateau, John
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 47th Council District Proposed Boundaries

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The shape of the proposed 47th District is odd and does not fit any objective or fair criteria of City Charter. It is not compact and communities inside the district are not intact. Bay Ridge should not be included together with Coney Island and Marlboro Houses in the same Council District because these neighborhoods have very different demographics and socioeconomic status, located far away from each other & have different issues and priorities.

I urge Districting Commission to keep Sea Gate, Coney Island, Warbasse, Beach Haven, parts of Gravesend, Bensonhurst and Bath Beach in the 47th District. Stop dividing our communities and neighborhoods!

Name: Lillian. Lieberman

Date: October 3, 2022

Email address: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Pinny Ringel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 12:29 AM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Flateau, John; Schneps, Joshua; Wurzel, Marc; Wong, Kai-Ki; Go, Marilyn; Sorin, Lisa; Mateo, Maria; Hanratty, Kevin; Porcher, Darrin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: Redistricting of the 44th Council District

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Dear Commissioners

My name is Pinchas Ringel and I reside in the 44th council district.

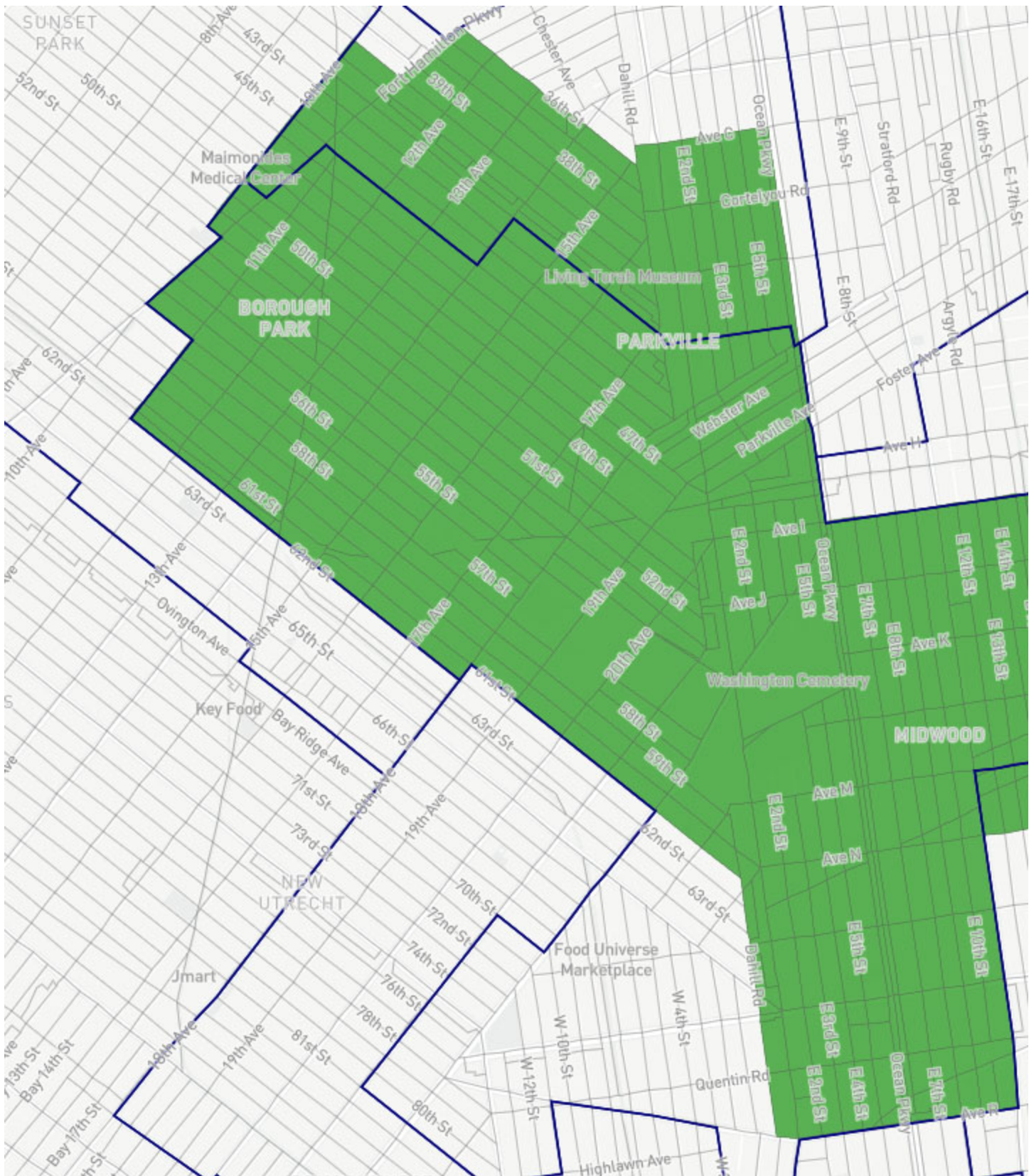
I respectfully write this letter regarding the redistricting of City Council districts 44. Boro Park along with parts of Kensington bordering Boro Park is a Hasidic community. We share the same synagogues, yeshiva schools, kosher food stores, shopping centers, and religious practices and observance. We are a concentrated community and are unique, sharing common values and having many of the same needs. It is therefore critical that our communities' unique characters be maintained in a manner where our ever-expanding communities need the attention of elected officials who understand and respond to our needs. The 44th City Council District, which, for decades at this point, has been the core Jewish City Council District and was the only district that had a Orthodox council member for over 3 decades.

During Friday hearing it was mentioned that letters were sent in to keep the Jewish community in one district but border lines weren't included. I'm including in this email an updated map that I just drafted from what was included in previous emails to the commission along with testimony.

To explain, Boro Park residents consider the boundaries of Boro Park from 36th Street all the way to 61 Street but in truth the lower numbers are really considered Kensington by the commission and is currently in the 39th district as you can see in the attached map. The proposed map includes this portion that is now in the 39th district that is heavily Hasidic area.

The area from Ditmas Avenue to Ave I, McDonald to Ocean Parkway especially the part that is currently in the 44th district is heavily populated with Hasidic and Orthodox Jews and all the new condos that were built in this area lately, are populated by the Hasidic community. The Commission on Friday ignored this and took the whole area out of the 44 and placed it into the 40.

Please see this proposed map of the 44th district to get a better understanding of where the Hasidic community in the greater Boro Park area and Orthodox Jewish community is currently concentrated. Please click on this link for exact street border lines <https://districtr.org/plan/143143>.



This proposed map included some streets north of Ditmas Avenue between McDonald Avenue and Ocean Parkway cause Hasidic and Orthodox Jews already moved into these blocks and more are looking to to buy on these blocks.

I'm aware that the 40th and the 45th district lost population and need more area to be reach the amount of population it will represent, that is the reason this proposed map only included the section in Midwood the 44 currently has which is the Orthodox Jewish area of Midwood that was mentioned a few times on Friday that people testified that they want Boro Park and Midwood to stay united.

This proposed district will unite the Hasidic community in the greater Boro Park area along with the parts of Hasidic and Orthodox Jewish area of Kensington along with the Orthodox Jewish area in Midwood that is currently in the 44 district. It will allow us to continue having a representative in the Council from the community that will be able to understand and represent the communities needs.

Thank you for your attention to this critically important need.

If you have any questions or need more details to understand this proposed map, please let me know and I would be happy to explain and answer any questions.

Pinchas Ringel

[REDACTED]

From: michael silverman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 12:36 AM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Error in boundaries applied for redistricting

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Dear Commissioner Schneps:

My name is Michael Silverman and I am a life-long resident of Southern Brooklyn and reside in Warbasse Houses currently within the 47th Council District. In fact, I am the President of the Board of Directors of Warbasse Houses, the Parliamentarian for Community Board 13, a member of the 60th Precinct Community Council, and formerly the Democratic State Committeeman for the 46th Assembly District. Ten years ago I served on the SuperStorm Sandy Task Force in the City Council. I only include this information as background so as to inform you that I am truly involved in the community and know its people, residents, businesses, its needs, and certainly its boundaries.

I watched the Youtube video of the Commission's last meeting and found it very interesting and informative, but also found a rather large error, which would cause significant harm to the community and cause a miscalculation in the amount of residents in two council districts.

It is important to know the demographics of the district and their true boundaries, without guessing, which is why I address this letter to you as the "Brooklyn Commissioner". While I don't have access to your program/computer with maps and corresponding populations, I do know that when discussing Warbasse Houses in the 47th and moving it into the 48th, the commission used Ocean Parkway on the East, Mitchell Wesson (West Ave) on the North, Neptune Ave on the South, and West 5th St on the east (see video) and this is what they wanted to move into the 48th.

The boundaries are incorrect! You would be splitting Warbasse into two districts!

Warbasse is 26 acres and its boundaries are Ocean Parkway on the east, Mitchell Wesson (West Ave) on the North, Neptune Ave on the south and **West 6th St (F train) on the west**. The Commission's suggestion would place 3/5ths of Warbasse in the 48th council district and 2/5ths in the 47th council district. Warbasse Houses is 5 buildings with 2585 apartments, each building having 517 apartments each. Buildings 1,2 and 3 between Ocean Parkway and West 5th St have 1551 apartments, and buildings 4 & 5 between West 5th St and West 6th St have 1034 apartments.

Best estimate on a Saturday night, would be an average minimum of 3 people in an apartment for a total of 1551 per building. Multiplying this number by the number of buildings (3) for a total of 4653 in just the portion of the complex that the commission added to the 48th will show that you undercounted the amount you added to the 48th, which would then cause it to be out of the range that you use as a guide. We have approximately 8000 residents here.

I listened to one of the Commissioners talk about the history of redistricting in the area with the last time being 10 years ago, and I remember it as well. It was redistricted via gerrymandering with heavy

political pressure to pretty much ensure that the incumbent politico in the then boundaries would not fall victim to the rising immigration/influx of our newest citizens. It would definitely be a shame if the current process allows political pressure and changes borders to suit some currently in power. That is not what the voters voted for. Currently we have seen the Commission step back and change a problematic revision where two incumbents would have to face one another, I'm sure this did not make either Councilmember happy and the Commission changed it. I understand how important it is to have a mostly Asian district, and you made it happen. I also understand how important it is to keep communities together like you did for Midwood and other mostly Jewish areas and you are to be commended for that as well. However, I will never understand how it makes sense to use one street in between two districts in order to connect the 47th between Coney Island and Dyker Heights/Bay Ridge.

This brings me to my suggestion, please consider keeping neighborhoods together by including Sea Gate, Coney Island, Luna Park, Warbasse, some of Brighton Beach (Brighton Beach Ave to Coney Island Ave), Marlboro Houses, Gravesend, and anything else up Cropsey Ave so that you have the needed population. We have similar needs, income levels and housing needs.

Let me explain, Warbasse is a State Mitchell-Lama Co-op(47th). Luna Park is a City Mitchell- Lama Co-op(48th), Sam Burt Houses in Coney Island is a City ML(47th), we all share many of the same issues and our buildings are of the same age and ethnicities. NYCHA represents a lot of the housing in Coney Island, Marlboro Houses is also NYCHA, and both groups share the same problems and have much in common. Whereas Trump Village, and Brightwater Towers (currently in the 48th) are private co-ops, share similar income levels and can be sold privately and should remain in the 48th. If it is necessary to increase the population of the 48th, since the district currently goes north as well, you can use more of the Dyker/Bayridge area there.

It is important to keep similar communities together, communities which at this point have been together for 10 years and even longer if we are talking about commonalities.

Thank you for your time and your best efforts,
Michael Silverman
President,
Warbasse Houses

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 1:04 AM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Flateau, John
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 47th Council District Boundaries

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The shape of the proposed 47th District is odd and does not fit any objective or fair criteria of City Charter. It is not compact and communities inside the district are not intact. Bay Ridge should not be included together with Coney Island and Marlboro Houses in the same Council District because these neighborhoods have very different demographics and socioeconomic status, located far away from each other & have different issues and priorities.

I urge Districting Commission to keep Sea Gate, Coney Island, Warbasse, Beach Haven, parts of Gravesend, Bensonhurst and Bath Beach in the 47th District. Stop dividing our communities and neighborhoods!

Name: Rabbi Moshe Wiener

Date: 10/2/2022

Email address: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: T K [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 9:15 AM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep neighborhoods and communities of interest intact.

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Dear Members of NYC Districting Commission!

I am Oleg Zinkovetsky, one of the leaders in the Russian speaking community and a resident of Coney Island.

According to the City Charter, Council district lines should keep neighborhoods and communities of interest intact. They also should keep districts compact.

The last proposed map of the 47th District included Bay Ridge that is a part of the Community Board 10 - far away from Coney Island, Sea Gate, Warbasse, Beach Haven and Gravesend. I strongly disagreed with previously proposed lines that also created a very odd shape of the 47th District. **Bay Ridge, Fort Hamilton and Dyker Heights should not be included in the 47th District!** These neighborhoods have very different demographics, issues and socioeconomic status. They are also located far away from Coney Island. I am very glad that the Commission rejected this plan.

The 47th Council District should unite Coney Island, Sea Gate and Warbasse Houses with neighboring Trump Village, Luna Park and Brightwater Towers. It also should include parts of Brighton Beach (from Ocean Parkway to Coney Island Avenue). These neighborhoods would be a natural part of the 47th District given the similar demographics, local issues, close proximity and their traditional inclusion into the same Community Board 13, the 60th Police Precinct, the 46th Assembly District, the 23rd State Senate District and the 8th Congressional District.

I strongly urge the Commission to include in the 47th District the territory between Belt Parkway and Boardwalk, from West 12 Street to Coney Island Avenue. This way new lines will naturally unite similar neighborhoods and communities of interest that historically were represented by the same local civic institutions, community groups and elected officials. **Please, do not split the Russian speaking community in the 47th District, and keep it intact!**

The 47th Council District should include parts of Brighton Beach, entire Coney Island, Trump Village, Warbasse, Luna Park, Brightwater Towers, Beach Haven, as well as parts of Gravesend and the entire Bath Beach. See my proposed map of the District below.

Thank you.

Oleg Zinkovetsky

[Districtr](#)

[REDACTED]

From: Priscilla Santos [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 6:07 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Fleteau, John; rodney knight
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Council District Lines

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Dear Members of NYC Districting Commission!

I am Priscilla Santos, President, Coney Island Sharks, a prominent non-for-profit organization serving youth and their families in Coney Island, and a community leader in Southern Brooklyn.

According to the City Charter, Council district lines should keep neighborhoods and communities of interest intact. They also should keep districts compact.

The last proposed map of the 47th District included Bay Ridge that is a part of the Community Board 10 - far away from Coney Island, Sea Gate, Warbasse, Beach Haven and Gravesend. I strongly disagreed with previously proposed lines that also created a very odd shape of the 47th District. Bay Ridge, Fort Hamilton and Dyker Heights should not be included in the 47th District! These neighborhoods have very different demographics, issues and socioeconomic status. They are also located far away from Coney Island. I am very glad that the Commission rejected this plan.

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I strongly urge the Commission to include in the 47th District the territory between Belt Parkway and Boardwalk, from West 12 Street to Coney Island Avenue. This way new lines will naturally unite similar neighborhoods and communities of interest that historically were represented by the same local civic institutions, community groups and elected officials. Please, do not split communities of interest in the 47th District, and keep it intact!

The 47th Council District should include parts of Brighton Beach, entire Coney Island, Trump Village, Warbasse, Luna Park, Brightwater Towers, Beach Haven, as well as parts of Gravesend and the entire Bath Beach. See my proposed map of the District below.

Thank you.

Priscilla Santos
President
Coney Island Sharks Education Sports Club, Inc.



[REDACTED]

From: Ronald Greenberg [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:01 AM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Flateau, John
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NOBODY TO MY KNOWLEDGE FROM CONEY ISLAND AND BAY RIDGE "EXPRESSED TO BE UNITED IN ONE DISTRICT" AS FALSELY STATED BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JEFF FLATEAU SEPTEMBER 22, 2022!

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Ronald Greenberg
[REDACTED] Shore Parkway Apartment 14G
Brooklyn, NY 11214
[REDACTED]

October 3, 2022

Dear Members of Districting Commission!

I am outraged that you completely ignored testimonies and letters from so many organizations and community leaders in Southern Brooklyn. The proposed boundaries of the 47th Council District disenfranchise many communities of interest, including but not limited to: African Americans, Russian speaking Americans, Pakistani Americans, Chinese Americans, Jewish Americans, Italian Americans, etc. The shape of the proposed 47th District is odd and does not fit any objective or fair criteria of City Charter. It is not compact and communities inside the district are not intact. Bay Ridge should not be included together with Coney Island and Marlboro Houses in the same Council District because these neighborhoods have very different demographics and socioeconomic status, located far away from each other and have different issues and priorities.

I urge Districting Commission to keep Sea Gate, Coney Island, Warbasse, Beach Haven, parts of Gravesend, Bensonhurst and Bath Beach in the 47th District. Stop dividing our communities and neighborhoods! It is very important to keep our 47th District in Southern Brooklyn compact and intact, so it would receive attention, funding and services we deserve!

NOBODY TO MY KNOWLEDGE FROM CONEY ISLAND AND BAY RIDGE "EXPRESSED TO BE UNITED IN ONE DISTRICT" AS FALSELY STATED BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JEFF FLATEAU SEPTEMBER 22, 2022!

Ronald Greenberg
Board Member of Brooklyn Community Board 13

[REDACTED]

From: Simon Critchell [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 4:39 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Don't Split SoHo/NoHo

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Dear Commissioners:

SoHo/NoHo has long been a single, unified "identifiable community of interest" with "shared interests".

SoHo/NoHo:


- share a similar history dating to the 1970s when urban pioneers created these neighborhoods
- have long been considered a single community by the City government
- underwent similar real-estate development and adoptive re-use conversions
- possess a disproportionate number of residents employed in the arts, cultural or creative fields, many residing in joint live-work conditions
- share a similar demographic and education level
- serve as an important economic center for tourism and commercial retail, as well as fashion, culture and the arts
- are Historic Districts designated by the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
- worked together as close allies in countless civic and political campaigns — and continue to do so
- are both within School District 2
- share a transportation hub
- have high property taxes compared to most of the city, all of which necessitate a common elected official to advocate for us

Do not divide a long-established community. Keep SoHo/NoHo both in Council District 1.

Signed:

Best regards,

Simon Critchell

 [REDACTED]

The Jewish Future Alliance

October 2, 2022

I am writing to submit testimony to the Districting Commission regarding the 35th Council District.

I am requesting that the commission extend the Eastern border of the 35th district from Utica Avenue to Rochester Avenue. It is the natural border of the district, and would consolidate the Orthodox Jewish community in the area. The Orthodox Jewish community is currently split into three districts and extending the border to Rochester would help unify this Community of Interest.

The community has deep roots in Crown Heights dating back to the 1940s. It is where the Lubavitcher Rebbe, of blessed memory, relocated from Eastern Europe and rebuilt our community after WWII, and it was in Crown Heights that he created the vast network of Chabad-Lubavitch. This neighborhood means so much to its residents and community members worldwide.

Thank you for your consideration.



Rabbi Yaacov Behrman

• Multi-ethnic Community Engagement • Cultural Events • Educational Seminars •
Referral Services • Inter-Community Dialogue • Advocacy • Environmental Strategies

DeCillis, Michael

From: Yoel and Brochi Lipsett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 5:01 PM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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Dear Commissioners,

As a member of the Orthodox Jewish Midwood/Flatbush community, we ask that you keep our community combined and united in two Council districts- the 44th and the 48th.

We are a unique community that shares common values and many of the same needs. We share the same synagogues, yeshiva schools, kosher food stores, shopping centers, and religious practices and observance. Due to the Sabbath religious travel restrictions, all synagogue members need to be within walking distance.

It is therefore critical that our communities' unique character be maintained in a manner where our expanding communities are represented by elected officials who understand and respond to our needs.

The 44th City Council District includes Borough Park, primarily a Hasidic community, and parts of Midwood and Kensington that are Orthodox Jewish communities. The 44th District for decades has been a Jewish City Council seat and was the only district that had an Orthodox council member for over 3 decades, it is crucial that this be maintained.

The 48th Council District similarly has a sizable share of Orthodox Jewish residents and we are asking to add blocks to the North and East that have considerable Orthodox Jewish residents and were unfairly excluded in the last redistricting.

For your convenience, here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 44th Council District: <https://districtr.org/plan/142599>.

Here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 48th Council District: <https://districtr.org/plan/142670>

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

From: Abraham Samuel Shiff [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:47 PM
To: Public Testimony; iflateau@redistricting.gov
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Midwood/Flatbush Community Redistricting

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Thank you for your consideration.

Abraham Samuel Shiff

[REDACTED] Kings Highway, Apt 3F

Brooklyn, NY 11229



--

Abraham Samuel Shiff

[REDACTED]

From: Aliza Cohenca [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:20 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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Thank you for your consideration.

Aliza Cohenca

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: arlene gonter [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 5:37 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] council districts

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Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

From: bbrodt itfirms.com [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 12:18 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Flateau, John
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Commission

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[REDACTED] East 21st Street
Brooklyn, New York 11210
October 3, 2022

Dear Commissioners,

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Here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 48th Council District: <https://districtr.org/plan/142670>

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bluma Brodt

--

[REDACTED]

From: Claire Nagel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 3:48 PM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting

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Here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 48th Council District: <https://districtr.org/plan/142670>

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

From: G [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 3:50 PM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NYC Re-Districting Commission and our Community

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Forward suspect email to phish@oti.nyc.gov as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

Dear Commissioners,\$

\$

As a member of the Orthodox Jewish Midwood/Flatbush community, we ask that you keep our community combined and united in two Council districts- the 44th and the 48th.\$

We are a unique community that shares common values and many of the same needs. We share the same synagogues, yeshiva schools, kosher food stores, shopping centers, and religious practices and observance. Due to the Sabbath religious travel restrictions, all synagogue members need to be within walking distance.\$

It is therefore critical that our communities' unique character be maintained in a manner where our expanding communities are represented by elected officials who understand and respond to our needs. \$

The 44th City Council District includes Borough Park, primarily a Hasidic community, and parts of Midwood and Kensington that are Orthodox Jewish communities. The 44th District for decades has been a Jewish City Council seat and was the only district that had an Orthodox council member for over 3 decades, it is crucial that this be maintained. \$

The 48th Council District similarly has a sizable share of Orthodox Jewish residents and we are asking to add blocks to the North and East that have considerable Orthodox Jewish residents and were unfairly excluded in the last redistricting.\$

For your convenience, here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 44th Council District: <https://districtr.org/plan/142599>.\$

Here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 48th Council District: <https://districtr.org/plan/142670>\$

Thank you for your consideration.\$

Gary\$

[REDACTED]

From: Helen Weg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 3:42 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] important

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Forward suspect email to phish@oti.nyc.gov as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

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Here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 48th Council District: <https://districtr.org/plan/142670>

Thank you for your consideration.

Helen Weg

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Jack Spatola [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 12:05 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Flateau, John
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter to Districting Commission

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Dear Commissioners:

I write as President of the Federation of Italian American Organizations of Brooklyn, a not-for-profit organization serving tens of thousands of residents in the neighborhoods comprising Southern Brooklyn.

The current proposed map of the Forty-Seventh (47) District contravenes the mandate of the City Charter that Council Districts should unite neighborhoods and create compact districts.

A newly created 47th District should unite neighborhoods that are in close proximity, share community boards and police precincts, have similar demographics and share similar local challenges.

Bensonhurst, the home of my organization should be part of the 47th District that encompasses Gravesend, Bath Beach, Coney Island, Sea Gate, Warbasse Houses and Beach Haven.

In 2009, New York City implemented a new rezoning and revitalization plan for the waterfront in South Brooklyn which at the time was represented by **one** city council member. As a result, we have experienced the rebirth of Sea Gate, Coney Island and Brighton Beach with the influx of thousands of people coming to the beaches, amusements, and businesses. By dividing the 47th District, all that has been accomplished will be set back and the revitalization plan which was approved by this community will be impacted adversely.

These new District lines would unite communities that have historically been served by the same community institutions and elected officials.

On behalf of the Federation, I urge the creation of a newly drawn 47th District that unites our communities and provides the best services to the population of the redrawn 47th District.

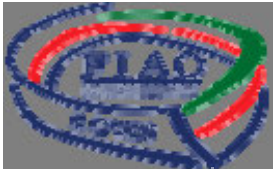
Sincerely yours,

G. Jack Spatola
President
Federation of Italian American
Organizations of Brooklyn, Ltd. (FIAO)
Il Centro, 8711 - 18th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11214

718-259-2828

GJ.Spatola@fiaobrooklyn.org

www.fiaobrooklyn.org



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[REDACTED]

From: Joel Ciment [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 3:39 PM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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Dear Commissioners,

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Here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 48th Council District: <https://districtr.org/plan/142670>

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Joel Ciment
GCRE Advisors, LLC

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Offices in NY/FL

[REDACTED]

From: Joyce Goldberg [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 4:50 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: NYC Re-Districting Commission and our Community

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kingsway Jewish Center <[REDACTED]>
Date: October 3, 2022 at 3:35:38 PM EDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: NYC Re-Districting Commission and our Community

Good Afternoon,

We are sending this email regarding an important matter.

The City redistricting Commission is working again to redraw the City Council lines that will be in effect for the **next 10 years**.

The FJCC has been working with City Hall and members of the Redistricting Commission to attain the best possible lines for our community's representation.

There are those working to divide our community and weaken our impact in the City Council.

The Commission is now accepting public comment. It is crucial that community members send the email below **today** to the Commission asking that our community's integrity be maintained.

Please send to the following email addresses:

PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

Jflateau@redistricting.nyc.gov

and cc to:

[REDACTED]

Thank you. G'mar Chasimah Tovah.

Dear Commissioners,

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Here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 48th Council District: <https://districtr.org/plan/142670>

Thank you for your consideration.

Kingsway Jewish Center
[REDACTED] Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11229
[REDACTED]

This email was sent to [REDACTED] by <https://www.kingswayjewishcenter.org/>

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[REDACTED]

From: L Altmann <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 4:58 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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Dear Commissioners,

As an absent but involved member of the Orthodox Jewish Midwood/Flatbush community, we ask that you keep our community combined and united in two Council districts- the 44th and the 48th.

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<https://districtr.org/plan/142599>.

Here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 48th Council District:
<https://districtr.org/plan/142670>

Thank you for your consideration.

Mrs. (Leah) Altmann, Denver, CO 80220

for residents of Flatbush, Midwood, Kensington, Boro Park,
and other nearby Chassidic/Orthodox neighborhoods
Resident of adjacent neighborhood in Brooklyn 2005-2019,
having returned to birth city for family business

--

Altmann
80220

[REDACTED]

From: leah preiserowicz [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:26 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting

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Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

From: Li Qiang <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 9:21 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support the July preliminary map

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Dear NYC Districting Commission Members,

I am a supporter of Asian Wave Alliance. I am writing to you to echo the support of the July preliminary map that was drawn for the redistrict of NYC Council District 43. I strongly believe this is the redistrict map that truly represents our Asian American communities.

发自我的iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Li Hua Wu [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 10:09 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Flateau, John; jschneps@schnepsmedia.com; Wong, Kai-Ki; Go, Marilyn; Sorin, Lisa; Mateo, Maria; Schneps, Joshua; Wurzel, Marc; Hanratty, Kevin; Porcher, Darrin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of the July preliminary map

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Lihua Wu

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: weatherwoman365 (null) [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 3:46 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep my Community together

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Dear Commissioners,

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Here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 48th Council District: <https://districtr.org/plan/142670>

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Lori Maslow

 Stuart Street

Brooklyn, NY 11229

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: malka alt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 4:48 PM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John; [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Council Districts 44 & 48

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Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

From: Michael Blassberger [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 5:56 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

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Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Blassberger

[REDACTED]

From: Mireille Baum [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 9:24 PM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Council Districts 44 & 48

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Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

From: Pervez Siddiqui [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 9:15 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CD 47

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TO MEMBERS OF THE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

My name is Pervez Siddiqui and I am the Chairman of Apna Community Center in Brighton Beach
I am also a Community Pharmacist and I know our community in Southern Brooklyn for the last 35 years
I represent the communities both in 47 and 48 CD and we have Community Centers in both the districts.
Ari Kagan our Councilman has done a tremendous job in bringing the various communities together and he is an asset to Souther Brooklyn
I am writing this email to express my outrage and disappointment that the commission ignored numerous testimonies and did not seriously look in to the various issues that were brought to their attention.

I strongly oppose the last proposed map that cut Bensonhurst ,Gravesend, Homecrest, and Warbasse Houses out of the 47 District.

The Commission should instead add Sea Gate, Coney Island, ,Warbasse, Luna Park, parts of Brighton Beach, Bath Beach, Bensonhurst and Gravesend in to one district.

Bay Ridge, Fort Hamilton and Dyker Heights should not include Marlboro Houses and Coney Island in to one district because they are different demographics far from each other and have different issues and interests.

This new map as proposed has also create splits in the existing community. It divides the community who have been getting along and working together for a common good.

It is my fervent appeal to the Commission to look in to this and rectify it as it does great harm and does not serve the commission purpose of creating harmony within the Community

We strongly urge another public hearing of the Commission in Southern Brooklyn so we as a Community has a chance to express our voice and be able to keep our communities together.

Regards,

Pervez Siddiqui

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 5:41 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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September 28, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

As a member of the Orthodox Jewish Community in central Queens, I am aware of and grateful that the Redistricting Commission voted down the most recent (September 22nd) updated proposal for the redistricting map. In particular, I am saddened the disdain that the updated proposal shows toward the Orthodox Community in District 24.

When the initial redistricting plan was published, our Community was shocked to see the Hillcrest/Fresh Meadows Community – a pillar of the Orthodox Community -- was completely removed from the 24th District, diluting our Community's ability to have its interests represented with a united voice. The Commission abysmally failed to meet the criterion set out "keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other." As a member of the Orthodox Jewish Community in District 24, I am surprised that after so many pleas to preserve and keep our community together, the Commission presented a proposal on September 22nd that once again fails to preserve our Community.

Despite our efforts over the last 70 years to build and grow our Community in this Council District (District 24 in its current configuration is home to thousands of Orthodox Jewish families, almost a hundred Orthodox Synagogues, and many other Jewish Community centers and ritual facilities), our Community remains a distinct religious minority in this District, which demands that we be kept intact and retain the ability to be represented as one community. We have common concerns -- every one of our religious facilities is utilized every day of the week, multiple times a day; children and adults alike. By any meaningful metric, the Orthodox Jewish Community of District 24 is in a sustained period of growth, especially in the area that is proposed to be removed from the 24th District. I am therefore compelled to state the following:

The updated proposed redistricting maps for City Council are not in our Community's interest in their current form. The Jewish Community in the current configuration of Council District 24 is composed of the combined Sefardi and Ashkenazi communities. Our two communities are unified in interest and location, each with members and Shuls interspersed amongst each other. We are one contiguous chain linking together Kew Garden Hills, Fresh Meadows/Hillcrest, and Jamaica Estates. Though there are pockets of our community in other areas as well, this chain of neighborhoods represents the largest Jewish voice of Queens, and cutting any portion out would result in an unacceptable disenfranchisement.

The proposed change to the current District map completely disregards the reality on the ground. It artificially and needlessly separates many community members from the community facilities that serve them. Furthermore, the seemingly arbitrary lines harmfully cut off one community and congregation from its fellow community and congregation. The net result is a weakened Orthodox Jewish community, structurally, demographically, and politically.

The area of our Community that we seek to retain – the area east of Utopia Parkway all the way to the existing District boundary – comprises 3,888 people according to the Commission's numbers. So retaining 3,888 people to keep the Orthodox Jewish Community contiguous and intact the Commission won't do, yet the Commission seeks to ADD almost TWENTY SIX THOUSAND people to the 24th District from non-Jewish areas that are not currently part of the 24th District! This is adding insult to injury.

For these reasons I strongly believe that the redistricting proposal's continued disregard for the Jewish Community is damaging to the community's very fabric, its unified voice, and its interests. I implore the Redistricting Committee to keep to the criteria it is charged to uphold, immediately restore the 3,888 people in the area east of Utopia Parkway north of 75th Avenue and keep the eastern boundary of the District as it exists today.

Sincerely,
Rivka Sheldon

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: arimasmilly [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 9:07 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The proposed boundaries of the 47th Council District

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Dear Members of Districting Commission!

I am outraged that you completely ignored testimonies and letters from so many organizations and community leaders in Southern Brooklyn. The proposed boundaries of the 47th Council District disenfranchise many communities of interest, including but not limited to: African Americans, Russian speaking Americans, Pakistani Americans, Chinese Americans, Jewish Americans, Italian Americans...

The shape of the proposed 47th District is odd and does not fit any objective or fair criteria of City Charter. It is not compact and communities inside the district are not intact. Bay Ridge should not be included together with Coney Island and Marlboro Houses in the same Council District because these neighborhoods have very different demographics and socioeconomic status, located far away from each other & have different issues and priorities.

I urge Districting Commission to keep Sea Gate, Coney Island, Warbasse, Beach Haven, parts of Gravesend, Bensonhurst and Bath Beach in the 47th District. Stop dividing our communities and neighborhoods!

Name: Samira Lukovic

Date: 10/04/2022

Email address: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: sam kahan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:50 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: FJCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Forward suspect email to phish@oti.nyc.gov as an attachment (Click the More button, then forward as attachment).

Dear Commissioners,

As a member of the Orthodox Jewish Midwood/Flatbush community, we ask that you keep our community combined and united in two Council districts- the 44th and the 48th.

We are a unique community that shares common values and many of the same needs. We share the same synagogues, yeshiva schools, kosher food stores, shopping centers, and religious practices and observance. Due to the Sabbath religious travel restrictions, all synagogue members need to be within walking distance.

It is therefore critical that our communities' unique character be maintained in a manner where our expanding communities are represented by elected officials who understand and respond to our needs.

The 44th City Council District includes Borough Park, primarily a Hasidic community, and parts of Midwood and Kensington that are Orthodox Jewish communities. The 44th District for decades has been a Jewish City Council seat and was the only district that had a Orthodox council member for over 3 decades, its crucial that this be maintained.

The 48th Council District similarly has a sizable share of Orthodox Jewish residents and we are asking to add blocks to the North and East that have considerable Orthodox Jewish residents and were unfairly excluded in the last redistricting.

For your convenience, here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 44th Council District: <https://districtr.org/plan/142599>.

Here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 48th Council District: <https://districtr.org/plan/142670>

Thank you for your consideration.

Samuel Kahan
President
Skyline Capital Group
Tel: [REDACTED] [Ext. 215](tel:[REDACTED])
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] /O SmartSpace Suite 211, Brooklyn NY 11210

Sent via [Superhuman](#)

[REDACTED]

From: Toba Goldberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 5:29 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re redistricting

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Thank you for your consideration.

Toba Goldberg

[REDACTED]

From: Rabbi Benzion Laskin [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 11:37 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting of CD 47

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Dear Members of the Districting Commission!

I am Rabbi Benzion Laskin, one of the leaders of the Jewish Russian-speaking community, long time Brighton Beach resident

I am outraged that you completely ignored testimonies and letters from so many organizations and community leaders in Southern Brooklyn. The proposed boundaries of the 47th Council District disenfranchise many communities of interest, including but not limited to African Americans, Russian-speaking Americans, Pakistani Americans, Chinese Americans, Jewish Americans, Italian Americans... The shape of the proposed 47th District is odd and does not fit any objective or fair criteria of the City Charter. It is not compact and communities inside the district are not intact. Bay Ridge should not be included together with Coney Island and Marlboro Houses in the same Council District because these neighborhoods have very different demographics and socioeconomic status, are located far away from each other & have different issues and priorities.

I urge the District Commission to keep Sea Gate, Coney Island, Warbasse, Beach Haven, and parts of Gravesend, Bensonhurst, and Bath Beach in the 47th District. Stop dividing our communities and neighborhoods!

Sincerely,

Rabbi Benzion Laskin

[REDACTED]

From: David <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 8:08 AM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] city council redistricting

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Thank you for your consideration.

David Stern

[REDACTED]

From: Fishel Hochbaum <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 5:58 AM
To: Public Testimony

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Please respect the district lines in the Midwood community to reflect the present population Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: ruben katz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 12:33 AM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

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Thank you for your consideration.

--

GILDA KATZ
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: yan zheng [REDACTED] m>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 8:43 AM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: [REDACTED]; Wong, Kai-Ki; Go, Marilyn; Sorin, Lisa; Mateo, Maria; Schneps, Joshua; Wurzel, Marc; Hanratty, Kevin; Porcher, Darrin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support the July preliminary map

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Dear NYC Districting Commission Members,

I am a supporter of Asian Wave Alliance. I am writing to you to echo the support of the July preliminary map that was drawn for the redistrict of NYC Council District 43. I strongly believe this is the redistrict map that truly represents our Asian American communities.

Sincerely,
Karen Zheng

[REDACTED]

From: KaiYing Chen [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 2:27 PM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John; [REDACTED]; Wong, Kai-Ki; Go, Marilyn; Sorin, Lisa; Mateo, Maria; Schneps, Joshua; Wurzel, Marc; Hanratty, Kevin; Porcher, Darrin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support the July preliminary map

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Sincerely,
Kay Chen

[REDACTED]

From: LIBRA CHEN [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 2:28 PM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John; [REDACTED]; Wong, Kai-Ki; Go, Marilyn; Sorin, Lisa; Mateo, Maria; Schneps, Joshua; Wurzel, Marc; Hanratty, Kevin; Porcher, Darrin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support the July preliminary map

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Sincerely,
Libra Chen

[REDACTED]

From: Ruben Katz [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 12:30 AM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City redistricting Commission

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Thank you for your consideration.

--

RUBEN KATZ
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: arimasmilly <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 9:07 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The proposed boundaries of the 47th Council District

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I urge Districting Commission to keep Sea Gate, Coney Island, Warbasse, Beach Haven, parts of Gravesend, Bensonhurst and Bath Beach in the 47th District. Stop dividing our communities and neighborhoods!

Name: Samira Lukovic

Date: 10/04/2022

Email address: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: SYLVIA KAPLAN [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 12:39 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Council Districts —44th and 48th

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I understand that those in districts 44 and 48 wish to have these districts remain in tact in order to represent the needs of the constituents who are predominantly Orthodox Jewish.

I live in the Midwood neighborhood. I am Jewish, and secular. While my council person is very sensitive to the needs of the Orthodox Jewish constituents, the needs of those who do not belong to this group are ignored. I, therefore, feel that in order to ensure that the needs of all constituents in districts 44 and 48 are heard, the districts should be redrawn so that all are heard—including the voices of those who not part of the Orthodox Jewish community. Thank you.

Sylvia Kaplan
Apt. C15
[REDACTED] Ocean Parkway
Brooklyn, NY. 11230

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: Vincent <[REDACTED]m>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 8:21 AM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Fateau, John; jschneps@schnepsmedia.com; Wong, Kai-Ki; Go, Marilyn; Sorin, Lisa; Mateo, Maria; Schneps, Joshua; Wurzel, Marc; Hanratty, Kevin; Porcher, Darrin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of the July preliminary map on D43

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Dear NYC Districting Commission Members,

I am a long time Brooklyn resident, and a real stakeholder of new D43. I'm also a supporter of Asian Wave Alliance. I am writing to you to echo the support of the July preliminary map that was drawn for the redistrict of NYC Council District 43. I strongly believe this is the redistrict map that truly represents our Asian American communities.

Sincerely,
Vincent Lu

[REDACTED]

From: Zlata Razdolina [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 11:50 AM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter to the members of the Districting Commission

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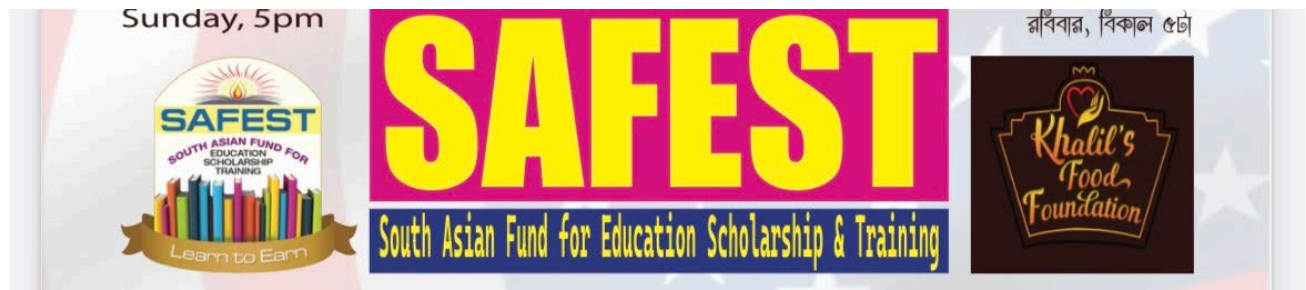
Dear Members of the Districting Commission!

My name is Zlata Razdolina ,award winning composer and performer , long time resident of Brighton Beach .

I am outraged that you completely ignored testimonies and letters from so many organizations and community leaders in Southern Brooklyn. The proposed boundaries of the 47th Council District disenfranchise many communities of interest, including but not limited to: African Americans, Russian speaking Americans, Pakistani Americans, Chinese Americans, Jewish Americans, Italian Americans... The shape of the proposed 47th District is odd and does not fit any objective or fair criteria of City Charter. It is not compact and communities inside the district are not intact. Bay Ridge should not be included together with Coney Island and Marlboro Houses in the same Council District because these neighborhoods have very different demographics and socioeconomic status, located far away from each other & have different issues and priorities.

I urge the District Commission to keep Sea Gate, Coney Island, Warbasse, Beach Haven, parts of Gravesend, Bensonhurst and Bath Beach in the 47th District. Stop dividing our communities and neighborhoods!

Sincerely ,
Zlata Razdolina



Oct,6th,2022

Dear Members of Districting Commission,

My name is Selina Bhuiyan & owner of the 2960 Brighton 3rd Place ,Brooklyn. Also I am one of the teachers of the South Asian Fund for Education, Scholarship and Training (SAFEST), is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable and community service organization.

SAFEST has gone on to deliver a comprehensive array of services to thousands of children, youth, adults and entire families from South Asian countries who reside in all 5 New York City boroughs.

SAFEST's services have always been "grass roots" in nature, with staff and volunteers "on the streets" in various neighborhoods to identify and engage community residents most in need of services.

I am writing to you to express my grave concern about the proposed shape of the 47th District in Southern Brooklyn.

The proposed map disenfranchises thousands of Immigrants from South Asia who reside in Bath Beach, Beach Haven and Coney Island.

Instead of uniting South Asian Americans living in Brighton Beach and Coney Island with their brothers and sisters in Bath Beach, the Commission proposed cutting the 47th District in pieces, separating communities of interest.

I strongly urge the Commission to reconsider these proposed maps and to bring together similar communities and neighborhoods in the 47th District.

Sincerely-Solidarity

Selina Bhuiyan

██████████ Brighton 3RD PLACE

Brooklyn NY 11235

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 7, 2022 12:44 PM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

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Here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 48th Council District: <https://districtr.org/plan/142670>

Thank you for your consideration,
Adele Katzenelenbogen

From: amariysherrera15 <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, October 7, 2022 11:58 AM
To: Public Testimony

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Save our communities!

Open Letter to NYC Districting Commission

We, Southern Brooklyn Community Leaders, are writing to you to express our outrage that the Commission completely ignored countless testimonies from so many organizations, community leaders, and other residents of Southern Brooklyn, asking to keep neighboring communities of interest together in the 47th District.

We represent the communities of Sea Gate, Coney Island, Warbasse, Beach Haven, Gravesend, Bensonhurst and Bath Beach. We wrote many letters to the Commission and testified in person. All our testimonies were disregarded. Instead of bringing together communities of interest, the Commission carved out four (!) neighborhoods from the 47th District and connected Coney Island with Bay Ridge through a tiny, two blocks "tunnel" creating a very odd shape of the District.

We are very sympathetic and in full support of the idea of creating a new Asian American District. But it could be done without tearing neighborhoods and communities apart. It is possible to do it without cutting several neighborhoods out of the 47th District.

We strongly oppose the last proposed map that cut Bensonhurst, Gravesend, Homecrest, and Warbasse Houses out of the 47th District. Instead, the Commission should include Sea Gate, Coney Island, Warbasse, Luna Park, parts of Brighton Beach, Gravesend, Bensonhurst, and Bath Beach into one District.

Bay Ridge, Fort Hamilton and Dyker Heights should not be connected to Marlboro Houses and Coney Island in one Council District because they have very different demographics and socioeconomic status, located far away from each other and have different issues and interests.

We request another public hearing of the Commission in Southern Brooklyn, so we can have a chance to express our voice and to protect our communities.

Sincerely,

Pervez Siddiqui, President, APNA Brooklyn Community Center, one of the leaders in the Pakistani American Community
Amarilys Herrera, President, Marlboro Resident Association,
Jack Spatola, President, Federation of Italian American organizations of Brooklyn,
Vladimir Epstein, President, Russian American Voters Educational League
Margarita Kagan, President, American Association of Jews from the former USSR
Sam Sutton and Ron Tawil, President and Chair, Sephardic Community Federation
Michael Silverman, President, Board of Directors, Amalgamated Warbasse Houses
Nancy Tong, Democratic District Leader, 47th Assembly District
Yiatin Chu, President, Asian Wave Alliance
Lina Chen, Health Essential Association
Michael Kremerov, President, American Brotherhood for the Russian Disabled
Gregory Vayngurt, CB 13 member, Warbasse resident
Olga Fort, Esq., CB 13 member, Brighton Beach resident and Board Member, JCC of Greater Coney Island
Priscilla Santos, President, Coney Island Sharks
Pavlo Makovski, President, Association of Ukrainian Natives in the USA
Shahbaz Wattoo, Business owner in Bath Beach, one of the leaders in the Pakistani American Community

October 1, 2022

Thank you
Marlboro TA President Amarilys Herrera

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 6th Brooklyn, NY 11323 apt 3g
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: David A. Cohen [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:27 AM
To: Public Testimony; Flateau, John
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NYC Redistricting

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\$

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Here is a link with a map that would better serve the residents of the 48th Council District: <https://districtr.org/plan/142670>\$

Thank you for your consideration.\$

--

[REDACTED]

From: YK CHEUNG <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:22 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Unifying Bensonhurst

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Dear redistricting commission members,

We are very happy to see that the Redistricting Commission has recognized the need to create an Asian-majority district in South Brooklyn, however, it is quite disappointing to see the revised redistrict map continued to connect Bensonhurst with Sunset Park into the same city council districts. Bensonhurst and Sunset Park are both Asian community, however, the two different communities speak different dialects. The culture and daily living practices are different. Reducing Bensonhurst to accommodate Sunset Park is wrong. Bensonhurst and Gravesend, historically has been together as one community. Gravesend also has a very large Asian population. As many Gravesend residents have expressed that they have always considered themselves as residents of Bensonhurst. Large part of Gravesend are Asians, and should be in the same council district as Bensonhurst. We plead with the redistricting commission to connect adjacent communities of interest that share the same language/dialect and cultural practices, in this case Bensonhurst and Gravesend. As one local teacher, Leon Cho, living in Gravesend has expressed his frustration with the map: "I have been living in Gravesend for over 15 years, and teach at the local schools in Bensonhurst, I feel that we have been orphaned with this redistricting process. We need to be treated fairly, we need resources and funding in this fast growing community. We must do this (redistricting map) right. Another ten years is too long a wait." This same sentiment runs through the bloods of many Asians that reside in this community. Why do we need to share the same council district with Sunset Park that is quite a distance away, and sacrifice the connecting neighborhood of Gravesend, as Gravesend has a large Asian population as well? We cannot afford to wait another ten years to correct a mistake and put this great community in jeopardy.

YK Cheung,
CEO of South Brooklyn Community Coalition (SBCC).
[REDACTED] West 13th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11223

t: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]