

Catherine Paradiso
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Dear Redistricting Commission,

The ever expanding population on Staten Island is continually disenfranchised as the other boroughs have subways, can travel throughout the city at nominal or no cost, pay less real estate taxes, have government provided health care, and overall more city services. Moreover, Staten Island continues to endure an opioid epidemic with less services. We have a waterfront that was just beginning to be developed when COVID and other issues of the time stalled its progress.

Yet, we have not been spared from issues of significant impact to our quality of life. The last administration approved shelters that exceed our need. Crime is as much on the rise here as it is anywhere else. We have overdevelopment that can only be stopped by leaders who understand the type of development that makes sense for the people who live here.

Our communities range from densely populated neighborhoods to more suburban areas. Much work has been done in the past to maintain gems such as the Boardwalk, Conference House, Lighthouse. Only leaders who have been part of the history here can appreciate what is needed by the community, and be effective in representing us. The needs of this Borough are unique.

Redistricting should not result in Staten Island sharing a council district with any other borough. Sharing a council district with another Borough would divide that members ability to prioritize Staten Island and further disenfranchise this community from the rest of New York City.

Thank you for this opportunity

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