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Redistricting Resolution - Final

September 8, 2022

Whereas the New York City (NYC) Districting Commission (the Commission)

- is in the process of redrawing City Council district boundaries to reflect population and demographic changes;
- is seeking public input into the redistricting process from different stakeholders which includes Community Boards;
- held a Queens Public Hearing on the first proposed maps that had high turnout with testimony that went past midnight despite being schedule in the middle of August, at a time when family vacations are common;
- Queens Community Board 2 (QCB2) is dedicated to making sure people who live within QCB2 boundaries are represented, have a voice in decisions that impact their lives, and have needed resources; and

Whereas portions of City Council District 26 (D26) and portions of District 30 (D30) overlap with the boundaries of QCB2; and

Whereas QCB2's NYC Redistricting Task Force has reviewed the proposed D26 and concludes the proposal will have an adverse impact on QCB2 and does not comport with the NYC Charter. Specifically, the proposed D26 does not meet the five ranked requirements identified by the NYC Charter:

1. Keep neighborhoods and communities intact;
2. Keep districts compact;
3. Limit crossover districts;
4. Avoid splitting voters of the same political party for purposes of diminishing effective representation of such voters;
5. Avoid oddly shaped districts; and

Whereas the proposed D26 would add a portion of Manhattan and all of Roosevelt Island to a Queens-based Council District, D26, violates the City Charter Districting requirement in the following ways: (1) it fails to keep

“Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth”

neighborhoods and communities intact; (2) fails to keep the district compact; (3) it creates an oddly shaped crossover district; and

Whereas the proposed D26 receives a failing score of 27.4 for compactness where 0 is the least compact and 100 the most compact ([Center for Urban Research \(CUR\) at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York](#)); and

Whereas the practical difficulties of having a two borough Queens-Manhattan district that spreads over three distinct land masses, separated by water; two-borough districts that have existed in the past have been composed of neighborhoods that are contiguous, have similar demographics, share similar public transportation, public education, and other services; the Queens and Manhattan areas of the proposed D26 do not have these similarities; and

Whereas the proposed D26 violates the City Charter Districting requirement to keep neighborhoods and communities intact by dividing Woodside into four Council districts and splits up multiple communities of interest including immigrant and refugee communities and communities that have been joined together for generations: and

Whereas the 2020 Census revealed that NYC's population had grown to 8,804,190, and D26 has grown by over 15% from 2010 and 2020. With the increased City population, the ideal district size is now 172,882. The proposed map increases D26 to 183,926; and

Whereas the proposed D26 would shift the racial and cultural demographics of D26 towards majority white, 29% percent white non-Hispanic currently to 44% white non-Hispanic, meaning further disenfranchisement and DE prioritization of communities of color and immigrants who live in QCB2; and

Whereas the proposed D26 would inflate the average income of D26, \$80,000 in the current district and QCB2, to \$110,000, meaning the income is overstated for the majority of QCB2; and

Whereas the Commission proposes that 36,000 Manhattan Island residents and 12,000 Roosevelt Island residents – which equates to 48,000, 27.7% of the 173,000 people in the proposed D26, meaning the people of QCB2 will have less representation, attention, resources, and discretionary funding; and

Whereas the proposed D26 would count services, institutions and features that exist in Manhattan and on Roosevelt Island as part of D26 but would not be accessible from the Queens portions of the district without water crossing

(tolls, ferry expense), passing through other districts, or incurring congestion pricing fees;

Whereas the proposed D26 would make Manhattan east side hospitals part of D26 but QCB2 would still have no hospitals or place to give birth within its boundaries; as ambulances will not cross a bridge or go through a tunnel unless one is paying privately; meaning healthcare remains inaccessible and inequitable for many QCB2 residents; and

Whereas the proposed D26 causes the small community of Blissville in QCB2 to have even less representation and resources; and

Whereas the proposed D26 would impact the resources available QCB2's unhoused residents and specifically to the small, transit-desert community of Blissville where the population has doubled with the creation of shelters; and

Whereas the proposed D26 would gain schools meaning QCB2 schools would compete for already decreased funding and longstanding problems of overcrowding and the need for new schools to be built, especially in growing areas like Hunters Point and Court Square, would continue to be unmet; and

Whereas the proposed D26 would divert attention and funding from environmental concerns unique to CB2Q, including Newtown Creek cleanup and access and health issues related to "Asthma Alley" in northwestern Queens; and

Whereas the proposed D26 would increase the amount of open public park space in D26 but that space would all be in Manhattan and on Roosevelt Island which is a cause for concern regarding funding for existing and new parks in QCB2; and

Whereas the proposed D26 Council Member would

- oversee multiple Community Boards meaning less representation, attention, resources, and funding for QCB2;
- be responsible for multiple land use and rezonings meaning the D26 Council Member will spend significant time and have significant influence on development across two boroughs;
- have to travel outside the district to get to other parts in the district;
- have three district offices in Queens, Roosevelt Island, and Manhattan meaning a significant portion of the D26 Council Member's budget goes to rent instead of staffing for constituent services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 2 of Queens DISAPPROVES of the Commission's proposed Preliminary Plan #1 redistricting map which splits Woodside into four council districts and moves approximately 54 blocks of the easterly side of the Manhattan and Roosevelt Island to a Queens-based City Council District greatly reducing the representation, resources, attention, and funding the neighborhoods that make up the Community Board 2 of Queens district will receive.