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To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting of Staten Island

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Staten Island for decades had been the pillar of democracy in New York City. We have our unique environment and mentality. Even the attempts of Obama administration to dilute mostly Irish and Italian population with mass influx of Muslim refugees though changed it but still we are the only borough that represents Conservative and Republican values. **We changed from being 'red' to being 'purple'**. Changing Council Districting borders will finish what Obama had started and completely destroy the last small island of **Common Sense** in this crazy city by adding areas with population that vote "blue". The middle class that was the heart of SI is slowly pushed out; small businesses brought to the verge of closing. Our population is already changing significantly. And the Judea-Christian culture is changing. It was time, not long ago when Christmas decorations and Hanukah's menorah were not placed during holidays not to offend Muslims. Why it should offend them? *It is like the host are forced to change their lifestyle and habits because guests who they accepted with the open hearts don't like them.* Muslims came here as refugees, they knew **what country** they are going to, why should WE change and not them? Why should WE change our laws and beliefs and traditions not to offend them? When they killed Christians in their countries do they think about "offending someone's feelings"? Most of them sit on public assistance (I know, I worked in Food Stamp office, where Muslim women applied as **single mothers** who don't know the fathers of their kids!!), don't contribute to our community in any way, don't vote or vote Democrats (because of the perks they offer), but utilize all benefits of our country. Bay Ridge lately became "Bey Rute", its mostly Italian population either moved or passed away and is replaced by Muslims.

I, personally, don't want to live under Sharia Law. If I wanted, I would move to some of Arab countries, not to America. I don't like to face women with close faces everywhere. We should tolerate the closing of Father Capodanno and mass prayers on the boardwalk during Ramadan, but they can't tolerate Christmas and Hanukah? Name a single contribution that super rich Muslims did to our libraries, hospitals, other places? I couldn't find one. Our boardwalk (at least near Lincoln Ave) during holidays is horrible. They gather in large groups (nothing wrong with that) and the music is so loud that you have to walk a long distance not to hear it, as there is no one but them. It was not like that before. People used to respect each other. They came TO this Country, and they should respect our rules and traditions, but for some reason people in power are afraid to explain these simple things to them out of fear to be blamed 'racist' (nothing to do with race), anti-Muslim (they are not afraid to be anti-Christian). Look what happened to our previously nice and neat mall – everything is on the floor.

I am very tolerant person, but tolerance is a two-way street. I should not and would not tolerate people who don't respect MY culture, MY traditions and MY Country.

And changing district borders will bring more people who don't share our values and give them more power over our way of living.

Marina