

BRONX COUNTY WRITTEN TESTIMONY



THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY

CHAIRMAN Codes Committee

COMMITTEES Rules Ways and Means Health Election Law

MEMBER Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force

> CHAIRMAN Bronx Delegation

Statement to Independent Redistricting Commission regarding proposed lines for the 81st Assembly District

I generally support the proposed lines proposed by the IRC for the 81st assembly district. The lines are very similar to those currently in effect and even more similar to the district lines that were in effect from 2012 to 2022. It makes sense to restore Lehman College (from which I graduated) and the other schools in "education mile" to the 81st assembly district, where they were for many years. The areas around the Jerome Park Reservoir forms one community of interest and should all be in the 81st.

The proposed lines maintain the neighborhoods of Riverdale, Kingsbridge, Van Cortlandt Village and Woodlawn in the 81st and maintain the current lines in the Wakefield community. That makes sense, and I support that.

I would like to strongly recommend two minor changes. The proposal adds two blocks in the Norwood section to the 81st from the 80th A.D. in and around Hull Avenue. I propose that those blocks be returned to the 80th to avoid any unnecessary confusion to the voters. I assume they were added to even out the population of the two districts, but it is not necessary.

The second change I propose involves Kingsbridge Heights. The plan restores to the 81st all the blocks in Kingsbridge Heights that were moved from the 81st to the 78th AD last year. I propose keeping those blocks in the 78th AD, or at least the area below Kingsbridge Road. Adding the area below Kingsbridge Road back to the 81st AD unnecessarily makes the district jut down for several blocks into a different neighborhood below Kingsbridge Road bringing it close to Fordham Road. That makes no sense. You could add a small amount of people back to the 81st by restoring the block that was added to the 81st last year bounded by Webb Avenue, West 197th Street, Reservoir Avenue and Sedgwick Avenue. Although I enjoy representing Kingsbridge Heights, it's hard to counter the argument that those blocks, mainly below Kingsbridge Road, are part of the same community as the 78th AD, not the 81st.

I'm not happy about losing my four buildings in the Marble Hill Houses to the 72nd AD, but I recognize the important of uniting the entire development and its 11 buildings into one district.

These suggestions keep neighborhoods together and keep communities of interest together. Thank you for your work and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeffrev Dinowit

Assemblyman

o ALBANY OFFICE: Room 632, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-5965, FAX 518-455-4437 o DISTRICT OFFICE: 3107 Kingsbridge Avenue, Bronx, New York 10463 • 718-796-5345, FAX 718-796-0694 dinowitzj@nyassembly.gov



Cesar Z. Ruiz

Equal Justice Works Fellow Sponsored by the Lavan-Harris Family, Latino Justice PRLDEF Independent Redistricting Commission Hearing Brooklyn, New York February 15, 2022

My name is Cesar Z. Ruiz. I am an Equal Justice Works legal fellow and attorney with LatinoJustice PRLDEF, working on the New York Redistricting legal team. LatinoJustice PRLDEF is a Latinx civil rights organization that works to create a more just society by using and challenging the rule of law to secure transformative, equitable and accessible justice, by empowering our community, and by fostering leadership through advocacy and education. We have participated in New York State redistricting for the past several decades, advocating for equitable representation of the Latinx community.

I come here not only as a representative of LatinoJustice, but also as a representative of the Unity Map Coalition, a consortium of preeminent voting rights organizations representing communities of color across the city. We consist of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College (CUNY) and Latino Justice PRLDEF. Our organizations have been at the forefront of nonpartisan redistricting to protect communities of color for the last three decades. The Unity Coalition came together this past cycle to advocate on behalf of a redistricting plan for New York City that recognizes and reflects the electoral strength of New York's communities of color and ensures that the voting rights of Black, Latino, and Asian residents are protected.

Additionally, LatinoJustice PRLDEF is a member of the New York Latino Civic Engagement Coalition, which includes NALEO Educational Fund, Hispanic Federation, and Dominicanos USA, and we work together to promote civic engagement within the Latino community. We promote civic engagement by educating community members and providing resources regarding their voting rights and elections administration. We consistently engage community members by hosting events to promote access to our electoral system and democratic process, and we have a deep understanding of our communities' needs. We call for maps that protect the voting rights of our community.

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The Unity Coalition has previously submitted proposed maps for drawing district lines for representation in the State Assembly. We urge you to review the decisions made by us as a collective to ensure equitable representations of our communities across New York City. Notably, while the redistricting process was tied up in partisan wrangling, the Unity Map was driven by non-partisan collaboration between New York City's preeminent Black, Asian, and Latino voting and civil rights organizations. Instead of focusing on partisan advantage, our singular focus has been ensuring the City's communities of color receive their fair proportion of voting power and electoral representation and are not pitted against one another. We understand that our strength lies in solidarity. The Unity Map should be adopted in full for New York City because it recognizes and maps for demographic growth and unification of historically divided communities of interest, unlike the Commission's proposed map.

We have particular concerns regarding specific areas of the Commission's proposed map:

Proposed Districts 86 and 78: The Commission's proposed map for District 86 shifts a large number of Latino community members into new districts, displaces a number of institutions that traditionally resided within Districts 78 and 86, and splits a crucial community redevelopment project¹ which runs alongside the waterfront into two districts. Community members see it as vital that these institutions, including Lehman College and Saint Barnabas in the 78th and the Kingsbridge Armory in the 86th, remain within districts they have traditionally resided. Disrupting these traditional boundaries would diminish these communities' ability to cultivate much needed resources, including advocacy for affordable housing and other amenities. We urge the Commission to adopt configurations similar to those proposed in our Unity ADs 61, 62 or alternatively and at a minimum as configured in the recently enacted map for ADs 86 and 78.

Proposed Districts 30, 34, 35, and 39: The Commission's proposed maps for the Queens Assembly Districts 30, 34, 35, 39 pit Latinx candidates of choice against one another, diminishing the ability of community members to meaningfully retain candidates who have championed issues impacting their communities. It does this by drawing two Latinx candidates of choice into proposed District 35. By positioning two Latinx candidates of choice against each other, the Commission is undermining the ability of Latinx community members to retain widely supported

¹ The redevelopment project is known as Fordham Landing. Under the recent enacted map, the redevelopment project and waterfront was united (*See* Enacted Assembly District 86) and under our plan it is similarly united (*See* Unity Assembly District 61).

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legislative champions for their communities. Recent performance data from the 2022 election show there is consistent Latinx support for these candidates, and by pitting them against one another, the Commission is creating a very real possibility that this electorate splinters Latinx support amongst the two Latinx candidates of choice. Such a split would enable a non-Latinx candidate to potentially secure a victory with minimal Latinx support despite Latinos constituting the majority population in the district. This would harm the ability of Latinx community members to elect viable candidates of choice, further disrupting their ability to access meaningful representation in the assembly. For that reason, we urge you to adopt our proposed Assembly district configurations (Unity ADs 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 19). Alternatively, and at a minimum, we urge you to retain what has been enacted by the legislature in 2022 to avoid harm to the candidates of choice for communities of color.

The most recent elections saw mass voter confusion as a result of a messy and tumultuous statewide redistricting process. This confusion caused lower turnout and disproportionately impacted Latinx community members, who do not have the same level of access to basic resources and information. All changes must account for the community impact and must not further harm the ability of Latinx community members to participate in our democracy. Overall, any Commission-proposed changes to the current enacted map should be minimal in nature to ensure that voters are not displaced from their traditional districts once again.

New York needs a single unified redistricting plan which equitably benefits the interests of all New Yorkers, especially New York's historically marginalized communities of color. New York City's Black, Asian and Latino communities have been harmed by decades of gerrymandering which rigged the electoral system against us — diminishing our electoral power and resulted in the long-term neglect of our communities. While the Unity Map may not solve all of those problems, it can help empower our communities to elect candidates of their choice to advocate for their interests and bring the changes necessary to address their needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We look forward to completing this process in a timely manner and to the Commission's informed decision to adopt maps that adequately represent our communities.

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THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY

COMMITTEES Higher Education Housing Judiciary Ways and Means

<u>Written Testimony of Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner</u> Submitted to the New York State Independent Redistricting Cor January 31, 2023

Dear Co-Executive Directors Blatt and Breakell:

I am taking this opportunity to submit this written testimony in response to changes to the boundaries of the 77th Assembly District that have been proposed under the most recent map released by the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission (NYSIRC), and urge that the Commission develop a map that does not divide the communities of interest in my legislative district.

Of greatest concern are the changes that the NYSIRC is proposing to three communities located in the current 77th Assembly District – changes that dramatically fracture each of those communities. The specific concerns are as follows:

✓ The fracturing of the Concourse community –

The Concourse is a community that has its own special energy. The relationships that residents have built with local businesses are priceless and it should be kept as united as possible. The removal of a large portion of the Grand Concourse running from 159th Street to 166th Street negatively impacts the character of the district. The removal of many businesses that are the backbone of our community would leave residents and community organizations separated from businesses that they have established relationships with. It divides and fractures our existing shared community of interest. Removing seven blocks of this vital area from the 77th Assembly District ignores the community of interest that exists there.

✓ The fracturing of the Claremont community –

The proposed map divides the Claremont community by removing the southern portion from the 77th Assembly District. This important and historically cohesive neighborhood is comprised of residents with shared interests should be kept together in its current district. The arbitrary redrawing of the southeastern portion of the 77th Assembly District uses 169th Street as a dividing line to split the residential sections of Clay, Findlay and Teller avenues as well as other streets. The families living along those streets have a shared and common interest in the public policy issues impacting their quality of life and those areas should be kept united in a single district. Further south the new map uses 166th Street as an arbitrary dividing line, splitting Grant Avenue residents and fracturing a cohesive residential community in a way that will make it more difficult for residents to work cooperatively to improve the quality of life they share.

✓ The fracturing of the Mount Hope community -

The changes proposed for the northeastern section of the 77th Assembly District further divide our community by removing much of the Mount Hope community from a legislative district that it has been part of for decades. The dividing of the Mount Hope community will dilute the ability of residents to access vital resources and make it more difficult for residents to work cooperatively to improve the quality of life they share.

The redrawing of district lines is a complex task that requires the balancing of multiple interests but the map proposed for the 77th Assembly District fractures and divides the Concourse, Claremont and Mount Hope

communities with proposed boundaries that will make it more difficult for local residents to effectively advocate for the public services they need to maintain and improve the quality of life shared by local residents.

I urge rejection of the proposed map and urge the that the Commission develop a map that does not divide the communities of interest that are so important to the residents of the 77th Assembly District.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Lennin Reyes. I am a resident of the Morrisania section of The Bronx. I am here to submit more of my comments in regards to the Assembly redistricting draft.

For starters, I have revised part of my plan for The Bronx in order to create more opportunities for minority representation in the Assembly. The biggest change is in the northwestern part of the borough. The 81st Assembly District has gone from 60 percent white in the 1990's to more than 40 percent Hispanic today. However, the plan does not fully maximize the voting strength of the largely working-class Dominican population found in Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights and parts of Riverdale. Thus, I propose to remove Norwood, Woodlawn and Wakefield from the 81st AD and have it travel south to pick up all of Kingsbridge Heights (previously split into three Assembly Districts), with the southern boundary located at West Fordham Road. Thus, the 81st AD becomes majority-Hispanic (at 51 percent voting age population).

As a domino effect, Norwood moves into my proposed 88th Assembly District, which would also include Bedford Park, Fordham and Belmont, communities Norwood has more in common with. Connected by Mosholu Parkway, Norwood and Bedford Park are both working-class, largely minority communities with similar interests. Residents of both communities attend schools such as DeWitt Clinton High School, Junior High School 80, Public Schools 8 and 20, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula and Lehman College. Hence, they should be in the same Assembly District.

On another note, I feel that Manhattan (New York County) should have a 13th Assembly District within its county. In recent months, the New York City Council has held its own redistricting meetings. A plethora of residents opposed an early proposal to place parts of Queens and Manhattan in one district. If that was pulled after the opposition emerged, why do the same thing twice?

To add, LATFOR underpopulated districts in Queens and Brooklyn back in 2012 to add more Assembly Districts in those counties. With Manhattan's population (as of the 2020 U.S. Census) at 1,694,251, divided by 13, each district can have 130,327 people, which is still below the 5 percent deviation rate established by the Governor.

Speaking of Manhattan, I feel that the minority communities found in Chinatown and the Lower East Side have diminished enough to the point that they should be in the same Assembly District, my proposed 65th AD. The Latinos on the Lower East Side and the Asians in Chinatown have been split into two different districts since the 1990's to avoid political conflict between them. But gentrification in Lower Manhattan has caused many Latinos and Asians to leave the borough. Thus, I feel that the 65th should lose affluent and heavily-white communities such as Battery Park City and the Financial District in favor of maximizing the voting strength of the remaining Latinos and Asians south of East 14th Street.

Speaking of voting strength, the Bangladeshi community found in the Parkchester/Westchester Square area remains split into two districts. While I'm glad the recent proposal set forth by the Redistricting Commission placed more of Westchester Square into the 87th Assembly District, it does not include the entire community, thus cracking a nascient voting bloc. The boundaries would be the ConRail ROW to the north, Eastchester Road, Waters Place and the Hutchinson River Parkway to the east, the Cross Bronx Expressway to the south and Zerega Avenue to the west. Elected officials such as Assemblywoman Karines Reyes and Councilwoman Amanda Farías have strong relationships with the Bangladeshi community found here. Having the Bangladeshis in Parkchester and Westchester Square in one assembly district would make it easier for them to access resources.

The link to my proposal is the same as the last testimony. But I updated it to reflect my recent thoughts. Thank you for listening.

https://davesredistricting.org/join/c5e6fd8e-3b6f-456b-9968-f292c627f4eb

Good evening New York State Independent Redistricting Commission,

My name is Lennin Reyes. I am a resident of the Morrisania section of the South Bronx. I have several concerns regarding the December 1, 2022 Assembly draft maps.

The first is in the northern part of The Bronx. The Assembly Districts covering that part of the borough (78, 80, 81, 82 and 83) are drawn more to protect incumbents as opposed to maximizing Voting Rights Act opportunities for distinct minority groups. In the case of the northeastern Bronx (to be placed in the proposed 80th, 81st, 82nd and 83rd AD's), the African-American community is split between the four groups with only one of them, the 83rd, to be specifically drawn for this community. I believe the African American population in the northern Bronx is large enough to create two Assembly Districts that are over 50 percent black each.

The two black districts could be east and west of each other. The former, my proposed 82nd AD, would center around homeowner-heavy neighborhoods such as the Baychester valley and Pelham Gardens, and large housing developments of Edenwald and Co-op City. The latter, my proposed 83rd AD, would center around the No. 2 subway line, and run between Pelham Parkway North and the City Line. Along the way, the 83rd would pick up neighborhoods denser than the 82nd, such as Allerton, Williamsbridge and Wakefield. Joining them for population purposes, and to unite the 10470 zip code, would be the low-density Irish stronghold of Woodlawn.

Speaking of a district being over 50 percent in favor of a specific group, that brings me to my second concern, this time being Central Harlem. The 70th Assembly District, as proposed, violates the Voting Rights Act in that it is less than 50 percent black. Instead of placing the more diverse neighborhood of West Harlem into the 70th, I propose adding the heavily-black northern part of Harlem from the proposed 71st AD. The boundaries from the west and going clockwise would be as follows; Edgecombe Avenue and the Harlem River Drive Approach (Willie Mays Drive) to the west, the Harlem River to the north, 5th Avenue to the east, and West 142nd Street to the south. Not only would this allow the 70th AD to maximize its historically African American voting strength, but it would also allow the 71st AD to maximize the voting strength of Washington Heights's Dominican and white communities in the process.

The relocation of all of Central Harlem into the 70th AD would allow for the creation of two majority-Hispanic Assembly districts, centering around the Dominican communities of West Harlem, Hamilton Heights, Washington Heights and Inwood. Like my concern about maximizing the black vote in the Northeastern Bronx, the same applies here. The 71st and 72nd AD's could both be over 50 percent Hispanic each by making them north and south of each other as opposed to east and west, with the boundary being around West 174th Street.

Speaking of Dominicans, I'm glad that more of my neighborhood, the historically African-American enclave of Morrisania, is placed in the 79th AD, despite now having two incumbents, Chantel Jackson and Latoya Joyner, in the district. However, the 79th AD should not be going north of Crotona Park North, as population found there is much more distinct than points south, and it unnecessary splits East Tremont, a neighborhood with distinct issues and points of interest. Instead, the 79th AD should pick up more of the proposed 77th AD that's located east of the Grand Concourse, further uniting Morrisania and both branches of BronxCare Hospital (the Concourse and Fulton Divisions). This would allow the 77th AD to go further north to pick up all of Morris Heights, a neighborhood with strong Dominican and African-American populations (the former thanks to its location across the Washington Bridge from Washington Heights). Then, the 86th AD could pick up the parts of East Tremont located north of Crotona Park North that are proposed for the 79th AD, thus uniting East Tremont.

All of my proposals are found in the link below. Thank you for reading this letter.

https://davesredistricting.org/join/c5e6fd8e-3b6f-456b-9968-f292c627f4eb

January 31 2023

Dear Commissioners,

Chair Ken Jenkins and Members of the Assembly Redistricting Committee:

The goal of redistricting is to create districts that are roughly equal in population and that reflect the diversity of the communities they serve, provide access to open areas, maintain vital conditions for development and preserve the cultural and ethnic character.

As a borough of the metropolitan New York City and also known as Bronx County, its location on the most northern of the city, is the only mainland borough of New York. The Bronx has a population of over 1.4 million people and is known for its diverse cultural communities, historical sites, parks and recreation areas, and vibrant arts scene. Some notable landmarks in the Bronx include Yankee Stadium, the Bronx Zoo, the New York Botanical Garden, and the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage. The Bronx is also home to several important institutions of higher education, including Fordham University and Bronx Community College.

The Assembly District 86th serve as the most northernly connection to the tip of Northern Manhattan making it a connector to the neighborhoods in Manhattan and the Bronx. The configuration of the district for many years has serve as a point of arrival to many looking for more affordable rent, job opportunities and more open streetscape. The 86th District enjoys the access to the water of the East Side River or Harlem River and views of the Inwood area in Manhattan and even is a thoroughfare to the Deegan expressway to the north and the east.

Each Assembly District in the Bronx has its own unique blend of residential, commercial, and industrial areas, as well as cultural communities and access to transportation options. Some Assembly Districts may be known for their parks and recreation areas, while others may be known for their high levels of poverty or crime.

It is important to consider the specific needs and priorities of each Assembly District when evaluating changes to the district. The need for more open fields, parks and recreation areas makes the water front and its open land a prime location for the release of congested street throughfare of the borough. I see this of paramount necessity to maintain and preserve the existing district lines. These existing lines are vital to the success and economic attainment of the population of the district and its future.

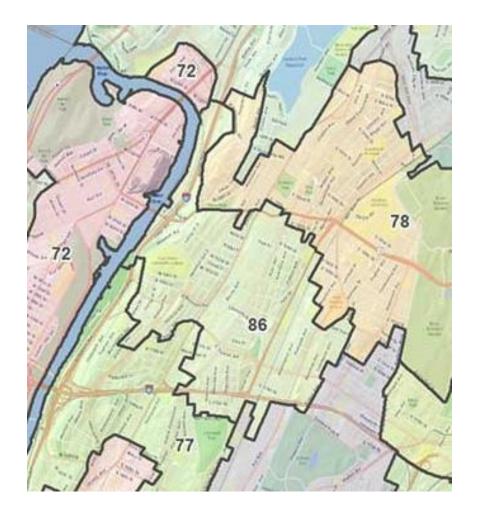
53.3% of the Bronx's population identified as Hispanic or Latino. It is likely that Assembly District 86th in the Bronx also has a similar Hispanic/Latino population, furthermore, is the district with the highest

statistics for the lowest income ratios of the city making this a challenge to improve the quality of life of its residents.

The 2023 board most take in consideration that every inch of land is important for the next opportunity that might arrived to provide the district with needed resources in recreational space, medical facilities, educational facilities, commercial development and housing. The proposed map for re-districting proposed to cut off vital land on the water front, land desperate needed for the empowerment and development of its residences. Taking away the waterfront, will crowd even more the peoples hopes to improve and make a better Bronx County.

In a final note, I want to ask you as small business owner on the water front, at the local Storage Post down in the river and as I joined to hundreds of small businesses running their affair every day at this location, It is vital we protect this businesses and the district protect us from been displaced "Gentrified" from our place of work. Don't allow the proposal to remove the section of the water front from Kingsbridge Road to the bridge of Fordham Road / 207th street. The district needs this land and we need to stay in our district. Keep the district together do not change it.

Luis A. Facundo Business owner 301 West Fordham Road Bronx New York 10468 Cell 929-603-3068



 From:
 maria forbes

 To:
 Submissions; clavaveta@vahoo.com; Sharon Assmely 2/2022; James Gilkey; Latoya Joyner; Latoya Joyner; Danny TA Jackson 2019

 Subject:
 Testimony 1/31/2023

 Date:
 Tuesday, January 31, 2023 6:29:11 PM

Blessings my testimony is be submitted into record and recommended to leave the 77th district in place

Maria Forbes Long life Community Resident President of Clay Ave Tenants Association

Business Agent of Bx South District Council of NYCHA President 718-557-4933

10f1 ony for the Bronx Public Hearing of the New York Independent Redistricting Commission Tuesday, January 31, 2023

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today regarding the changes that have been proposed in the Commission's most recent reapportionment map. Specifically, I would like to express my deep concern regarding the changes that are being proposed to the map for the 77th Assembly District – the community I have lived in throughout my adult life.

I have three major concerns regarding the proposed map:

✓ The removal of a large portion of the Grand Concourse running from 159th Street to 166th Street negatively impacts the character of the district. The removal of many businesses that are the backbone of our community would leave residents and community organizations separated from businesses that they have established relationships with. It divides and fractures our shared community of interest.

The Concourse is a community that has its own special energy. The relationships that residents have built with local businesses are priceless and it should be kept as united as possible. Removing seven blocks of this vital area from the 77th Assembly District ignores the community of intertest that exists there.

✓ The latest map radically redraws the southeastern portion of the 77th Assembly District by using 169th Street as a dividing line to split the residential sections of Clay, Findlay and Teller avenues as well as other streets. The families living along those streets have a shared and common interest in the public policy issues impacting their quality of life and those areas should be kept united in a single district. Further south the new map uses 166th Street as an arbitrary dividing line, splitting Grant Avenue residents and fracturing a cohesive residential community in a way that will make it more difficult for residents to work cooperatively to improve the quality of life they share.

The proposed map divides the Claremont community by removing the southern portion from the 77th Assembly District. This important and historically cohesive neighborhood comprised of residents with shared interests should be kept together in its current district.

✓ The changes proposed for the northeastern section of the 77th Assembly District further divide our community by removing much of the Mount Hope community from a legislative district that it has been part of for decades. The dividing of the Mount Hope community will dilute the ability of residents to access vital resources and make it more difficult for residents to work cooperatively to improve the quality of life they share.

The redrawing of district lines is a complex task that requires the balancing of multiple interests but the map proposed for the 77th Assembly District fractures and divides the Concourse, Claremont and Mount Hope communities with proposed boundaries that will make it more difficult for local residents to effectively advocate for the public services they need to maintain and improve the quality of life shared by local residents.

I urge rejection of the proposed map.

Sent from my iPhone



THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY

COMMITTEES Aging Banks Housing Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry MEMBER

Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus Legislative Women's Caucus Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force

January 31, 2023

Hostos Community College 500 Grand Concourse, The Bronx, NY 10451

Subject: Testimony before the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission

Good afternoon members of the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission.

My name is Yudelka Tapia, I am the Assemblywoman for the 86th Assembly District here in the Bronx. Prior to being elected to the Assembly in 2021, I served as an elected District Leader in the 86th Assembly District. I have been a resident and advocate of this community for over 30 years. I have raised my family here and this is all to say, I know the 86th district, its surrounding neighborhoods and the Bronx extremely well.

This is my third decade engaged in redistricting, and I have seen the population changes firsthand. The 86th Assembly District was drawn with the intent to comply with the Voting Rights Act and provide the Latino community the opportunity to elect another candidate of its choice to the NYS Assembly based on population growth following the 2000 Census. This opportunity allowed the Dominican community to elect its first Assembly representative from the Bronx and it has continued to do so. I was actively involved in that fight.

Today, I implore the Commission to leave the current lines of the 86th District intact. This district has demonstrated an ability to elect in 2022, it is compact, only differing slightly in compactness from what you have drawn, yet the changes are significant. You both decrease the Latino voting age population unnecessarily and further extend the district to the Southern Boulevard border. This move shifts the center of the district and adds additional vulnerable communities with different needs.

Further, you remove all of the areas north of Fordham from the district, including a long-time housing development, Bailey Houses, St. James Church, a faith-based institution and St. James Park, all with advocacy and community ties to the 86th. Moreover, you remove a large economic development project in the area north of Fordham known as Fordham Landing. This represents an economic engine for the 86th Assembly District and many years of organizing and advocacy for residents of Community Boards 5 & 7. All of these communities deserve to have a voice when negotiating jobs, housing affordability and green space. Keeping these residents together affords them a greater voice, at the ballot box, in the halls of Albany and in their daily struggle for greater quality of life. Lastly, I have seen other versions of the 86th District offered. The only plan that reflects these dynamics is the plan submitted by the Unity Coalition for District 86.

Sincerely

Assembly member Yudelka Tapia New York State Assembly District 86

Yudelka Dapo