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From: Sophie Winfield-Pust <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 12:35 PM
To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony for 26 May Redistricting Hearing: Sophie Winfield-Pust
Attachments: District8.pdf

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Good morning,

My name is Sophie, and I've been an East Harlem resident for 13 years. I am a current high-school student, and am testifying as an NYC Votes Youth Ambassador with the NYC Campaign Finance Board. I live in City Council District 8. The current maps group the southernmost Bronx as well as Ward's Island into my district, while cutting off East Harlem's reach erratically, in some areas as close as Lexington Ave to 5th Ave, which only spans for 8 blocks. The current maps isolate the needs of the working population of East Harlem from the 2 and 3 trains on Malcom X Boulevard which are essential to be connected to the rest of Manhattan where residents are often employed, especially as the only other train within immediate range is the 6 train.

The current map spans the edge of the Bronx in a crescent shape, adhering to some major roadways, and completely absorbing others creating two northern tendrils, the population trends of which, are not coherent enough to be grouped together while also distorting the communal socio-economic dynamics of East Harlem's representation in District 8. The residents of East Harlem should be directly associated with their focal point of public transportation, especially as that station is also host to many non-residents entering East Harlem in order to travel to the East River Plaza shopping mall. Transportation needs and related funding within East Harlem's section of District 8 are completely different than that of Major Deegan Expressway.

Please consider shortening the northbound reach of District 8, near High Bridge, in the Bronx, and expanding the border of the district in East Harlem to be aligned with the further westward reach of streets like 106th. I have attached a map of my current district lines below.

Thank you!