

# **KINGS COUNTY WRITTEN TESTIMONY**



Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, NY 10007

Good Afternoon,

My name is Abu Khaliquzzaman and I live at 7 Story Court in Kensington. I am a native of Bangladesh but have lived in the US since 1997. Together with my spouse and son, I have resided in Kensington since 1997. My comments relate to your draft decision to divide Kensington between the 44th and 51st ADs. Since it involves only a few blocks I believe it should be wholly in the 44th AD. This may seem like a small thing to you but it will have profound consequences for the people of Kensington.

As with most Brooklyn neighborhoods, Kensington is ethnically, economically, and religiously diverse. It does, however, contain within it one of New York's largest and growing South Asian communities. It is this that I ask you to consider. Neighborhood institutions including mosques, such as Masjid Nur Al-Islam and Darul Jannah Masjid, Churches such as Immaculate Heart of Mary, numerous fraternal organizations and merchants catering to the South Asian community should be kept together, not divided by artificial political boundaries.

I propose that you keep all of Kensington in the 44th AD. This neighborhood, from Ocean Parkway on the East to 39th Street on the West and from Green-Wood cemetery on the North to Foster Avenue on the south is a geographic whole with clearly defined boundaries. It has for as long as I can remember been apart of the 44th AD and the Assemblymember for that district, Robert Carroll, is well known and has been very responsive to the needs of the South Asian community. We would like to continue our work with him. Additionally, it is vital that Little Pakistan around Coney Island Avenue remain whole with the Prospect Park South Neighborhood all within the 44<sup>th</sup> AD. Please do not cut us out of

I know the lines must be drawn somewhere and that not everyone can be happy. The minor changes in your plan which I propose however, would be of great help to my neighbors generally, and to the South Asian community specifically.

Thank You.

From:	ADAM SCHECHTER
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:19:52 PM

I am concerned about the way Bay Ridge is divided into four different Assembly districts. Since 1982, each redistricting year has seen Bay Ridge placed into three and sometimes four separate districts. For over 40 years, no other neighborhood in Brooklyn with such clearly defined borders has been treated this way. It is unacceptable.

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

AIMEE COTTINGHAM
Submissions
Redistricting Windsor Terrace
Monday, February 13, 2023 7:00:32 PM

I do not agree with the redistricting of the area I live in in Windsor terrace. I live on mcdonald Ave across from the cemetery. Please leave it the way it is. It is not fair to do this to us. Our area has nothing to do with the areas you want us to be redistricted with. We will never have a chance to get the projects needed to get done in our area. It is fine the way it is. Stop trying to change things that don't need to be fixed. Focus on the bigger problems like the rise in crimes etc.... It sounds like the people that want these changes have nothing better to do and don't have a clue.

Thank you,

Aimee Cottingham

From:	AJ Doyle
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:42:33 AM

I am concerned about the way Bay Ridge is divided into four different Assembly districts. Since 1982, each redistricting year has seen Bay Ridge placed into three and sometimes four separate districts. For over 40 years, no other neighborhood in Brooklyn with such clearly defined borders has been treated this way. It is unacceptable.

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

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Sent from my iPhone





Larry Jayson President

> Jodi Cook Vice President

Peter Gomori Treasurer

Jannette Katz-Gomori Recording Secretary "CRIME PREVENTION IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS!"

## ALBEMARLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC. 414 ALBEMARLE ROAD, BROOKLYN, NY 11218

February 24, 2023

To: Independent Redistricting Commission

Re: Windsor Terrace/Kensington

Dear Madame/Sir,

The Albemarle Neighborhood Association celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 31<sup>st</sup>. I have served as its President for the past 44 of those years.

We have been made to understand the proposed redistricting plan for the 44<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly Districts. Our concerns focus on your plan for the 44th Assembly District and specifically your decision to place portions of the neighborhoods of Windsor Terrace and Kensington in two different Assembly Districts, the 44th and the 51st. We believe both neighborhoods should be wholly within the 44th AD as they have been historically. Your decision to put portions of both Windsor Terrace and Kensington into different Assembly Districts makes both affected ADs less compact and contiguous and also divides two long established and discrete communities with common interests, demographics and a history of positive civic activism.

Specifically, we ask that you make Greenwood Cemetery along 20<sup>th</sup> Street the western border of the 44<sup>th</sup> AD not the Prospect Expressway as in the draft plan, and Greenwood Cemetery along McDonald Avenue and Fort Hamilton Parkway out to 39th Street the Northern boundary between the 44<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> ADs. This is a shift of only a few blocks, but makes complete sense geographically. Without this change the portions of Kensington and Windsor Terrace cut out of the 44th AD will be a small after thought in the 51st AD divided from that district by the hundreds of acres of Greenwood Cemetery. The 51st AD contains the entirety of the thriving neighborhood of Sunset Park and that neighborhood historically dominates that district. The inevitable result of the draft plan is that the few blocks of Windsor Terrace and Kensington attached to the vast bulk of Sunset Park will be underserved.



"CRIME PREVENTION IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS!"

## ALBEMARLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC. 414 ALBEMARLE ROAD, BROOKLYN, NY 11218

The proposed plan also dilutes the ability of vital neighborhood institutions to advocate on behalf of their respective constituents. Our organization has had critical and important ties with our two local Elementary Schools PS 130 and PS 230. It also has had five decades worth of interaction with several local places of worship such as Immaculate Heart of Mary RC Church, The Flatbush Jewish Center, which despite its name is in Kensington, and the Darul Jannah Masjid and Masjid Nur Al-Islam, will all see their catchment areas, now wholly within the 44<sup>th</sup> AD, divided between the 44<sup>th</sup> and the 51<sup>st</sup> AD. This is especially troublesome with respect to the Mosque's which serve the growing South Asian community in Kensington and will now have to petition two different Assembly Members rather than having a single point of contact.

This change would cause dramatic harm to decades worth of working together and now divide our strength of working together for the common good of **our** neighborhoods. The residents of Windsor Terrace and Kensington have worked together and have committed ourselves to stand and fight together to ensure that we are allowed to stay as one community.

Historically the entirety of the two discrete, cohesive and well-defined neighborhoods of Kensington and Windsor Terrace have been in the same Assembly district. This is true since at least the reapportionment following the 1970 census. Indeed, the phone number for the local Assembly District Office has remained unchanged since 1974 and many of my friends and neighbors have told me that they have it memorized or on their speed dial. This is not just an interesting but irrelevant tidbit, it is testimony to the fact that at least in Brooklyn the Assembly District is the smallest unit of government and traditionally the most responsive to local needs.

Larry Jayson President

## ALBEMARLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC. 414 ALBEMARLE ROAD, BROOKLYN, NY 11218

February 15, 2023

To: Independent Redistricting Commission

Re: Windsor Terrace/Kensington

Dear Madame/Sir,

It has come to our attention the proposed redistricting plan for Assembly Districts (AD) 44 and 51. Our concerns focus on your plan for the 44th Assembly District and specifically your decision to place portions of the neighborhoods of Windsor Terrace and Kensington in two different Assembly Districts, the 44th and the 51st. We believe both neighborhoods should be wholly within the 44th AD as they have been historically. Your decision to put portions of both Windsor Terrace and Kensington into different Assembly Districts makes both affected ADs less compact and contiguous and also divides two long established and discrete communities with common interests, demographics and a history of positive civic activism. Simply stated it is contrary to many of the bedrock principles which should guide fair redistricting and good government.

Specifically we ask that you make Greenwood Cemetery along 20th Street the western border of the 44th AD not the Prospect Expressway as in the draft plan, and Greenwood Cemetery along McDonald Avenue and Fort Hamilton Parkway out to 39th Street the Northern boundary between the 44th and 51st ADs. This is a shift of only a few blocks but makes complete sense geographically. Without this change the portions of Kensington and Windsor Terrace cut out of the 44th AD will be a small after thought in the 51st AD divided from that district by the hundreds of acres of Greenwood Cemetery. The 51st AD contains the entirety of the thriving neighborhood of Sunset Park and that neighborhood historically dominates that district. The inevitable result of the draft plan is that the few blocks of Windsor Terrace and Kensington attached to the vast bulk of Sunset Park will be underserved. The proposed plan also dilutes the ability of vital neighborhood institutions to advocate on behalf of their respective constituents. Two local Elementary Schools PS 130 and PS 230, several local places of worship such as Immaculate Heart of Mary RC Church, The Flatbush Jewish Center, which despite its name is in Kensington, and the Darul Jannah Masjid and Masjid Nur Al-Islam will all see their catchment areas, now wholly within the 44th AD, divided between the 44th and the 51st AD. This is especially troublesome with respect to the Mosque's which serve the growing South Asian community in Kensington and will now have to petition two different Assembly Members rather than having a single point of contact.

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In the 1950's Robert Moses built the Prospect Expressway and inflicted a still obvious scar on Windsor Terrace and Kensington. The people of Windsor Terrace and Kensington banded together and protested Moses' plan but unlike more affluent neighborhoods such as Brooklyn Heights and Greenwich Village they lost and the Prospect Expressway was built. Moses' wound however drew the Windsor Terrace and Kensington communities closer together and over the following decades they jointly fought and defeated repeated ill advised rezoning proposals to first permit large scale manufacturing and then residential over development in these thriving working class neighborhoods. We ask that you not reopen the wound Robert Moses inflicted. Please make Greenwood Cemetery, not the Prospect Expressway the boundary between the 44th AD and the 51st AD. Please keep Windsor Terrace and Kensington intact.

Yours truly,

Peter Gomori

Treasurer



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of my neighbors and myself about the proposed NY Assembly Redistricting Plan for the 44th Assembly District and specifically the committee's decision to place portions of the neighborhoods of Windsor Terrace and Kensington in two different Assembly Districts, the 44th and the 51st. We believe both neighborhoods should be wholly within the 44th AD as they have been for over 30 years. I recognize the challenges of laying new district lines and that the committee is focusing on balancing the constituents in the districts for more even representation and I acknowledge your hard work. I was unable to attend the in person meeting with the districting committee but I watched it in its entirety online and I appreciate how well the commissioners listened to the folks giving testimony and your invitation to submit further comment online. As someone who is making these changes from outside the neighborhood, I want to give you the perspective of a 20 year resident of Windsor Terrace and hope that you'll take the take the time to read to my concerns and reconsider these changes.

The new boundaries of the map have split the neighborhood of Windsor Terrace into two separate assembly districts. My side of Windsor Terrace is being rolled into District 51 the bulk of which is comprised of Sunset Park and Red Hook two areas, which are geographically removed from Windsor Terrace due to our neighborhood's border with the 478-acre Greenwood Cemetery. This will undoubtedly result in poorer representation for the folks who live in the small section of Windsor Terrace that is bounded by Prospect Park West, McDonald Avenue, Fort Hamilton Parkway and the Prospect Expressway.

According to the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission Website

"A community of interest is a population which shares enough social and economic interests of importance that suggest said community should be included in a single district for effective and fair representation. These might include similar standards of living, shared methods and patterns of transportation, or similar economic and societal concerns. The commission shall consider the maintenance of cores of existing districts, of pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities, and towns, and of communities of interest."

The decision to put portions of both Windsor Terrace and Kensington into different Assembly Districts divides two long established and discrete communities with common interests, demographics and a history of positive civic activism. This is contrary to your stated goals of keeping a population that shares social and economic interests united for fair representation.

Windsor Terrace is a small, primarily residential neighborhood bounded by Prospect Park on the east and northeast, Park Slope at Prospect Park West, Green-Wood Cemetery, and Borough Park at McDonald Avenue on the northwest, west, and southwest, and Kensington at Caton Avenue on the south. Sandwiched between Prospect Park and Greenwood Cemetery this isolation gives it a unique character and small town feel. It is an old Brooklyn neighborhood that was first developed in the 1800s. Many residents are from working class families that have lived here for generations. In the 1950s Robert Moses' Prospect Expressway cut through Windsor Terrace, and while the expressway remains a wound running through the heart of the neighborhood, geographically the two sides are united by bike and footbridges that residents traverse multiple times a day to get to schools, the subway and the grocery store.

The majority of District 51, where the new map proposes to redistrict this section of Windsor Terrace, is located in Red Hook and Sunset Park. Neither of those neighborhoods is contiguous to Windsor Terrace with the 478-acre Greenwood Cemetery separating Windsor Terrace from Sunset Park. In addition to being geographically removed from Windsor Terrace, neither Sunset Park nor Red Hook is easily accessible by transit to Windsor Terrace residents. Unless you own a private car, getting to Sunset Park from Windsor Terrace requires taking the train 4 stops towards Manhattan and switching lines to the R and riding multiple stops back into Brooklyn. Consequently if you live in Windsor Terrace you are more likely to shop and socialize in Windsor Terrace or the nearby neighborhoods of Kensington or Park Slope areas that are easily accessible by foot, the 67/69 bus or the F/G train that unite the neighborhood. Our children are zoned to go to nearby schools in the other side of Windsor Terrace that will now be in a new assembly district. Our local fire station and the many parks, businesses and amenities we enjoy will soon be in another district.

I mapped out the new district using the <u>https://districtr.org/plan</u> linked on the NY redistricting site and discovered that our portion of Windsor Terrace bounded by Prospect Park West, McDonald Avenue, Fort Hamilton Parkway and the Prospect Expressway has an estimated 4,475 residents based on the previous census data vs. the over 105,000 residents of Sunset Park and Red Hook. By necessity the assemblyperson representing District 51 will be more focused on the needs of the bulk of their constituents in two neighborhoods that meet the definition of other communities of interest. We are hardworking New Yorkers who pay our taxes and deserve to have our community's needs represented in Albany.

Our current representative, Robert Carroll was born in District 44 and understands the area and the needs of the people. Our needs are aligned with the rest of Windsor Terrace and the greater Kensington area, which remains in District 44. In terms of city council representation our portion of Windsor Terrace remains in Council 39. The city council lines recognize that we are a united community. I hope you will consider redrawing the lines so we can be united with the rest of our neighborhood and community and don't lose our voice in Albany.

As you look to balance district sizes and preserve communities of interest, my suggestion would be to restore more of the Sunset Park district to Assembly District 51. The new district lines shift the avenue block that borders Sunset Park between

6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> avenue into a new district. Restoring those few blocks that all clearly have an interest in the needs and challenges of the park itself would allow you to reunite our section of Windsor Terrace with the rest of the neighborhood in District 44 and to ensure that District 44 remained the correct size, some of the new blocks added in the more northern region of the district could be removed and reunited with their previous district. I also created a map of how I see Assembly District 44 could be drawn: <u>https://districtr.org/plan/175056</u>. The district that I drew is just under 134k constituents but within the allowed variance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

From:	Ali Algamoos
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 5:01:09 PM

I am concerned about the way Bay Ridge is divided into four different Assembly districts. Since 1982, each redistricting year has seen Bay Ridge placed into three and sometimes four separate districts. For over 40 years, no other neighborhood in Brooklyn with such clearly defined borders has been treated this way. It is unacceptable. <BR><BR>For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.<BR> <BR>I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge. <BR>

Sent from my iPhone

From:	<u>Ali Vega</u>
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:52:27 AM

I am concerned about the way Bay Ridge is divided into four different Assembly districts. Since 1982, each redistricting year has seen Bay Ridge placed into three and sometimes four separate districts. For over 40 years, no other neighborhood in Brooklyn with such clearly defined borders has been treated this way. It is unacceptable. <BR><BR>For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.<BR> <BR>I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge. <BR>

Sent from my iPhone

February 13, 2023

Public Comment to the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission in opposition to the proposed geographic division of the 44th NYS Assembly District

It has recently come to my attention that the Independent Redistricting Commission has proposed new district lines that would cut big portions of Windsor Terrace, Kensington, Park Slope and Ditmas Park out of my home assembly district - the 44th Assembly District.

I strongly oppose this plan. The 44th Assembly District should not be chopped up!

I encourage the Independent Redistricting Commission to keep the neighborhoods of the 44th Assembly District intact as they currently exist and have existed for over 30 years. Please do not divide Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, and Kensington. We are one community connected by schools, houses of worship, mass transit and parks.

The currently proposed redistricting plan would marginalize citizens in my Assembly District, and it will weaken our voices by spreading our neighborhood's citizens among several Assembly representatives.

Please take our neighborhood and community's long-standing identity and cohesiveness into consideration as you outline the new Assembly districts.

Thank you.

Alice Boles Ott 276A 14th Street Brooklyn, NY 11215 Email: <u>alicebolesott@gmail.com</u>

From:	Alison Hirsh
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:51:56 AM

I am concerned about the way Bay Ridge is divided into four different Assembly districts. Since 1982, each redistricting year has seen Bay Ridge placed into three and sometimes four separate districts. For over 40 years, no other neighborhood in Brooklyn with such clearly defined borders has been treated this way. It is unacceptable.

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

82 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Apartment 4R Brooklyn, NY 11218

February 23, 2023

Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, NY 10007

### Testimony related to the 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District in Brooklyn

My name is Amanda Ritchie and I live on East 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Greenwood Avenue with my husband and two children. We have lived in our building in the 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District for nearly 13 years, and the newly proposed IRC map of the 44<sup>th</sup> AD would remove my family and our neighbors from our district. I strongly object to this proposed change as it will arbitrarily carve us out of a community we have been a part of for over a decade and add us to a new district where our needs and interests will be underserved.

First, the proposed map would cut us out of the 44th AD by changing the boundary from Green-Wood Cemetery to the Prospect Expressway. **The Prospect Expressway is not a natural boundary in our district as there are multiple pedestrian bridges and overpasses that keep our community connected.** In fact, my family and I cross the Prospect Expressway almost every day, multiple times a day, to access the subway, buses, Prospect Park, stores, friends' houses, etc. It is understandable that the Commission might have looked at the map of our district and perceived the expressway as a dividing line, but take it from someone who has lived in the community a long time that it is not. Green-Wood Cemetery at McDonald Ave, which has been **a boundary in the 44<sup>th</sup> AD for over 30 years, is a natural boundary in the community and it should remain as such in the final map**.

Second, as long-time constituents in the 44<sup>th</sup> AD, my neighbors and I have fostered relationships with our local elected officials and organized as a community around our district ties. I am a member of the 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Democratic Committee, in which I participate in voter outreach efforts and other community organizing activities. Some of my neighbors who are similarly involved in community work and would be removed from the proposed 44th AD will be disenfranchised if such a change is approved. **Changing our AD affiliation as proposed will result in disruptions of important community organizing work and threatens the sustainability of work that has been done to this point**.

Finally, the proposed changes would uproot a small portion of residents who have historically been a part of Kensington/Windsor Terrace and move us into the 51<sup>st</sup> AD which is largely comprised of Sunset Park and Red Hook, a community with very different needs. For example, my neighbors and I are concerned about the proposed changes to truck rerouting off the Prospect Expressway due to upcoming BQE repairs. We discussed these concerns with our Assembly Member in the 44th district, Robert Carroll, who organized a meeting for us with the

NYC DOT and helped us communicate our concerns. If we were part of the 51st AD, it is unlikely our concerns would be as effectively addressed since the remainder of that district has very different traffic and transportation patterns and would not be affected in the same way as us. Furthermore, our slice of the district is already underrepresented in terms of community board representation on CB7, which is predominantly composed of Sunset Park and thus focused on issues related to its commercial strips, large industrial area and residents' needs. Moving our portion of the community into the 51st AD would serve to diminish our voices and lessen our ability to advocate for our community.

I hope you will listen to the concerns of my neighbors and I and keep our community together by maintaining the current boundaries of the 44th Assembly District. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Ritchie

From:	Amanda Soto
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:08:24 AM

I am concerned about the way Bay Ridge is divided into four different Assembly districts. Since 1982, each redistricting year has seen Bay Ridge placed into three and sometimes four separate districts. For over 40 years, no other neighborhood in Brooklyn with such clearly defined borders has been treated this way. It is unacceptable.

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

From:	Amanda Vila
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:34:39 AM

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Sent from my iPhone

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

Dear Chair Jenkins and Vice Chair Nesbitt,

I write to respectfully oppose modifications to our adjacent district lines proposed by the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC).

For decades, the Assembly Districts have represented a collection of diverse communities, an opportunity for the undersigned as representatives to advocate on any number of complex issues associated with the unique various racial, ethnic, religious or socio-economic matters that affect all our constituencies.

Upon review of the IRC's proposal, we find that the planned adjustments - seemingly in the pursuit of district population parity and fair and just representation – disrupt these communities by ignoring the following naturally drawn district lines

The extension into the Canarsie area is a huge concern for the district. Namely the modification and or elimination of the Canarsie area from the 58<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. One needs to carefully understand Canarsie's importance and the need for it to remain as part of its current Assembly Districts.

Canarsie is diverse area with a proud and rich history. Carrying a name from the Lenape tribe of Native American that originally made up the area this rich history continues into our modern day. Bounded on the east by Fresh Creek Basin and East 108th Street; on the north by Linden Boulevard; on the west by Ralph Avenue; on the southwest by Paerdegat Basin; and on the south by Jamaica Bay. The unique composition of the area and its nearness to the numerous waterways unites its residents. In fact, the community's name itself is adapted from a Lenape word meaning "fenced area", largely due to its proximity to the waterways.

The proposed changes will also remove an industrial zone from the district that could serve as space for job creation and housing. East New York is plagued with a huge need for housing. Another section that would be lost to the district is an area currently being developed with commercial retail stores and housing. Again, this would put our district at a disadvantage.

The district has successfully led and advocated for their diverse and segmented constituencies, and hastily redrawing decades-long district lines would no doubt lead to the outright disenfranchisement of communities both new and old. We thank the commission for its consideration and hope that we can preserve the unique qualities and diverse neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Maria nune 185 Ardsley Prophysics 185 B'Klyn NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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The district has successfully led and advocated for their diverse and segmented constituencies, and hastily redrawing decades-long district lines would no doubt lead to the outright disenfranchisement of communities both new and old. We thank the commission for its consideration and hope that we can preserve the unique qualities and diverse neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Richard David Guy Brooklyn, NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

Dear Chair Jenkins and Vice Chair Nesbitt,

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For decades, the Assembly Districts have represented a collection of diverse communities, an opportunity for the undersigned as representatives to advocate on any number of complex issues associated with the unique various racial, ethnic, religious or socio-economic matters that affect all our constituencies.

Upon review of the IRC's proposal, we find that the planned adjustments - seemingly in the pursuit of district population parity and fair and just representation – disrupt these communities by ignoring the following naturally drawn district lines

The extension into the Canarsie area is a huge concern for the district. Namely the modification and or elimination of the Canarsie area from the 58<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. One needs to carefully understand Canarsie's importance and the need for it to remain as part of its current Assembly Districts.

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Sincerely,

Kory L. Turner-Bey Brooklyn, NY 11208

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Sincerely,

Pamela Godette Brooklyn, NY 11207

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Sincerely,

Albert Poyser Brooklyn, NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Vilma Poyser Brooklyn, NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Thomasena Grant Brooklyn, NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Kavata Washington Brooklyn, NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Sincerely,

Shirley Cook Brooklyn, NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Sincerely,

Phillip Alleyne Brooklyn, NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Valerie Bozeman Brooklyn, NY 11239
Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Neffertiti Leach Brooklyn, NY 11239

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Angela Arrundell Brooklyn, NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Gloria Gunn Brooklyn, NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Deborah Shine Brooklyn, NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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The district has successfully led and advocated for their diverse and segmented constituencies, and hastily redrawing decades-long district lines would no doubt lead to the outright disenfranchisement of communities both new and old. We thank the commission for its consideration and hope that we can preserve the unique qualities and diverse neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Joyce McCracken Brooklyn, NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

Dear Chair Jenkins and Vice Chair Nesbitt,

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Delloise Wannamaker Brooklyn, NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Davonna Wannamaker Brooklyn, NY 11239

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Evetter Pilgrim Brooklyn, NY 11239

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Phyllis Hall Brooklyn, NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Marcia Stamp Brooklyn, NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Manny Ramos Brooklyn, NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Manuel Ramos Brooklyn, NY 11239

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Sincerely,

Sean Romaine Brooklyn, NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Sincerely,

Belma Weeks Brooklyn, NY 11239

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Elizabeth Figueroa Brooklyn, NY 11207

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Ebony Johnson Brooklyn, NY 11207

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Leslie Brown Brooklyn, NY 11207

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Velva Christmas Brooklyn, NY 11207

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Sincerely,

Justine Williams Brooklyn, NY 11207

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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Madelin Esperson 120 Schroeders av 125 Brocklyn, NY 11239

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Brooklyn, NY 11208 Dayne Banks

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Kathleen Lucas Brooklyn, NY 11239 o 15 26, 10,44a

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February 6, 2023

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The district has successfully led and advocated for their diverse and segmented constituencies, and hastily redrawing decades-long district lines would no doubt lead to the outright disenfranchisement of communities both new and old. We thank the commission for its consideration and hope that we can preserve the unique qualities and diverse neighborhood.

Kt per 126 Loring ave, 4C Wolden My 11208

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

Dear Chair Jenkins and Vice Chair Nesbitt,

I write to respectfully oppose modifications to our adjacent district lines proposed by the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC).

For decades, the Assembly Districts have represented a collection of diverse communities, an opportunity for the undersigned as representatives to advocate on any number of complex issues associated with the unique various racial, ethnic, religious or socio-economic matters that affect all our constituencies.

Upon review of the IRC's proposal, we find that the planned adjustments - seemingly in the pursuit of district population parity and fair and just representation – disrupt these communities by ignoring the following naturally drawn district lines

The extension into the Canarsie area is a huge concern for the district. Namely the modification and or elimination of the Canarsie area from the 58<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. One needs to carefully understand Canarsie's importance and the need for it to remain as part of its current Assembly Districts.

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P.Anderson 9rDC Hegeman Ave Brooklyn, N.Y. 11208

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Sincerely,

1237-Stanley Ave Apt 3E 1208 BKIYN NY
### February 6, 2023

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

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### Sincerely,

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BELER MARCH

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the proposed redistricting. My name is Andrew Danylchuk. I reside in Windsor Terrace and am writing on behalf of myself, my family and my community.

My comments will focus on your plan for the 44th Assembly District and specifically your decision to place portions of our neighborhood of Windsor Terrace into two different Assembly Districts, the 44th and the 51st. We believe Windsor Terrace should be wholly within the 44th AD as it has been historically.

We ask that you make Greenwood Cemetery along 20th Street the western border of the 44th AD not the Prospect Expressway as in the draft plan, and Greenwood Cemetery along McDonald Avenue and Fort Hamilton Parkway out to 39th Street the Northern boundary between the 44th and 51st ADs. This is a shift of only a few blocks but makes complete sense. Without this change the portion of Windsor Terrace cut out of the 44th AD will be a small after thought in the 51st AD divided from that district by the hundreds of acres of Greenwood Cemetery. The 51st AD contains the entirety of Sunset Park and that neighborhood historically dominates that district. The inevitable result of the draft plan is that the few blocks of Windsor Terrace attached to Sunset Park will be underserved. The proposed plan dilutes the ability of vital neighborhood institutions to advocate on behalf of their respective constituents.

We share multiple local schools, several local places of worship, a subway station, an expressway that borders both sides of our neighborhood and shopping centers. We are wholly with in our police precinct, our community board and our congressional district.

In the 1950's Robert Moses built the Prospect Expressway that left a terrible scar on Windsor Terrace. Families were displaced, and houses of worship were torn down. The great scar could have left a neighborhood divided, but the people of Windsor Terrace banded together and became a stronger community. We petitioned to have more pedestrian bridges built across the expressway to re-unite our neighborhood. We have since fought many plans that were ill conceived such as rezoning proposals, DOT expressway projects, and numerous other concerns in our neighborhood, and we were successful, because despite our diversity, we are united within our community.

We ask that you not reopen the wound Robert Moses inflicted. Please make Greenwood Cemetery, not the Prospect Expressway the boundary between the 44th AD and the 51st AD. Please keep Windsor Terrace and Kensington intact.

To put it simply, the plan is contrary to many of the bedrock principles which should guide fair redistricting and good government.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully, Andrew Danylchuk 50 East 5th St. Brooklyn, NY 11218

From:	Andrew Howard
To:	<u>Submissions</u>
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:02:08 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

From:	Angelica Sang
То:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:30:02 AM

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From:	Ann Gubiotti
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:31:05 AM

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Ann C. Gubiotti 323 101st St, 38D Brooklyn, NY 11209 917-656-3075

From:	Antoinette Wagnerman
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:07:59 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

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February 28, 2023

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Fl. New York, N.Y. 10007

Dear members of the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission:

I, Arleny Alvarado, am writing to express my apprehension as it relates to the proposed changes to the 54<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. The change to the district that causes the most disquiet is the proposed inclusion and crossing of the Queens County boundary into Ridgewood.

As the District Leader of the 54<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, it is my belief that redistricting should be respectful of the organizational structures of the two counties as well as the community in question. When decisions are made on a county level, Brooklyn County Committee has no jurisdiction over Queens County Committee's policies or procedures and vice versa. The Queens constituents of the proposed 54<sup>th</sup> Assembly District would be disadvantaged since they would not have a say or vote in any Brooklyn County proceedings. By that same token, I would also have no say or vote in Queens County elections. This would create logistical and operational confusion for voters and other community leaders.

It is my belief that this potential modification would not be beneficial to either county on any level. In view of this, I ask that the Commission revise their proposal and provide a plan that eliminates any voter disenfranchisement and prevents the disruption of organizational structures already in place.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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Arthur J Levy 40 Clinton Street Brooklyn, NY 11201 Arthurjlevy2016@gmail.com H: 718-797-0770 C: 917-587-2931

February 6, 2023

## Statement to the New York State Redistricting Commission

Ladies and Gentlemen and Members of the Redistricting Commission.

My name is Arthur Levy. I am a retired New York State Workers' Compensation Administrative Law Judge. I have lived in Brooklyn Heights for over 30 years. I have been an active member of local political clubs and have long communicated with community leaders and attended conferences of public officials and members of the Brooklyn Heights community throughout the time I have lived in this district.

For all the time I have lived in Brooklyn Heights, my neighborhood has been in the 52d Assembly District. Also in the 52d District have been the residential and business neighborhoods of Carroll Gardens and Gowanus.

For the entire time of my residency in this District, the community interests of Brooklyn Heights, Carroll Gardens and Gowanus have been intertwined. There is good reason why that is so.

Brooklyn Heights and Carroll Gardens share contiguity with the Brooklyn Queens Expressway and the existence of, maintenance of, and public access to the Brooklyn Heights Promenade built over and to this day remaining directly over the BQE. The immensity of importance to the life of New York City of the incessant truck and automobile traffic on the BQE has continuously affected the daily lives of residents of both Brooklyn Heights and Carroll Gardens. For years before I became a Workers' Compensation Law Judge, I was active in the Independent Neighborhood Democrats, the home club of the 52<sup>nd</sup> AD. Since my retirement, I have again become active with the club. As such I have been familiar with the boundaries of AD 52 for decades. I worked over the years with and was in continuous communication with and observation of the community efforts of 52<sup>nd</sup> District Assembly Representatives Eileen Dugan, now-deceased, Joan Millman, and our current Assembly Representative, Jo Anne Simon, regarding the interests of Carroll Gardens and Brooklyn Heights in the growing crises affecting both communities of the need to address the BQE and the Promenade deterioration, as well.

Representatives Dugan and Millman maintained, and our current Assembly Representative Simon continues to maintain, their legislative offices on Smith Street <u>in Carroll Gardens</u>. It has been undisputed that Carroll Gardens and Brooklyn Heights, having a core of common interest, have demanded continuity of and benefited from as much. It is also undisputed that the proposed redefined 52d Assembly District to be enacted, where it has been located since Eileen Dugan took office in 1983, including the office of our incumbent Assembly Representative <u>would fall</u> outside of the District, where it has been located for decades – evidence that the Carroll Gardens and Gowanus are core parts of the district.

How can such inconsistency of redesign of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District be explained?

While the Gowanus canal community exists on the other side of Smith Street slightly more distant from the BQE and the Promenade, it has been unquestioned over decades and more that the Gowanus Canal community, Carroll Gardens, and Brooklyn Heights have shared a common core of interest in all being part of and represented by the 52<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District. Even when Eileen Dugan was our Assembly Representative, members of the longshoreman's union, long in active communication with the Dugan office, worked in close contiguity over the entire duration of the Gowanus Canal and waterway.

Together we have all been affected by the ongoing corrective need to address the pollution of the Gowanus Canal, now a Superfund site. We have all been affected by the population moves into the Gowanus area and economically we have all been affected by the developmental forces which have come into Gowanus and posed gigantic housing and construction challenges to the need for building code compliance oversight and most particularly, affordable housing, in that vicinity.

All the foregoing interests have affected and have been shared over countless decades by the Brooklyn Heights, Gowanus, and Carroll Gardens communities inside the 52<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District. Their interests and concerns have been shared concerns of all, and consistently and continuously examined, studied, addressed and brought to the continued attention of representatives and leaders of all these communities.

Conversely, in shifting away from the core of the district, the proposed lines would include a segment of Fort Greene, which, significantly, would be riven from its core community of Fort Greene and Clinton Hill, and all of Prospect Heights, when only a small portion close to Grand Army Plaza is currently in AD52.

What reasoning underlies the separation of these communities away from their clear community of interest in being commonly represented by the 52<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District, begs for an answer.

I ask the Commission members to ask that question and to place upon the proposed creation of the new 52<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District their highest burden and standards governing the redistricting process to raise challenges to the decision-making which now proposes to legislatively separate these multi-decade long communities of interest from each other.

I ask that the current 52<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District lines remain unchanged.

Thank you very much for allowing me to speak.



# A JOINT LETTER FROM ASSEMBLYWOMAN HELENE E. WEINSTEIN, 41<sup>st</sup> A.D. & ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAIME R. WILLIAMS, 59<sup>th</sup> A.D.

February 13, 2023

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

Dear Chair Jenkins and Vice Chair Nesbitt,

As elected officials representing the neighboring 41st and 59th Assembly Districts, we write to respectfully oppose modifications to our adjacent district lines proposed by the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC).

For decades, the 41<sup>st</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> Assembly Districts have represented a collection of diverse communities, an opportunity for us as representatives to advocate on any number of complex issues associated with the unique racial, ethnic, religious or socio-economic make-up of our constituencies.

Upon review of the IRC's proposal, we find that the planned adjustments - seemingly in the pursuit of district population parity – disrupt these communities by ignoring the following naturally drawn district lines:

1) **Quentin Road** – this commercial corridor serves as a dividing line between homes directly abutting Marine Park and those north of Quentin Road, below Kings Highway and Flatlands Avenue. The residents of latter portion are large young Jewish families who have moved in en masse over the past 2 decades. To further illustrate the extent of this growth: in 2003 this community was home to two or three synagogues, and at the time of this correspondence there are over twenty (20), most in the area delineated above.

The southerly, park adjacent, properties are home to multi-generational Irish-Catholic residents; members of the active Marine Park Civic Association, the Park's Active Seniors Program at the Carmine Carro Community Center and the Salt Marsh Nature Center. The sector is also the service region of the century-old – community funded – Gerritsen Beach Volunteer Fire Department, a vital organization that was instrumental in the rescue and recovery effort during Hurricane Sandy.

2) Gerritsen Avenue and Knapp Street – these two avenues have drawn a line, sensitive to the distinctions between the homogenous southern Marine Park community and the diverse Asian-American, Russian-American, Muslim and Jewish populations who have established newer communities in the areas of Kings, Bedford and Sheepshead Bays.

- 3) Fraser Square this neighborhood, encompassing the blocks north and south of Fraser Square Park on Kings Highway at East 34th Street, has long been represented by the 41st Assembly District and the eponymous civic association, which has evolved over decades to become a unified voice for improving the quality of life for homeowners in the immediate area. The new lines break up the organization's constituency, placing them into three (3) separate Assembly Districts.
- 4) **Kings Highway** the 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District's distinct curvature follows a nearly three mile stretch of Kings Highway; constituting roughly half of the Avenue's six-mile span through the borough of Brooklyn. The southern portion of the road is populated by high rise apartments; uniting these buildings and their shared tenant-centric interests with the multi-level housing found along Nostrand.

The northern half of Kings Highway is home to a thriving Black/Caribbean community living in modest single-family homes, represented by the active Flatbush Flatlands Civic Group and Nieuw Amersfort Community Association.

Kings Highway has seen a fair share of controversy, with the introduction of a dedicated City Bus lane, and the occasional subsequent neglect by agencies in question when maintaining the median system. It is in the best legislative interest of the adjacent residents and business to maintain singular representation to oversee the upkeep and further modernization of this heavily trafficked and sometimes dangerous major thoroughfare.

Other examples are less defined, such as the proposed elimination of the 41<sup>st</sup> District's Sheepshead Bay commercial waterfront corridor and subsequent addition of 59<sup>th</sup> District's Marine Park, Gerritsen Beach, Bergen Beach, Mill Basin and Canarsie communities. The IRC fails to recognize that these wetland bounded communities share unique ecological, legislative and economic interests, not necessarily applicable to the Sheepshead Bay commercial pier system.

There is a saying: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," and while we recognize that there is cause statewide to address areas where district lines demand reformation, these two districts have successfully led and advocated for their diverse and segmented constituencies, and hastily redrawing decadeslong district lines would no doubt lead to the outright disenfranchisement of communities both new and old.

We thank the commission for its consideration and hope that we can preserve the unique qualities and diverse neighborhoods in our respective Assembly districts.

Sincerely

anter Ielene E.

Assemblywoman, 41<sup>st</sup> A.D.

Jaime R, Williams Assemblywoman, 59<sup>th</sup> A.D.

Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, NY 10007

My name is Bazah Roohi and I am the founder and executive director of the American Council for Minority Women (ACMW) at 1090 Coney Island Avenue. I am writing with the urgent request that the IRC allow for our block of Coney Island Avenue between Foster and Avenue H to remain in the 44th Assembly District.

ACMW was established in July 2005 by the women of the Minority Community of the USA for the empowerment, development, protection and promotion of human rights of women in the USA, and particularly in the state of New York. While continuing to increase awareness regarding violence against women, ACMW has also broadened the agenda to include all abuses of human rights. We are the first Pakistani-American organization in the USA that focuses on human rights abuses in Pakistan. ACMW has established an Adult Literacy Center in Brooklyn, which has enabled 26 women to read and write. English language and computer learning was also taught to them. Women benefited from this as they learned vocal and communication skills that in the future helped them in their jobs and everyday life.

For the past 30 years, ACMW's location has been in the 44th Assembly District, but in the IRC's draft plan released on December 1, 2022, you have drawn our block out of the district and thereby divided the Pakistani community and the greater South Asian community from one another. The IRC map divides the 44th Assembly District at Foster Avenue, severing the Pakistani-American community and cutting key social key social service providers, including COPO, Makki Mosque, and Al-Rayaan Muslim Funeral Services, Brooklyn's premier Muslim funeral home. To allow our community to remain whole and maintain our voice and political power, the 44<sup>th</sup> should continue to Avenue H, as indicated on the attached map, which was submitted by Assemblymember Robert Carroll.

Thank you for your consideration



From:	Bernard Tyson Reid
To:	<u>Submissions</u>
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 12:06:30 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Sent from my Galaxy

From:	Beryl Brenner
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:32:39 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

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From:	Bill Costa
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:40:14 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Bill Costa bcosta@rimadesio.us 516-480-2114

From:	<u>bluecholer</u>
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 5:07:13 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small busi

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, NY 10007

I am submitting my testimony in regards to the proposed 44th Assembly District map. As Comptroller of New York City and a longtime resident of Park Slope, it is imperative to me that the new district boundaries allow for all communities to be represented fairly.

In the proposed map for the 44th AD, Windsor Terrace has been cut into two Assembly Districts with the Prospect Expressway as the dividing line, rather than the current (and natural) boundary of Green-Wood Cemetery. The proposed map additionally cuts several blocks in Kensington out of the 44th District by drawing a dividing line at Dahil Road rather than Fort Hamilton Parkway. These changes force small sections of Windsor Terrace and Kensington into different districts. Furthermore, there are a few blocks in Prospect Park South that have been cut out of the district that could be restored by drawing the dividing line on Church Avenue rather than Albemarle Road. By forcing just a few blocks from these neighborhoods into a separate district from the rest of their neighborhood, those communities are treated as an afterthought and will be underserved.

It is imperative that when we draw legislative districts, we prioritize keeping communities together. The IRC proposed boundaries divide cultural, religious, and school communities in Kensington, Prospect Park South, and Windsor Terrace. Should the current map move forward, these cut-off communities may lose necessary resources and fair representation. Residents in those blocks deserve representation that is not an afterthought.

Thank you for your attention.

**Brad Lander** 

From:	brenrob80@gmail.com
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:33:07 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

854 East 51st Street Brooklyn, NY 11203 February 10, 2023

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

To Whom It May Concern;

My nane is Brenda Marshall, and I lived at the above mentioned address. I lived in the 41st District, Kings County for over 40 years and worked as a Pollworker for 15 years.

I am respectfully requesting that I remained in the 41st District for the following reasons;

My district is a huge melting pot that provides community interest gear towards each ethnic common interest and value. Example, places of Worship provide immigration assistance, legal counsel, housing, food (pantries) and health care / local clinics for those without insurance. The elected officals in the 41st District have achieved manys services for all concerns especially the Senoirs and people with disability. Our law enforcement and Block Association work together to provide a healthy and safe environment of all concerns

Removing me from all of rhe above mentioned, would place me at a loss, just as I turned 65.

Last election I observed first hand what the Redistricting did to too many voters, who felt angry and betrayed. Many voiced their dissatisfaction by being verbally abusive towards rhe pollworkers and others expressed their opinions openly that they would not vote until they were reassigned to their original polling site.

The changes might appear to those who initated this plan as simply, but it has created a nightmare. Is this what we do in NY?

Thank You.

From:	Caitlin Sweeny
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 12:07:58 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.



Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, NY 10007

My name is Camille Campanelli and I live with my husband and two small children in Kensington. I am writing with concern about the IRC's draft map of the 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, where my family and I have lived for four years. The IRC draft map splits Windsor Terrace in half at the Expressway and cuts out close portions of West Kensington and puts these communities in the 51<sup>st</sup> AD, which is a district dominated by the neighborhoods of Sunset Park and Red Hook. Your decision to put portions of both Windsor Terrace and Kensington into different Assembly Districts makes both impacted ADs less compact and contiguous and also divides two long established and discrete communities with common interests, demographics and a history of positive civic activism. Simply stated it is contrary to many of the bedrock principles which should guide fair redistricting and good government.

Instead, the IRC should restore the dividing line of Green-wood Cemetery along 20th Street as the western border of the 44th AD not the Prospect Expressway as in the IRC map, and Green-wood Cemetery along McDonald Avenue and Fort Hamilton Parkway out to 39th Street the Northern boundary between the 44th and 51st ADs. This is a shift of only a few blocks but makes complete sense geographically and culturally. Under your draft map, you remove the 400 student 3K and Pre K center at K280, where our son attends and puts it in the 51<sup>st</sup> AD, even though all of our son's classmates live in Park Slope, Windsor Terrace or Kensington. It just doesn't make any sense. I know the aims of the IRC are to draw contiguous districts that maintain communities of interest. This current draft fails to do that and I urge you to follow the advice of the people who live here and keep Windsor Terrace and Kensington whole with Park Slope and Ditmas Park. I am submitting a map that my Assemblymember submitted, which presents a map that draws a more contiguous and compact 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District than the 2022 Assembly District map and this first draft presented by the IRC. I hope you will use it as a guide to draw a map that better matches the communities of interest across the 44<sup>th</sup> AD.

Thank you for your consideration

From:	Carmela Manoli
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:31:51 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

From:	Cary Raffle
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 5:31:15 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

From:	<u>Cheryl</u>
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:10:40 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.



February 10, 2023

Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, NY 10007

Chair Jenkins and Members of the Independent Redistricting Commission,

I would first like to thank the Independent Redistricting Commission for the tremendous undertaking of creating a new plan for 150 Assembly Districts. I am pleased that the Commission is soliciting input in a variety of ways from regular citizens concerned about their state government.

The purpose of my letter is to point out some glaring issues in the first draft regarding southern Brooklyn. Particularly, I am concerned about the way Bay Ridge is divided into four different districts. Since 1982, each redistricting year has seen Bay Ridge placed into three and sometimes four different districts. No other neighborhood in Brooklyn with such clearly defined borders has been treated this way for over forty years.

I bring up this unfairness because it has real implications. Since 1982, not one person who lives in Bay Ridge has been elected to the Assembly. This is no minor fact considering that Bay Ridge is a large neighborhood with about 80,000 people. During this time, Bay Ridge has been represented in the Assembly by Members who live in Staten Island, Coney Island, Sunset Park, Borough Park, Sea Gate, Brighton Beach, and Carroll Gardens.

While the current maps still see Bay Ridge unfairly included in three Assembly districts, your new proposal goes two steps further. The first step is adding a fourth district to Bay Ridge. The second step is disconnecting Bay Ridge from Coney Island.

The first step is a problem for reasons I have already explained. The second step, though, is problematic because these two neighborhoods have been joined for decades and the newly created City Council maps now have Bay Ridge and Coney Island connected, very similarly to the current

46<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. During the City Council redistricting process, one of the reasons given for the

creation of these new Council district lines was that it overlaps so closely with the 46<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. It was further argued that having elected officials who can work together in the same neighborhoods is beneficial to the residents of those neighborhoods.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge. There is no reason to continue bringing the

51<sup>st</sup> Assembly District into Bay Ridge. While, in an ideal world, I would favor an Assembly district that contains all of Bay Ridge, I realize the task you have before you is very complicated and any changes have a ripple effect. That said, it is easy and fair to make sure that Bay Ridge is part of only two Assembly districts in the map you will submit to the legislature.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony,

Chris McCreight

Bay Ridge Resident and Democratic District Leader 46<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

From:	Christine Bellone
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:51:41 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

From:	<u>Cindy Irizarry</u>
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:56:16 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

From:	CLAUDIA BLACK
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 12:27:10 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Please listen to what the residents of Bay Ridge want for our community!

Thank you, Claudia Black
February 16, 2023

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

As a resident of Cooper Park Houses, a New York City Housing Authority development (NYCHA) in East Williamsburg, I atrongly oppose the proposed change in the New York State Assembly lines to create District 38 which would combine the East part of Williamsburg with neighborhoods in Queens.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Cooper Park Houses has 700 housing units with a population of 1,738 residents. The households in our development consist of97% people of color with 46.7% of the households being Non-Hispanic Black (807 people), 46.4% Hispanic (807 people) and only 2.2% Non-Hispanic White residents (38 people. On the contrary, the proposed 38th Assembly District consist of more than 50% Non-Hispanic White and less than 3% Black. The proposed district is dominated by neighborhoods of homeowners and small properties with little in common with NYCHA's multifamily low-income rental properties. Additionally, those neighborhoods are separated from us physically by Newtown Creek as well as demographically, economically and in many other ways.

Our community consist of low-income renters who shop, are educated, attend religious institutions and travel through Williamsburg and Greenpoint, Brooklyn. We are definitely a standing Community of Interest and the proposed 38th Assembly District will split our community from a voice in what happens to the vital services that impact us. We do not share services with Glendale, Long Island City, Maspeth or Rego Park neighborhoods therefore, I am requesting that we remain part of the historic Greenpoint areas of the 50° District. Certainly, either Morthern Brooklyn District (50 or 53) are the correct districts that our development must be included and/or remain in.

:ssaibbA JQA Signature: Print: Date: 86.11.6

February 16, 2023

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

As a resident of Cooper Park Houses, a New York City Housing Authority development (NYCHA) in East Williamsburg, I strongly oppose the proposed change in the New York State Assembly lines to create District 38 which would combine the East part of Williamsburg with neighborhoods in Queens.

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:ssalppy JQA Print: Signature: 25/91 :ote(]

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Address: 359 MOLGOA Print: X :onnangi2 52/11/2:00

February 16, 2023

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It is imperative that the community by diluting our electoral voices. Thank you for a positive response.

Address: Apt. :summengiz Print: 3 Date: 2200

February 16, 2023

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As a resident of Cooper Park Houses, a New York City Housing Authority development (NYCHA) in East Williamsburg, I strongly oppose the proposed change in the New York State Assembly lines to create District 38 which would combine the East part of Williamsburg with neighborhoods in Queens.

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Address: JuA Print: Signature Date:

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JQA :ssəibbA Signature: Print: Date: 82

February 16, 2023

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:ssouppy JQA. m Print: :Signature: Date: EE08 7

February 16, 2023

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Address: αv Print: Signature: Date:

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Address: Signature Print: Date: 8808.91

February 16, 2023

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It is imperative that the community by diluting our electoral voices. Thank you for a positive response, minority voters of this community by diluting our electoral voices. Thank you for a positive response.

Address: JQA di Print: Signature: Date: 82/91



1077 Coney Island Ave. Brooklyn, New York 11230 Phone (718) 434-3266 www.copo.org

02/27/2023

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Mohammad Razvi and I am the founder and Executive Director of the Council of Peoples Organization (COPO) located at 1077 Coney Island Avenue. I am writing with the urgent request that the IRC allow for our block of Coney Island Avenue between Foster and Avenue H to remain in the 44th Assembly District.

In the wake of 9/11, I founded COPO in 2002, and have operated from a centrally located office on Coney Island Avenue in Midwood, Brooklyn and assisted low-income immigrant families in reaching their full potential as residents of New York City. COPO is a "one-stop-shop" that provides free, high-quality, and trusted social services to more than 12,000 households per year. Our food pantry programs help more than 150,000 people each year. COPO serves a citywide population with most clients coming from surrounding Brooklyn neighborhoods, many of which are from the 44th Assembly District. Our services are targeted to meet the specific language and cultural needs of immigrants from South Asia (Pakistan and Bangladesh).

For the past 30 years, COPO has been in the 44th Assembly District, but in the IRC's draft plan released on December 1, 2022, you have drawn our block out of the district and thereby divided the Pakistani community and the greater South Asian community from one another. The IRC map divides the 44th Assembly District at Foster Avenue, severing the Pakistani-American community and cutting key social key social service providers, Makki Mosque, and Al-Rayaan Muslim Funeral Services, Brooklyn's premier Muslim funeral home. To allow our community to remain whole and maintain our voice and political power, the 44<sup>th</sup> should continue to Avenue H, as indicated on the attached map, which was submitted by Assemblymember Robert Carroll.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Hend they

Mohammad Razvi Chief Executive Officer

From:	Damiano Geraci
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:53:48 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Thank you,

Damiano Geraci

The New York State Independent Redistricting Commission proposal, although seemingly aimed at achieving district population parity, ignores the naturally drawn district lines that exist within various communities. These communities, such as Marine Park, Canarsie, Gerritsen Beach, and Kings Highway, have unique and diverse histories and characteristics that should be taken into consideration when redrawing district lines. The commercial corridor of Quentin Road serves as a dividing line between the homes that abut Marine Park and those north of it, while Gerritsen Avenue and Knapp Street distinguish the southern Marine Park community from the newer communities of Kings, Bedford, and Sheepshead Bays. Fraser Square, encompassing the blocks north and south of Fraser Square Park, has long been represented by the 41st Assembly District and the eponymous civic association, which is now at risk of being split into three separate districts. Kings Highway, which follows a nearly three-mile stretch of the road and constitutes roughly half of its span through Brooklyn, is home to both high-rise apartments and a thriving Black/Caribbean community living in modest single-family homes.

These communities, bounded by wetlands, share unique ecological, legislative, and economic interests that are not necessarily applicable to the Sheepshead Bay commercial pier system. The IRC fails to recognize the importance and uniqueness of these communities, and redrawing decades-long district lines could result in the disenfranchisement of both new and old communities. The current districts and elected officials have successfully represented and advocated for their diverse and segmented constituencies, and any hasty redrawing of district lines would undermine their efforts. We implore the commission to preserve the unique qualities and diverse neighborhoods in our respective Assembly districts, and to understand the importance and history of each community in the overall makeup of New York State.

The current districts and elected officials have successfully led and advocated for their diverse and segmented constituencies, and redrawing decades-long district lines would lead to the outright disenfranchisement of these communities.

We thank the commission for its consideration and hope that the unique qualities and diverse neighborhoods in our Assembly districts can be preserved.

From:	Daniel E Malone
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:37:37 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

I'm writing to express my staunch opposition to the redistricting of Greenpoint, that would attach the eastern section of the neighborhood with LIC, Maspeth, Glendale and Rego Park.

I have been a Greenpointer for over 15 years- I've raised a family, sent my children to school, started a new business and lived on both sides of Mcguinness Blvd, both east and west. It is a single neighborhood, and must be represented as such.

Greenpoint is Greenpoint- one neighborhood, with single representation in government. We are a united community, and fracturing our community would do irreparable damage to the support we offer to one another.

I am pleading with you to not move forward with this plan, and please keep our community intact and whole!

Sincerely, Daniel Michalik

#### Feb 14, 2023 Testimony re redistricting of Bay Ridge area

Thank you for reviewing my comments. As a long-time Brooklyn resident, I moved to Bay Ridge in 2014 with my family. But I've been visiting the neighborhood for years before that and had friends who grew up here. Also, as someone who is part Arab-American, I knew the area was home to many Arabic families and businesses, which I also appreciated. (I remember going to Atlantic Avenue years ago and being told by the Arabic shop owners "Move to Bay Ridge! That's where we're all going!")

It's a neighborhood I've watched evolved over the years. If you've ever watched Saturday Night Fever, you've gotten a quick glimpse into some of the history of Bay Ridge! Very Italian, Norwegian/Scandinavian, Irish for years (lots of dockworkers), then the Arabic, Eastern European and Hispanic population began to grow and more recently, Chinese. Friends who grew up here tell me this too - and also it explains why there is a Norwegian Parade on 3rd Avenue every year (plus lots of other parades - Bay Ridge loves its parades!).

The population is about 145,000 (Community District 10), half White, about 25% Chinese, 20% Hispanic, and 2.5% Black. (In the tally of White, it's important to note that Arabic is not broken out separately.) Walking down the street, you will typically hear about three or four different languages being spoken: Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian. And as you go through Bay Ridge, you'll see a mix of single family homes, two and three unit homes, plus many larger multi-family pre-war buildings that are mix of rent-stabilized units and co-ops. There is variety in many ways, but there is also a sense of neighborhood unity.

Dividing Bay Ridge into so many different districts feels wrong on so many levels. First, dividing the neighborhood separates the many Arabic families and businesses into different districts. In a time when districts lines are becoming increasingly mindful of unifying ethnic communities, this harsh chopping up of the Arabic population is inappropriate and unfair.

Secondly, it's a very defined area geographically, separated (for better or worse!) by highways. This makes Bay Ridge a neighborhood apart from Sunset Park and from other neighborhoods. We have parades and street fairs that run down our avenues - and bring our community together. We have the R Train, local stops only. We have Owl's Head Park. And we have Alpine Cinema, which is the Bay Ridge movie theater (and the envy of other neighborhoods!). We are a distinct entity - and if Bay Ridge is too large to be represented by one district, then two districts are doable. But four? It will dilute the sense of neighborhood in any representation we have.

And there's one more point I'd like to add that confuses me - for years, Bay Ridge has shared an Assembly district with parts of Coney Island. Now that the City Council district has been redrawn to match that, the new Assembly lines would no longer include Coney Island? Short of Coney Island getting its own representation, it's a historic tie that shouldn't be changed so quickly, especially now that the City Council lines were trying to match up! If the Bay Ridge district needs to add population, Coney Island should be the first choice to keep the representation aligned.

Thank you for all your efforts - and thank you in advance for keeping Bay Ridge whole! Danielle Mowery

Testimony to the IRC re 44<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Assembly Districts

My name is David Pechefsky and I have lived in the northern part of Park Slope with my wife and children for over 24 years. My mother-in-law who is in her eighties also lives a few blocks north of us, while my sister and her husband live off of Grand Army Plaza near the library.

The IRC's current proposal fixes the strange situation created by the 2022 lines where the 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District has most of Park Slope but then "jumps" over where I live to include a part of Prospect Heights. When I've spoken to people from Prospect Heights now in the 44<sup>th</sup> AD they find it very odd that they are currently included in a district that includes Windsor Terrace and Kensington but cut off from their neighbors in the rest of Prospect Heights. I find it equally odd to not share a district with most of my Park Slope neighbors.

In terms of keeping neighborhoods and "communities of interest" together, it certainly seems like all of Park Slope up until Flatbush and east of 4<sup>th</sup> avenue should be in the 44<sup>th</sup>.

There is also an argument that the North Slope, especially the area north of Union could be included in a district that has Prospect Heights (the 52<sup>nd</sup> or 57<sup>th</sup> ADs). Grand Army Plaza, Flatbush commercial activity, subway stations, and the impact of Barclay's stadium and associated development on neighborhood life are all things that this portion of the North Slope and Prospect Heights share.

To quote my sister Rebecca Pechefsky (with her permission) who as mentioned lives on Plaza St. East. "Plaza Street is a little bit tricky, but I would still say the dividing line between Park Slope and Prospect Heights is Flatbush. Prospect Heights is in some ways both connected to Crown Heights and Park Slope. My neighborhood definitely includes the area bounded by Flatbush, Atlantic and Vanderbilt and extends in the other direction at least to Washington Ave. It definitely does not include Windsor Terrace. I hardly ever go there."

While the carving up of Prospect Heights and Park Slope in the lines that now exist is problematic, a glaring problem with the IRC proposal is the part of Windsor Terrace and Kensington cut out of the 44<sup>th</sup> and included in the 51<sup>st</sup> AD across Greenwood cemetery.

In our flawed system - I believe we would be better served by multi-member districts and proportional representation - lines of course have to be drawn somewhere. There are boundaries - roads, parks, canals for example - that don't change while neighborhood demographics and character do change compounding the task of the IRC. I encourage you to take a good look at the Windsor Terrace/Kensington AD 44/51 issue and after correcting this to include everything on one side of the cemetery together see what works best regarding the North Slope/Prospect Heights.

Thank you for your work.



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From:	Deanna D"Onofrio
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:48:18 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

From:	Debbi Connaughton
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 3:07:12 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

From:	debm1955@gmail.com
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:56:27 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

From:	Deborah Herdan
To:	Submissions
Subject:	AD44
Date:	Sunday, February 12, 2023 5:52:04 PM

My comments will focus on your plan for the 44th Assembly District and, specifically, your decision to place portions of the neighborhoods of Windsor Terrace and Kensington in two different Assembly Districts, the 44th and the 51st. We believe both neighborhoods should be wholly within the 44th AD, as they have been historically.

There are a number of issues with the revised proposed map, but the biggest for the 44th Assembly District is that the commission cuts Windsor Terrace into two Assembly Districts, by making the Prospect Expressway the dividing line, rather than the natural boundary of Green-Wood Cemetery. Additionally, the commission draws a dividing line at Dahill Road instead of Fort Hamilton Parkway, cutting out several blocks in Kensington, which have been in the 44th AD for decades.

We are asking the commission to restore Green-Wood Cemetery along 20th Street to be the western border of the 44th AD, not the Prospect Expressway as in the draft plan, and Green-Wood Cemetery along McDonald Avenue and Fort Hamilton Parkway out to 39th Street as the northern boundary between the 44th and 51st ADs.

This is a shift of only a few blocks but makes complete sense geographically. Without this change, the portions of Kensington and Windsor Terrace cut out of the 44th AD will be a small afterthought in the 51st AD, divided from that district by the hundreds of acres of Green-Wood Cemetery.

The 51st AD contains most of the thriving neighborhoods of Sunset Park and Red Hook, and those neighborhoods historically dominate that district. The inevitable result of the draft plan is that the few blocks of Windsor Terrace and Kensington attached to the vast bulk of Sunset Park and Red Hook will be underserved.

Beyond that, there are some blocks in Prospect Park South that they cut out, particularly Westminster Road to Rugby Road between Church Avenue and Albemarle Road, which could be restored by simply drawing the dividing line on Church Avenue rather than Albemarle Road.

In addition, there are a number of blocks in Kensington and West Midwood that have been cut out, even though they have also been in the district for 30 years.

Sincerely, Deborah Herdan RN 100 Ocean Parkway #1M Brooklyn NY 11218 646-406-5182 djherdan@gmail.com

From:	Denis Pender
To:	<u>Submissions</u>
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:01:40 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

From:	Denise Martinez
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 12:02:53 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

My name is Diana González. I am a resident of Windsor Terrace. I am a member of Community Board 7 and the Vice Chair of CB7's Environment and Sanitation Committee. I am also the President of the Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats, which has been the Democratic political club of the 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District since 1968, and I am the Corresponding Secretary of the 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Democratic Committee. I submit testimony today on behalf of myself and my community, with which I am deeply familiar due to my extensive civic and political engagement. My testimony today relates to the proposed border between the 44<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly districts and the general makeup of the 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly district, which has been my home for many years.

I'd like to begin by applauding the IRC's commitment to ensuring that districts are similarly sized. The previous redistricting made the 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly district oversized relative to other districts, and one of the largest in the state. This requires our representation to cover more ground without increased resources, which is fundamentally unjust. It is my hope that the IRC will continue to prioritize equal population distribution in subsequent draft maps.

Unfortunately, I am also deeply concerned that the IRC has fallen short with regard to several of its legal mandates, namely:

- This draft map results in prohibited denial and abridgement of racial and language voting rights for the Urdu and Bangla speaking South Asian communities of Kensington.
- By splitting the neighborhoods of Windsor Terrace and Kensington between two districts, both the 44<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly districts become significantly less contiguous and compact.
- This draft map fails dramatically at maintaining existing districts, preexisting political subdivisions, and communities of interest in Windsor Terrace and Kensington.

As you can see from the maps at the end of this document (also viewable at <u>https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1uCHIXBavZLLY0FXMn5C8nYUM9y\_Som&usp=sharing</u>), the IRC's proposal puts the dividing line between the 44<sup>th</sup> (outlined in green) and 51<sup>st</sup> (outlined in red) Assembly districts along the Prospect Expressway and then Dahill Road. These major roads bisect the neighborhoods of Windsor Terrace (colored purple) and Kensington (colored orange). Perhaps the IRC thought these roads constitute neighborhood or community dividing lines – in fact, they do not. Dahill is a residential street much like those to the east and west. The Prospect Expressway can be traversed by vehicle or by foot on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Prospect Park West, 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seeley Street, and Fort Hamilton Parkway/Ocean Avenue, and has pedestrian bridges at 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Greenwood Avenue, making it incredibly easy for to traverse the expressway. In addition, the Fort Hamilton Parkway subway station, which is underneath the Prospect Expressway, and has entrances on each side of the expressway. Under the proposed lines, this station would be in two districts.

The 44<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly districts are quite different in terms of both demographics and major issues of concern. The 44<sup>th</sup> District, both historically and under the IRC's proposed lines, is an affluent, majority non-Hispanic white district. The 51<sup>st</sup>, both historically and under the IRC's proposed lines, is a plurality Latiné district with a significant Chinese-American population, and contains a sizable population of public housing residents in Red Hook. Sunset Park and Red Hook share concerns related to their proximity to the waterfront, and the working-class communities in these neighborhoods share similar economic and quality of life concerns as well. In addition, both the Hispanic and Chinese-American communities have specific concerns and needs.

Windsor Terrace is an isolated community of interest. With Prospect Park on one side and Greenwood Cemetery on the other, the only adjacent neighborhoods that are easily accessible are Kensington and Park Slope, the latter of which is demographically quite similar. Greenwood Cemetery is particularly impenetrable: It is surrounded by a high fence, and the only entrance that is routinely open is the entrance on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Sunset Park. It cannot be traversed. In addition, there is no direct mass transit connection between Windsor Terrace and Sunset Park, a point that was recently raised at the hearings on the Brooklyn bus route redesign.

To illustrate Windsor Terrace's geography, I need only look at my own history. Over my time living in Windsor Terrace, I have lived at four addresses: On 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Prospect Park West, East 5<sup>th</sup> Street, and East 4<sup>th</sup> Street. At all of these addresses, I used the same subway line and bus routes, shopped at the same grocery store, pharmacy, and green market, had my hair styled at the same salon, patronized the same bars and restaurants. I was always part of the same community. Under the proposed lines, two of these addresses would be in the 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly district, while two would remain in the 44<sup>th</sup> district.

Similarly, Kensington is a unique community of interest. As a largely south Asian immigrant community and home to the area known as Little Pakistan, it is culturally distinct from all of the neighborhoods that surround it, and care should be taken not to conflate the south Asian community of Kensington with the East Asian community of Sunset Park. Cutting the community in half along Dahill Road does an enormous disservice to the immigrant communities here, who frequent the same houses of worship, community organizations, and small businesses. Given the myriad of languages spoken in Kensington (aside from English, the most common are Urdu and Bangla), it would be impossible for two Assemblymembers to adequately serve non-English speaking residents. Should the IRC insist on splitting Kensington into two districts, there is strong potential for a lawsuit to overturn the district lines on the grounds that this constitutes "cracking."

Windsor Terrace and Kensington have been kept whole and maintained in the same Assembly district for the last fifty years, if not more. They have been in the same district as Park Slope for thirty years. The tradition of these neighborhoods collaborating on advocacy issues is not one that should be taken lightly – many of our community advocacy organizations are built around these traditional political boundaries. In addition, Kensington, Windsor Terrace, and Park Slope are connected by the F and G subway lines and several bus lines. They share a number of important institutions – for example, Windsor Terrace and Kensington residents go to Methodist Hospital in Park Slope, and Windsor Terrace and Park Slope residents share proximity to Prospect Park.

Should these lines stand, putting parts of Windsor Terrace and Kensington into a district that is dominated by the waterfront communities of Sunset Park and Red Hook, these areas will undoubtedly be underserved by their representation. They will have difficulty accessing a district office in order to receive assistance due to the absence of any direct public transit routes, they will have difficulty gaining attention for local concerns since they would need to petition two Assembly members instead of one.

But the IRC's proposed lines will do more than split neighborhoods and demographically-like communities:

- They will split transit users: Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, and Kensington all rely on the F/G line. The Fort Hamilton Parkway subway station would itself be split between the two districts, which, given that the MTA is a state agency, would be a jurisdictional problem for the two Assembly members. Residents on both sides of the proposed district border use the B67, B68, and B69 buses, all of which run from Ditmas Park and Prospect Park South through Kensington, Windsor Terrace, and Park Slope. The current draft of the proposed Brooklyn bus redesign maintains these transportation corridors.
- They will split school communities (denoted on the attached map with blue pushpins: The giant pre-K complex at 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Prospect Park West, which serves many children from Windsor Terrace and Park Slope, would now be in the 51<sup>st</sup> district. The elementary schools PS 130, PS 154, PS 179, and PS 230 would also be split, as would the junior high school zones. In addition, the Windsor Terrace Public Library would no longer be in the same district as most of the Windsor Terrace and Kensington residents who use it (denoted with a green pushpin).
- They would split religious communities, only a handful of which are named here (denoted on the attached map with red pushpins): The Holy Name of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic churches would see their communities split between two districts, as would the Flatbush & Shaare Torah Jewish Center. Two prominent Muslim institutions, the Baitul Jannah Zame Masjid and Muslim Community Center and the Bangladeshi Muslim Community Center, would also see their communities split between two districts.
- They would split the communities that frequent local commercial corridors: The Muslim community that is drawn into the 51<sup>st</sup> district would now be represented by a different Assemblymember than the businesses of the Little Pakistan corridor on Coney Island Avenue, and the Windsor Terrace residents on the western side of the Prospect Expressway would no longer have the same representation as the business corridors they frequent along Prospect Avenue and Prospect Park West, or the grocery store and pharmacy on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Prospect Avenue. Conversely, the Windsor Terrace residents on the eastern side

of the expressway would no longer be in the same district as the businesses on Fort Hamilton Parkway.

Furthermore, these proposed district lines divide communities that share many advocacy concerns:

- The Prospect Expressway and Ocean Parkway are, unlike most roads, under state jurisdiction. Both of them are a source of significant air pollution, noise, and traffic safety concerns. As a member of Community Board 7's Transportation Committee, I frequently hear residents along the Prospect Expressway voice concerns for street safety along all of the routes where vehicles enter and exit the expressway, including East 5<sup>th</sup> Street (which would be in the 51<sup>st</sup>), Seeley Street (which would be in both districts), 19<sup>th</sup> Street and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue (a particularly dangerous intersection and the location of a playground, which would be in the 51<sup>st</sup>), and 18<sup>th</sup> Street (which would be in the 44<sup>th</sup>). It is absolutely essential that the communities around the Expressway and Ocean Parkway have a single representative in order to ensure that the safety and quality of life issues that continually arise from the Prospect Expressway and Ocean Parkway are sufficiently addressed.
- The aforementioned grocery store on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Prospect Avenue is the only full-sized grocery store in Windsor Terrace and an anchor to the entire community. It was saved from complete removal by a long and determined advocacy from the entire community, on both sides of the expressway. Dividing this community into two districts will make it easier for the store to be shut down, which would leave Windsor Terrace without a single full-sized grocery store.
- As maintenance on the Brooklyn Queens Expressway continues, community members on both sides of the Expressway and Ocean Parkway, from both Windsor Terrace and Kensington, have united to voice concerns about a proposed significant increase of truck traffic in these neighborhoods. This is an issue of ongoing concern and active community participation.

In short, I call on the IRC to revise the border between the 44<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly districts so that it follows the edge of Greenwood Cemetery: 20<sup>th</sup> Street to MacDonald Avenue to Fort Hamilton Parkway to 39<sup>th</sup> Street and then east to Dahill Rd. This line is denoted on the attached map in blue.

## Map of the Proposed Border Between the 44<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly Districts

### Key:

- Proposed 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District
- Proposed 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly District
- Recommended border between the 44<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly Districts
  - Public schools whose communities would be split between the two districts

Public library whose community would be split between two districts

Houses of worship whose communities would be split between two districts



## **Close Up of Windsor Terrace**



## **Close Up of Kensington**



From:	Douglas Graham
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:52:22 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

From:	Dr Elias Tzanides
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 4:08:37 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to

Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high

number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge. It is very clear to me that all of these efforts to rezoning redistrict Bay Ridge is for the purpose of diluting our vote. There can be no other explanation. I'm sick and tired of the "powers that be" trying to ram a forest agenda down our throats, whether we like it or not, and then, when we don't like it, they try to take our vote away as well.

Dr. Elias Tzanides, MD, FACP

Edward Scarvalone 13 Howard Place Brooklyn, New York 11215 February 28, 2023

I am a resident of the Windsor Terrace neighborhood in Brooklyn. I write to oppose the proposed re-drawing of Assembly District 44, which would result in the splintering-off of a portion of the Windsor Terrace neighborhood and reassigning it to a different Assembly District (A.D. 51).

By way of background: Windsor Terrace is the neighborhood located generally between Prospect Park (to the east) and Green-Wood Cemetery (to the west). The Cemetery is a large (478-acre) fenced-in property that serves as a physical and geographic barrier between Windsor Terrace and the Sunset Park neighborhood that largely comprises A.D. 51 (along with the Red Hook neighborhood).

The proposed preliminary Assembly map would effectively take a piece of Windsor Terrace -- the portion between Prospect Avenue (to the east) and the Cemetery (to the west) -- and combine it with the Sunset Park neighborhood located on *the opposite side* of the Cemetery in a newly redrawn A.D. 51. This makes little sense.

Assigning this portion of Windsor Terrace to A.D. 51 would splinter-off an integral part of the Windsor Terrace neighborhood. Its housing stock was built at or around the same time as the rest of the neighborhood and is of the same general character. Its residents shop at the same local supermarkets as the rest of Windsor Terrace. They patronize the same local restaurants and send their kids to the same local schools. They use the same subway lines (the F and G trains). In short, they share a common set of characteristics, interests, and issues with the rest of the Windsor Terrace neighborhood.

The goal of redrawing Assembly districts should be to keep long-established neighborhoods like Windsor Terrace intact -- rather than splinter them off into pieces and re-assign residents to a different neighborhood with different characteristics and local issues. This is especially true when the other neighborhood is located on the far side of a fenced-in area like Green-Wood Cemetery.

In addition, there are practical consequences to the redrawing proposal that argue against its adoption. The Windsor Terrace residents who would be reassigned to A.D. 51 would be relatively few as compared to the other residents of that District. Their ability to make their local neighborhood needs heard would pale in comparison to the more numerous residents of Sunset Park and Red Hook, whose local neighborhood issues may be different (owing to their own unique characteristics).

The Windsor Terrace residents remaining in A.D. 44 would also be affected. The proposed redrawing would reduce the number of Windsor Terrace residents by sending many of our neighbors to A.D. 51. Windsor Terrace would lose many residents whose leadership and activism enhance the community.

I urge you to reconsider this wrong-headed proposal. Please keep the Windsor Terrace neighborhood intact, by preserving Green-Wood Cemetery -- not the Prospect Expressway -- as the boundary between A.D. 44 and A.D. 51.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

From:	Eileen Razzetti
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 2:29:15 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Eileen Razzetti ( Owner ) 26 70th Street Bklyn, NY 11209
From:	Eleanor Sabbagh
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:57:42 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

From:	Elena Surdo
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:53:58 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	<u>Eli Balin</u>
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 8:30:19 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

My name is Elisabeth Jaycox. I live on McGuinness Blvd. in Greenpoint, North Brooklyn. The proposed plan to split my community of Greenpoint into two districts is ill conceived. I have been an active member of this community for 18 years and while I visit Queens, I know that the issues of the residents of Greenpoint and those of our neighbors across the Newtown Creek in Queens are very different. Our schools, our environmental issues, our roots in Polish culture, and our cohesion as a community that lives, works, eats, and shops here are best served by representatives dedicated to our lives and thriving right in Greenpoint– not in Queens. By dividing our community in half, you are taking away our rights to be represented by and communicate regularly and easily with elected officials who have our community's best interests in mind. This feels very wrong to me. By what logic could you use census data to support dividing our community-- not along geographical, cultural, community or even Borough lines? I am completely opposed to the proposed redistricting of Greenpoint and urge you to reconsider a more fair, cohesive, and representative district for me and my North Brooklyn neighbors. Thank you for your consideration.

From:	Elizabeth Ferris
To:	Submissions
Cc:	wzrdolight
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:57:11 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.



THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY COMMITTEES Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Consumer Affairs and Protection Election Law Small Business Transportation

February 14, 2023

New York Independent Redistricting Commission:

I represent North Brooklyn's 50th District in the New York State Assembly, where I have lived for nearly two decades. Prior to my election, I was a public historian and community organizer. Over the past two decades and beyond, Williamsburg and Greenpoint were regarded as sister neighborhoods—while they sometimes hold petty rivalries, we regard ourselves as a unified family, sharing a unified purpose, school districts, community-based organizations, and social groups. If you are a local, you do not regard Williamsburg and Greenpoint as separate communities: they are two parts of a whole.

Greenpoint has always been bordered by Newtown Creek to the North and East, and Meeker Ave to the south. This border goes back to the colonial era. In fact, Greenpoint, the core of District 50, was Greenpoint long before Brooklyn was Brooklyn. The northernmost area of Brooklyn has been known as one village since it was founded in the early 1700s. Before Brooklyn unification, Greenpoint, following the boundaries that are now District 50, was known as Ward 17 when it joined Brooklyn in 1855. It is rare for a community to have such a longstanding continuity as a political district. The IRC would be severing a historic boundary for the first time ever.

It makes good sense to keep both halves of Greenpoint together beyond its history. Both communities were centers of industry at the turn of the 20th century, which resulted in terrible health impacts and pollution that we are still fighting to clean up to this day. In this past year, we had an additional area identified as a Superfund site in the portion of Greenpoint that the IRC is proposing to sever and attach to District 38. We are planning a great deal of work to make certain that the Superfund site is cleaned up and the health impacts are closely monitored. Given that we have other Superfund sites in District 50, it is useful to maintain the same Assemblymember liaising with the EPA and other organizations to make sure this is prioritized.

Williamsburg and Greenpoint were rezoned in 2005 and have been struggling with the impacts of rapid luxury development together. Additionally, in 2021, New York City identified McGuinness Blvd for a major redesign, and my office has been working closely with constituents from both sides of the Blvd as well as the industrial community and the Dept of Transportation. It would be simpler for one elected official in the Assembly to be responsible for the oversight of both of these projects, especially since District 38 has many additional neighborhoods in a completely separate borough to look after.

Greenpoint is a strong, unified community that exists despite McGuinness Boulevard, built only in the 1950s around the era of Robert Moses highway projects. Artificially divided by the boulevard and the BQE, Williamsburg and Greenpoint have fought hard to maintain their singular community identity– both a community of interest, given the environmental justice concerns and the strongly identified local immigrant communities, as well as a historic community. The Eastern portion of Greenpoint is historically underserved– it is where the most industry exists in the district and has many special concerns. It would perpetuate negligence towards this section of Brooklyn if it were haphazardly tagged onto an overwhelmingly Queens district, detached from its historic community.

During the 2022 redistricting process, the District 50 community fought to be kept whole. We managed to trim the district so that it contained the right number of constituents within its border, lines which were universally embraced across ideology. To divide Greenpoint is a reckless decision that will impact our community's future forever.

Respectfully,

Emily Sallager

Assemblymember Emily Gallagher 50<sup>th</sup> District



## THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY

CHAIR Committee on Correction

COMMITTEES Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Energy Insurance Ways and Means

February 15th, 2023

New York StateIndependent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, NY 10007

Dear Members of the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission,

I am writing to express my concerns to the proposed change to New York State Assembly District 54. Specifically, I am deeply concerned about the proposal to cross county lines and include several blocks from Queens County.

As a resident of the current District 54, I strongly believe that any redistricting efforts should prioritize the maintenance of community cohesion and continuity. The proposed change would disrupt the natural flow of our community and create unnecessary divisions between neighboring areas. Crossing county lines would also present logistical issues for constituents and make it difficult for community leaders to work together on local matters, as well as create confusion and make it more difficult for our community to receive the services they need.

While Ridgewood is a great community, I feel its residents would prefer a representative in the state Assembly be from Queens for better community continuity. I urge the Commission to modify this proposal and prioritize a redistricting plan that respects the integrity of our community and represents our interests in the New York State Assembly. Any changes to our district should be made with the goal of improving our representation, while being mindful and respectful of County lines.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

Erik Martin Dilan

From:	Erik Joerss
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:45:51 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

From:	Erika Karnell
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 1:51:25 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Thank you Erika Karnell

From:	Ethan R Signer
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:54:49 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

From:	The Farm Upstate
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:51:33 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

### Hello,

Good afternoon members of the NYS District Commission. First, I'd like to thank the members for the opportunity to hear from concerned residents of AD District 58 regarding a re-mapping that will put a huge damper on the social, emotional, spiritual and mental state of all residents.

My name is Felina Backer and I am speaking on behalf of my organization, Making the Impossible Possible, Inc. and as a resident of Canarsie for many, many years.

As an active voter of Canarsie, I firmly urge this commission to keep ALL and I mean ALL of District 58 WHOLE, adding all of the drawn section on the map attached in the 58th district. For many years, I have tried to comprehend the reasoning behind keeping the tail of this district within AD 60. My residence is right on the creek, which isolates us from the mainland of district 60. I literally have to swim or take a boat to get on the other side of town. As a resident, I have experienced abandonment from elected officials who represent the 60th district. I clearly Remember, when hurricane Sandy happened, my area was the forgotten field. We felt alone. Commission members, this is not the way that any member of a district should feel, especially during a disaster. We need to be represented and supported by those who can and will deliver much needed services to its residents and those who have a stronger hold in the district. And for this reason, I, along with my fellow Canarsians, highly do not support the proposed commission's mapping of the 58 district. We respectfully ask that district 58 remain whole with the addition of the tail of my area to district 58 in order to ensure its residents benefit from quality services due to its residents.

Just imagine yourselves, feeling lost and abandoned and don't know who to reach out to in disasters or no one comes to your rescue - why? Because we don't matter! Just imagine.

In conclusion and for the record, I want to be clear, I am advocating to keep

District 58 whole with addition requested.

With that said, I thank you, the commission members, for lending their listening ears and I thank you for a positive anticipated decision of keeping District 58 intact and I would like all of Canarsie, located Northeast of Rockaway Parkway to be placed within the 58th AD. District 58 is on the rise and we demand wholeness.

Your Partnership Matters.

Felina

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From:	Fran Mullis
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 5:21:14 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Sent from my iPhone

## Statement Before the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission By President of the Dyker Heights Civic Association Fran Vella-Marrone February 21, 2023

I want to take this opportunity to thank Independent Redistricting Commission for this opportunity to provide my comments regarding the Commission's draft plan for the NYS Assembly.

On behalf of the officers and members of the Dyker Heights Civic Association, I would like to express our views regarding the importance of community continuity in determining our representation in the State Assembly and how this is affected by the draft plan.

Previous plans have split Dyker Heights into several different districts. The present draft plan keeps Dyker Heights intact in one Assembly District contiguous with neighboring communities in Southwest Brooklyn. This district will preserve continuity of representation and I urge its approval.

I thank the Commission for putting forward a plan that will once again make Dyker Heights whole in representation in the NYS Assembly. March 05, 2023 Dale Barbaria NY Assembly

Dear Dale,

I am concerned that this re-districting is negatively impacting my representation as a 30 year resident of Yonkers. Why is my neighborhood of 30 years suddenly becoming part of Scarsdale and Bronxville, where politicians will not consider Yonker's residence concerns but their majority Bronxville and Scarsdale concerns.

Please stop this gerrymandering and leave the Yonkers district intact. We don't need more assembly districts we need lower taxes and stricter fiscal budgets so the middle class can survive.

Frank Pastirchak

12/2

34 Puritan Avenue Yonkers, NY 10710 914-218-1550 fchak@optonline.net

From:	Gabe Ghearing
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:42:46 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

Greetings members of the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission. I thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Gail Muhammad and I am a lifelong resident of Crown Heights North. I am currently the President of the 1200 Dean Street Block Association Inc., 1st Vice Chair of Community Board 8 and the Vice President of the Crown Heights North Association Inc. I am also a prime voter who has voted in every election since 1968.

I am here today to bring attention to how Crown Heights North has been divided and fractured over the past 10 years. The way we are divided as a community has diminished our political power and our voices. Crown Heights North is seeking cohesive political representation. Now is the time for the NYIRC and the community to make Crown Heights North whole. We want to be absorbed into an Assembly district that is compact and contiguous with a community that shares the same history, culture, needs and interests. Over the past year several Crown Heights North residents have worked with the Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights Committee for Fair Redistricting. We have reviewed the proposed map for the 43rd and 56 Assembly Districts. It appears that the 43AD proposed map supports Crown Heights North becoming whole. However, we do share cultural history, institutions, architectural integrity and historic designation with the 56AD. Crown Heights North Association has worked very hard to obtain landmark status.

It is our hope that the integrity of our community is maintained. We are urging the commission to consider making Crown Heights North whole.

Gail Branch Muhammad

#### 2/15/2023

#### **RE: Redistricting Maps, Greenpoint, Brooklyn**

Dear Chair and Commissioners:

Over 100 community members and neighbors of North Brooklyn have signed on to this public testimony, written in collaboration by County Committee Members, to express our concerns over the newest IRC map that divides our community in half. The newest proposed AD50 encompasses the western half of Greenpoint and Williamsburg, while the eastern half of our community is becoming part of AD38. AD38 is a Queens-centric district that would represent at least five different neighborhoods including Greenpoint, Long Island City, Maspeth, Glendale, and Rego Park.

The bifurcation of McGuinness Boulevard under the current redistricting plan will serve to separate the longstanding Greenpoint Polish Community, diminishing its heritage, unique character, heart and spirit, like the BQE did to our Williamsburg neighborhood. The split of AD50 along McGuinness Boulevard and lower along Driggs Avenue will also divide a community that has successfully faced environmental challenges threatening our neighborhood. This includes the designation of two federal superfund sites, the building of at least three power plants, and flood resiliency planning. The separation of North Brooklyn is a direct threat to organizers and community members who have worked together to accomplish important climate resiliency, mitigation, and clean-up projects and ensure city/state funding for this work.

The split of North Brooklyn denies us the ability to function as one community and places neighbors at odds with respect to funding for various programs including education, mass transit, economic development, infrastructure repairs and environmental remediation. The proposed maps create an untenable situation for those neighbors who will be moved into AD38, a small but important part of the community, who have a long history in protecting our neighborhood's transition to residential from industrial. Our neighbors will face a tremendous environmental burden if the current maps move forward.

We request for the community of Greenpoint to be kept whole, so we can better coordinate with city agencies and our representatives on the provision of services. The 2005 Greenpoint-Williamsburg rezoning left this community desperately striving to have NYC fulfill its commitments for creating more affordable housing and open space. Our community has been and must continue to work together to achieve these needs and to preserve our neighborhoods and support its residents.

Together we makeup less than 30 blocks east to west and we believe there is a necessity to keep the neighborhood cohesive and recognize Greenpoint as a longstanding Community of Interest.

#### Thank you, Genevieve Vaida, AD50, ED20, County Committee Member, Greenpoint resident for 8 years

We asked community members and county committee members to review this <u>testimony</u> and sign an online <u>form</u> to keep North Brooklyn one cohesive community. We submit the names below, and their Assembly District and Election District, of individuals who agreed to "Sign-on" to the testimony above and wish to keep North Brooklyn neighborhood one, cohesive district.

#### AD53 Residents

Adam Redstone, ED13 Edward Kopp, ED9 Erica Levine, ED60 Maria Janasz, ED61 Meghan O'Malley, ED60 Reginald Lin, ED40 Stephen Roesink, AD53, ED62

#### AD50 Residents (presented alphabetically)

Adam Moorad, ED61 Alija Craycroft, ED17 Amanda Gale, ED17 Amanda Katz, ED15 Amy Coleman, ED5 Andrew Gheraldi, ED13 Andrew Rindlaub, ED1 Anna Berdan, ED21 Anne Ray, ED12 Bess White, ED11 Brian Roth, ED5 Bryan Maygers, ED6, CC Member Chloe Koslen, ED5 Christian Long, ED16 Christian Morales, ED19, CC Member Christine Facella, ED63, CC Member Christopher Smith, ED2 Cindy Luong, ED6 Claire Sullivan, ED23 Corey Zaloom, ED2 Cullen MacDonald. ED7 Daniel Nissimov, ED21 David Prentice, ED5 DeLaine Mayer Diana Hubbard, ED19 Diana Viglucci, ED16 Elana Ehrenberg, ED1, CC Member Elizabeth Beeby, ED53 Elizabeth Jackson, ED4, CC Member Elizabeth Kang, ED22 Eric Giraldo-Gordon, ED13 Eric Kun, ED63, CC Member Erica Tachoir, ED22 Erin Chung, ED21 Evan Gregory, ED61, CC Member

Finley Martin, ED20 Gabriela Moore, ED21 Gamze Ceylan, ED5 George Korin, ED3 Gleb Zhgun, ED22, CC Member Jacob Shipley, ED11 Jamie Cogar, ED28 Janine Sopp, ED13 Jesse Cannon, ED18 Jessica Pearson, ED3 Jocelyn Coombs, ED18 Jodie Love, ED21 Julie Abbas, ED3 Kaitlyn Creegan, ED3, CC Member Karrie Witkin, ED19 Keith Garrison, ED19 Kevin Costa, ED17, CC Member Kevin Dwyer, ED21 Kim Fraczek, ED31 Kiri Oliver, ED4 Kristen King, ED17 Lana Schwartz, ED20 Lauren Balliet. ED12 Lauren Holmes, ED10 Maeve Bell-Thornton, ED19 Margot Spindelman, ED2 Marlow Riley, ED3 Martin Olson, ED20 Matthew, ED17 Maureen Traynor, ED61 Maxwell Reid, ED20 Michele Kaufman, ED61, CC Member Michelle Mrowka, ED20 Mikayla Savuto, ED18 Miriam Fogelson, ED18 Mitch Jones, ED19 Nikki Cohen, ED5 Nour S., ED3 Oriana Leckert, ED61, CC Member Patricia Edwards, ED11 Patricia Maples, ED6 Peter Pearson, ED21 Rachel McMinn. ED14 Randy Liu, ED21 Rayan Parikh, ED11 Roman Belopolsky, ED16 S. Peaches Harrison, ED18 Sandi DuBowski, ED6 Sara McGee, ED16 Sarah Oakes. ED15 Sarah Turner, ED15

Shana Kimball, ED18 Shanna Kohn, ED11 Shannon Casey, ED11 Steven Fox, ED3, CC Member Steven Hasty, ED5 Summer McCorkle, ED14 Summer Walker, ED20 Susan Liou, ED10 Taylor Adams, ED17 Taylor Belopolsky, ED16 Teresita Mills, ED56 Todd Condie, ED7, CC Member Tom Vigliotta, ED28 Victoria Rich, ED20, CC Member Waleska Layes, ED28, CC Member Warren Bennett, ED63 William Vega, ED61, CC Member Yuliya Shneyderman, ED16

From:	George Lacides
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:46:30 AM

I am concerned about the way Bay Ridge is divided into four different Assembly districts. Since 1982, each redistricting year has seen Bay Ridge placed into three and sometimes four separate districts. For over 40 years, no other neighborhood in Brooklyn with such clearly defined borders has been treated this way. It is unacceptable. For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of localowned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends. I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Sent from Gmail Mobile

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From:	Gerard Campbell
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:47:02 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

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Sent from my iPhone

From:	<u>Gina C</u>
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 12:34:37 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

From:	Glenn Ferrugiari
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 12:27:07 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Gloria Farley
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Thursday, March 2, 2023 2:16:45 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Sent from my iPhone

Dear Independent Redistricting Commission,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my position of redistricting the 56th Assembly District.

I, Grace Hillery-Hoyte, a resident of the 56th Assembly, am oppose to the draft map drawn by the IRC because:

- It will reduce the political priorities of people of color who live in this district; diluting their votes and therefore their voices.
- One of the criterias for redistricting is for "commonality" among communities. In this particular case, the two communities being redistricting aren't typically identified as groups that often rallied together for common causes.
- The 56th Assembly District is deeply rooted in African history. Culturally it thrives and flourishes in this existence. New challenges will arise in their efforts to preserve it.
- We will lose our relationships with Community Board 8. We share common interests and values with community developments. Why take away all of that?

From:	Greg H
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Keep Bay Ridge unified. Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:53:26 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

#### **GREG THORNBERG**

765 Meeker Ave Brooklyn, NY 11222 (203) 209-7944 greg.thornberg@gmail.com

9th February, 2023

#### New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

Public hearing 02/15/23

# Written Testimony Re: the opposition of removing a large section of Greenpoint from current Assembly District 50 and allocating it to District 38

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of the northeast Greenpoint section which would be reassigned to AD 38 if the redistricting proposal is implemented.

I live and work in the Greenpoint community at a small fabrication shop near Transmitter Park while living near McGolrick Park. I am involved in the culture and sustainability initiatives both at work and in my community. My walk to work from home is less than 25 minutes.

Dividing this neighborhood would mean dividing the environmental and safety focuses our Brooklyn district has been focused on for countless years.

Whether this be an improved safety of McGuiness Blvd or the environmental action of the Newtown Creek among other superfund site initiatives to address the air quality or flooding concerns, or something as simple and straightforward as composting within a singular community may be jeopardized if the community is divided and the focuses are split - our united voices will be lost.

Please do not split our community and allow us to remain focused and heard as one!

Sincerely,

From:	Gregory McGuinness
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:56:01 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Gregory Prime
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Attention: Submissions Greenpoint
Date:	Tuesday, February 14, 2023 9:20:44 PM

I strongly oppose redistricting Greenpoint into two districts.

## TESTIMONY OF HAMILTON COOP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I'm writing on behalf of the Hamilton Coop Board of Directors. We represent two buildings along McDonald avenue consisting of more than 160 homes. The buildings were built in Windsor Terrace in the mid-1950's and, to this day, house active members of the Windsor Terrace neighborhood. Our members have expressed a collective concern that the proposed change to the Assembly District would leave our community underrepresented and politically divided from their neighbors, schools and other community resources.

As can be seen from the IRC map, Windsor Terrace and parts of Kensington have been broken in half in Assembly representation. One part of Windsor Terrace, between the Prospect Expressway and Prospect Park, is the 44<sup>th</sup> district, and the other part is in the 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly district, despite a large physical and geographic boundary, Greenwood Cemetery, separating the sliver of Windsor Terrace in the 51<sup>st</sup> District, from the rest of the 51<sup>st</sup> District, whose core is several miles away in the heart of Sunset Park. A part of Kensington south of the Cemetery that was in the 44<sup>th</sup> District is similarly put into the 51<sup>st</sup> District. This action will diminish meaningful Assembly representation by breaking up these areas.

The current Assembly district offers a coherent community of interest that the IRC should retain, and this element of your new map should be changed and the current district restored. The Frequently Asked Questions on your website states that a community of interest is:

A community of interest is a population which shares enough social and economic interests of importance that suggest said community should be included in a single district for effective and fair representation. These might include similar standards of living, shared methods and patterns of transportation, or similar economic and societal concerns. For example, the population of a rural area might have different shared interests from those living in an urban area, as might those living in an industrial area from the priorities shared by those living in a primarily agricultural area. Shared interests within a Community of Interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

The Slope, Terrace, and Kensington areas have major shared transportation facilities, like the F and G train subway lines, the Prospect Expressway, with entrances and exits into the adjacent residential areas, and shared zoning and land use density. Local residents have worked for decades on common concerns about assuring the areas stay in medium density zoning districts.

The zones of the local elementary and junior high schools would be split apart in terms of Assembly representation by the IRC plan. The Bishop Ford Educational Complex, a former parochial school now leased by the Board of Education as a huge pre-k complex, would be split off into the 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly district, despite the boundary of Greenwood Cemetery. P.S. 154, in central Windsor Terrace, and P.S. 130 and P.S. 230 would also have their Assembly representation split in half. Parents and families have a community of interest in their schools having coherent, unified Assembly representation.

We note that the IRC plan for the Assembly districts in Brooklyn has uniform district populations of 134-135,000 persons. By contrast, the current Brooklyn districts have populations ranging between 128,000 and 141,000. It is appropriate for the districts to be more balanced in population.

It is our hope that the IRC will recognize the historical shared interests of the Assembly district and keep these areas of Park Slope,Windsor Terrace, and Kensington intact in their representation.

Thank you.

Hamilton Coop Board of Directors.



## THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY

CHAIR WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

> COMMITTEE Rules

HELENE E. WEINSTEIN Assemblywoman 41" District Kings County

February 15, 2023

Ken Jenkins, Chairman Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd floor NY, NY 10007

Dear Chair Jenkins and Vice Chair Nesbitt,

I write to express my opposition to the proposed changes put forth by the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC).

Diverse constituencies, like those historically represented by 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District, provide those who represent them the opportunity to appreciate, and advocate for, any number of issues directly tied to specific racial, ethnic, religious or socio-economic make-up.

The IRC's proposal consists of:

- The conspicuous elimination of the 41<sup>st</sup> district's northern half home to a thriving Black/Caribbean community living in modest single-family homes, represented by two active organizations: the Flatbush Flatlands Civic Group and Nieuw Amersfort Community Association. Now, instead, splitting them into the far ends of three (3) different Assembly districts.
- The surgical excision of the NYCHA Sheepshead Nostrand Apartments a housing project of close to 5,000 primarily black and elderly residents, fraught with issues and needs, both on the individual and development-wide levels. These constituents who for decades have had the convenience of a NYS Assembly District Office predating my representation right across the street, will now be exiled to the far end of the newly proposed 45<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.
- The division of the Fraser Square community nestled within the area north and south of Fraser Square Park on Kings Highway at East 34th Street which has long been represented solely by the 41st Assembly District and the eponymous civic association, who have worked in concert to preserve and improve the quality of life for these homeowners. The new lines break up the organization's constituency, also placing them into three (3) separate Assembly Districts.
- The addition of the Gerritsen Beach and Marine Park wetland bounded neighborhoods, ignoring the unique ecological, legislative and economic interest these communities have
in common with the adjacent communities of Canarsie and Mill Basin to the north. Disrupting this unified legislative voice will no doubt confuse matters when it comes to interacting with City, State and Federal agencies working to maintain the balance between the needs of the wetlands and the communities who make it their home.

Overall, this sweeping shuffle will constitute a massive 17.5% reduction in the district's black constituency, and a nearly 20% increase in its white population; effectively resetting the clocks on this historically "majority-minority" district.

The fallout is a diaspora of roughly 24,000 black and Caribbean constituents, who must now integrate into the 42<sup>nd</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 58<sup>th</sup>, and 59<sup>th</sup> Assembly districts; in the process losing a long-held seat at the table; the definition of disenfranchisement.

Furthermore, the IRC ignores the 41st Assembly District's distinct curvature, which follows a nearly three mile stretch of Kings Highway; constituting roughly half of the Avenue's span through the borough of Brooklyn. Much of this road is populated by high rise apartments; uniting these buildings with the shared tenant-centric interests of multi-level housing found all along Nostrand and Ocean Avenues.

There is no advantage to the IRC's reapportioning strategy, which seemingly only results in creation of a largely homogenous 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District, now no longer truly representative of the diverse fabric of the City it is part of.

With the understanding that redistricting is a complicated and nuanced process, I urge the IRC to consider these concerns and work on a final map that preserves the historically represented character of the 41st Assembly District: a true community of interest.

Sincerely,

elere E. Weinstein

Helene E. Weinstein Assemblywoman, 41<sup>st</sup> A.D.

Hilda C. Thomas 2735 Ford St. Brooklyn, NY 11235

February 5, 2023

Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007

Attn: Submissions

To whom it may concern:

I am obligated to write this letter because I am not in agreement with the new districting lines that will affect the 41<sup>st</sup> District for many reasons:

Our previous District Leader, Lew Fidler, (who passed away in 2019) initiated the project which is now in its completion and is known as the "Lew Fidler Park" which is located on Emmons Ave is all accredited to him. Your changes will remove this park out of the 41<sup>st</sup> District. This is not acceptable it is an insult to Lew Fidler's memory because he worked so hard for this while he was alive and left that legacy to the community.

We have great relationships with our elected officials who provide so many resources for the community, the new lines will be isolating us from them and their services.

As a member of the 41<sup>st</sup> Democratic Club I participate in a largest Toy Drive in Brooklyn for the organization "Toys for Tots" it is the pride of the 41<sup>st</sup> Democratic Club and its constituents to partake in this event. We will lose people who have been part of this for years. My parish of St. Mark also participates in this event. We will be losing this relationship also.

As a poll worker I have already experienced negativity from your last redistricting done where I have to turn voters to other poll sites and they were extremely upset in doing this and some said "is too far away for me to go....I will not vote". Imagine this attitude being multiplied??

Our community has looked after Senior citizens, public safety, health care, and a well balance social economic and ethnical balance and a great job has been done for this. Why make these changes which will affect all of this. Please leave the 41<sup>st</sup> District as is!!

Sincerely, Hilds C. Thomas

Hilda C. Thomas

From:	Hope Carr
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 9:34:55 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, NY 10007

Good Afternoon,

My name is Ish Zaman and I live at 7 Story Court in Kensington. I am a native of Bangladesh but have lived in the US since 1997. Together with my parents, I have resided in Kensington since 1997. My comments relate to your draft decision to divide Kensington between the 44th and 51st ADs. Since it involves only a few blocks I believe it should be wholly in the 44th AD. This may seem like a small thing to you but it will have profound consequences for the people of Kensington.

As with most Brooklyn neighborhoods, Kensington is ethnically, economically, and religiously diverse. It does, however, contain within it one of New York's largest and growing South Asian communities. It is this that I ask you to consider. Neighborhood institutions including mosques, such as Masjid Nur Al-Islam and Darul Jannah Masjid, Churches such as Immaculate Heart of Mary, numerous fraternal organizations and merchants catering to the South Asian community should be kept together, not divided by artificial political boundaries.

I propose that you keep all of Kensington in the 44th AD. This neighborhood, from Ocean Parkway on the East to 39th Street on the West and from Green-Wood cemetery on the North to Foster Avenue on the south is a geographic whole with clearly defined boundaries. It has for as long as I can remember been apart of the 44th AD and the Assemblymember for that district, Robert Carroll, is well known and has been very responsive to the needs of the South Asian community. We would like to continue our work with him. Additionally, it is vital that Little Pakistan and the surrounding blocks that the IRC removed around Coney Island Avenue remain whole with the Prospect Park South Neighborhood all within the 44<sup>th</sup> AD. Please do not cut us out of the 44<sup>th</sup> AD.

I know the lines must be drawn somewhere and that not everyone can be happy. The minor changes in your plan which I propose however, would be of great help to my neighbors generally, and to the South Asian community specifically.

Thank You.







From:	Jane Moe
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 9:16:49 PM

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Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

As a resident of Cooper Park Houses, a New York City Housing Authority development (NYCHA) in East Williamsburg, I strongly oppose the proposed change in the New York State Assembly lines to create District 38 which would combine the East part of Williamsburg with neighborhoods in Queens.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Cooper Park Houses has 700 housing units with a population of 1,738 residents. The households in our development consist of 97% people of color with 46.7% of the households being Non-Hispanic Black (807 people), 46.4% Hispanic (807 people) and only 2.2% Non-Hispanic White residents (38 people). On the contrary, the proposed 38<sup>th</sup> Assembly District consist of more than 50% Non-Hispanic White and less than 3% Black. The proposed district is dominated by neighborhoods of homeowners and small properties with little in common with NYCHA's multifamily low-income rental properties. Additionally, those neighborhoods are separated from us physically by Newtown Creek as well as demographically, economically and in many other ways.

Our community consist of low-income renters who shop, are educated, attend religious institutions and travel through Williamsburg and Greenpoint, Brooklyn. We are definitely a standing Community of Interest and the proposed 38<sup>th</sup> Assembly District will split our community from a voice in what happens to the vital services that impact us. We do not share services with Glendale, Long Island City, Maspeth or Rego Park neighborhoods therefore, I am requesting that we remain part of the historic Greenpoint areas of the 50<sup>th</sup> District. Certainly, either Northern Brooklyn District (50<sup>th</sup> or 53<sup>rd</sup>) are the correct districts that our development must be included and/or remain in.

Date: 2115/20023	
Print Name: Fanet Motgan	_ Signature Jourt Mongen
Address 295 Jackson Street	signature gout Mongen Brocklyn ny 112n 9PT 5M

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007

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Date: 2/15/2023	Margan	Signature Andrea Morgan
Address: 295 Jacks	Morgan	

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007

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Date: 2/15/2023 Signature Diane Morgan Print Name Diane Margan Address: 295 Jackson Street Brooklyn, NY 11211

Atención: Envíos Comisión Independiente de Redistribución de Distritos 250 Broadway, piso 22 Nueva York, NY 10007

Estimado presidente y comisionados,

Como residente de Cooper Park Houses, un desarrollo de la Autoridad de Vivienda de la Ciudad de Nueva York (NYCHA) en el este de Williamsburg, me opongo firmemente al cambio propuesto en las lineas de asamblea del estado de Nueva York para crear el Distrito 38 que combinaría la parte este de Williamsburg con vecindarios en reinas

Según el censo de EE. UU. de 2020, Cooper Park Houses tiene 700 unidades de vivienda con una población de 1738 residentes. Los hogares en nuestro desarrollo consisten en 97% de personas de color con 46.7% de los hogares negros no hispanos (807 personas), 46.4% hispanos (807 personas) y solo 2.2% residentes blancos no hispanos (38 personas). Por el contrario, el Distrito 38 de la Asamblea propuesto consta de más del 50 % de blancos no hispanos y menos del 3 % de negros. El distrito propuesto está dominado por vecindarios de propietarios de viviendas y pequeñas propiedades que tienen poco en común con las propiedades multifamiliares de alquiler para personas de bajos ingresos de NYCHA. Además, esos vecindarios están separados de nosotros fisicamente por Newtown Creek, así como demográfica, económica y de muchas otras maneras.

Nuestra comunidad está formada por inquilinos de bajos ingresos que compran, reciben educación, asisten a instituciones religiosas y viajan por Williamsburg y Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Definitivamente somos una comunidad de interés permanente y el Distrito 38 de la Asamblea propuesto separará a nuestra comunidad de una voz sobre lo que sucede con los servicios vitales que nos afectan. No compartimos servicios con los vecindarios de Glendale, Long Island City, Maspeth o Rego Park, por lo tanto, solicito que sigamos siendo parte de las áreas históricas de Greenpoint del Distrito 50. Ciertamente, cualquiera de los distritos del norte de Brooklyn (50 o 53) son los distritos correctos en los que nuestro desarrollo debe incluirse y/o permanecer.

Es imperativo que la comisión mantenga integra nuestra área de Brooklyn y no cree un impacto negativo para los votantes minoritarios de esta comunidad al diluir nuestras voces electorales. Gracias por una respuesta positiva.

Fecha: Nombre imprenta: Firma DIRECCION

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York. NY 10007

February 16, 2023

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

As a resident of Cooper Park Houses, a New York City Housing Authority development (NYCHA) in East Williamsburg, I strongly oppose the proposed change in the New York State Assembly lines to create District 38 which would combine the East part of Williamsburg with neighborhoods in Queens.

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Date: 2-16-23	
Print: Sheila alexis	_ signature: Sheel alary
Address: 389 morgan are	Apt. 6C

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York. NY 10007

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Date: 2 16 2023	
Print: Erica Kirkland	Signature:
Address: 401 Morgan Ave	Apt. 5A

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York. NY 10007

February 16, 2023

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It is imperative that the commission keep our area of Brooklyn whole and not create a negative impact for the minority voters of this community by diluting our electoral voices. Thank you for a positive response.

Signature:

Berel

Brooklyn

From:	Janusz Pabian
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:36:43 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Sent from my iPhone

<u>J Wilson</u>
Submissions
Redistricting 56th District
Thursday, February 9, 2023 1:34:55 PM

Dear Independent Redistricting Commission or Good Evening Commissioners,

My name is Jarasia Wilson and I am a resident of the 56th Assembly District, residing at 430A Quincy Street, Brooklyn, NY .

I would like to voice my support of the current lines contain the following borders: Nostrand Avenue, Flushing Avenue, Broadway, Howard Avenue, to Putnam Avenue, Ralph Avenue to Bergen Street to Utica, Utica to Prospect Place, Prospect to Troy, Troy to St. Marks, St. Marks to Kingston, Kingston to Bergen, Bergen Street to Nostrand.

Reasons to support the current map:

- Residents of Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights would like to remain a united district as they value landmarking as a method to preserve their community.
- Elected officials and residents are working together to create a cease and desist zone to protect homeowners from predatory realtors.
- Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights have a shared ancestry and history in Weeksville, one of the first free black communities in New York.
- Organizations such as The Brownstoners of Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights North Association were created to preserve the legacy of homeownership.
- The 56th Assembly District is home to the first Community Development Corporation.
- Residents fought to save Interfaith Medical Center, which provides health care for thousands of residents under the One Brooklyn Health Center.
- The district is a global destination place for African Art and Culture.
- The residents share longstanding traditions such as the 194 year old Brooklyn Sunday School parade and International African Arts Festival.
- Bedford Stuyvesant was one of the first Aging Improvement Districts that contributed to New York and Brooklyn specifically receiving designation as an Age-Friendly City.
- Residents are currently advocating for the redevelopment of the Marcus Garvey Armory, which would provide economic development and wellness opportunities for the district.

I oppose the draft map drawn by the IRC because:

- It will reduce the already depleted Black population from 52% to 46%.
- It will dilute the Black Vote.
- We will lose longstanding allies in Crown Heights in small business development, arts, culture.
- We will lose our relationship with Community Board 8 who we have common interest and share purpose for community development.

Regards, Jarasia Wilson Quincy Street Brooklyn, NY

From:	JE Riley
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 1:31:17 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

From:	Jeanne Giacobbe
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Thursday, February 16, 2023 6:57:28 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

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Sent from my iPhone

### March 6, 2023

### Re: New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

### To Whom It May Concern:

As a longtime resident of the East Buffalo/West Cheektowaga community, I write to you today to urge the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission not to divide our neighborhood into separate Assembly Districts. I'm acutely aware of the close-knit ties binding our community, having grown up attending the Cheektowaga-Sloan school district and residing in the Lovejoy neighborhood for the past 8 years. In fact, I was attracted to reside in this neighborhood not because it is similar or close to the community that I grew up in, but because it *is* the community I grew up in.

Residents of Sloan, Lovejoy, and neighboring areas of Cheektowaga and Buffalo share much more than a border. My neighbors utilize the same community centers, shopping plazas, churches, parks, and small businesses, regardless of which side of the city line they are on. Most longtime residents are intimately familiar with institutions like Camillo's Sloan Super Market and the Broadway Market, with public amenities like Hennepin Senior Center and Sloan Community Center, and with parks like Griffith Park and the Lincoln Field House. Though we are separated by a municipal border on a map, in reality we are physically separated from other parts of Cheektowaga and Buffalo by infrastructure, including a rail yard, thruways, and railroad tracks in every direction. That is why we have gotten the nickname Iron Island. This geographic isolation gives our neighborhood a unique and cohesive character, which is notably different from other areas of Buffalo or Cheektowaga. It simply makes no sense to split a continuous, closeknit community like Sloan-Lovejoy into separate and vastly different Assembly districts.

Furthermore, I'm concerned about the IRC's proposal to split our community and enjoin Sloan with rural and exurban areas that have very different racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic demographics. Sloan-Lovejoy is a working class neighborhood, where many residents struggle with poverty, whereas eastern Lancaster is far more wealthy. Sloan-Lovejoy is an urban neighborhood that features a mix of homeowners and renters, motorists and public transit riders; eastern Lancaster mainly features single-family zoning and has almost no public transit service. Sloan-Lovejoy is a multi-racial neighborhood populated by white, Black, and Asian residents, including a significant immigrant population. As a result, our neighborhood has unique institutions to serve these groups, including Catholic churches and Slavic eateries that cater to our large Polish population, as well as mosques and halal grocers/restaurants that serve our growing Muslim community. By contrast, eastern Lancaster is predominantly white and lacks sizable communities of ethnic, racial, or religious minorities.

Sloan and Lovejoy are clearly one continuous community — a working-class, multi-ethnic neighborhood with a shared history, and brought closer by our geographic isolation from other areas. Should the IRC split this community into separate Assembly Districts, you will make it more likely that many of our neighbors will be represented by an Assembly member who will not prioritize our community's unique needs and interests. For all these reasons, I urge you to keep our community whole in the new Assembly maps.

Thank you,

Jeremy Sasiadek Resident of Lovejoy in Assembly District 143

From:	Jessica Cabrera
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:54:51 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

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Sent from my iPhone

From:	Jessie Riley
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:43:28 AM

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Jessie

Jessie Riley Cell 347.610.4849 FoodStartUpHelp.com

# TESTIMONY OF FORMER ASSEMBLYMEMBER JIM BRENNAN TO NEW YORK INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION-CHANGES TO 44<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

My name is Jim Brennan and I was a member of the New York State Assembly representing the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Windsor Terrace, Park Slope, Kensington, Flatbush, Boro Park, and others for 32 years, from 1985 until the end of 2016. Before that I worked for my predecessor starting in 1981 and was familiar even with the pre-1982 district. I served in the State Assembly through the 1992, 2002 and 2012 redistrictings. The Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, and much of the Kensington area have been more or less intact going back forty, and to some extent, fifty years, in the same Assembly district regardless of the number of the district.

Here is the IRC Map for the 44<sup>th</sup> District, with changes from the current district:



As can be seen from the IRC map, Windsor Terrace and parts of Kensington have been broken in half in Assembly representation. One part of Windsor Terrace, between the Prospect Expressway and Prospect Park, is the 44<sup>th</sup> district, and the other part is in the 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly district, despite a large physical and geographic boundary, Greenwood Cemetery, separating the sliver of Windsor Terrace in the 51<sup>st</sup> District, from the rest of the 51<sup>st</sup> District, whose core is several miles away in the heart of Sunset Park. A part of Kensington south of the Cemetery that was in the 44<sup>th</sup> District is similarly put into the 51<sup>st</sup> District. This action will diminish meaningful Assembly representation by breaking up these areas.

The current Assembly district offers a coherent community of interest that the IRC should retain, and this element of your new map should be changed and the current district restored. The Frequently Asked Questions on your website states that a community of interest is:

A community of interest is a population which shares enough social and economic interests of importance that suggest said community should be included in a single district for effective and fair representation. These might include similar standards of living, shared methods and patterns of transportation, or similar economic and societal concerns. For example, the population of a rural area might have different shared interests from those living in an urban area, as might those living in an industrial area from the priorities shared by those living in a primarily agricultural area. Shared interests within a Community of Interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

The Slope, Terrace, and Kensington areas have major shared transportation facilities, like the F and G train subway lines, the

Prospect Expressway, with entrances and exits into the adjacent residential areas, and shared zoning and land use density. Local residents have worked for decades on common concerns about assuring the areas stay in medium density zoning districts.

The zones of the local elementary and junior high schools would be split apart in terms of Assembly representation by the IRC plan. The Bishop Ford Educational Complex, a former parochial school now leased by the Board of Education as a huge pre-k complex, would be split off into the 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly district, despite the boundary of Greenwood Cemetery. P.S. 154, in central Windsor Terrace, and P.S. 130 and P.S. 230 would also have their Assembly representation split in half. Parents and families have a community of interest in their schools having coherent, unified Assembly representation.

I take note that the IRC plan for the Assembly districts in Brooklyn has uniform district populations of 134-135,000 persons. By contrast, the current Brooklyn districts have populations ranging between 128,000 and 141,000. It is appropriate for the districts to be more balanced in population.

It is my hope that the IRC will recognize the historical shared interests of the Assembly district and keep these areas of Park Slope,Windsor Terrace, and Kensington intact in their representation. Thank you.

From:	Jim McEntee
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:45:55 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

From:	<u>Jim Mulligan</u>
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:49:13 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	JMG
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:12:39 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

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## THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY

CO-CHAIR Legislative Ethics Commission

> COMMITTEES Codes Higher Education Judiciary Transportation

### Comments in connection with the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission's Draft Plan - AD 52

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments on the Commission's draft plan.

Before I was elected to represent the 52<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District (AD), I was the Democratic State Committeewoman/District Leader for AD52, a community activist, and neighborhood association leader. From each of these perspectives I've seen the importance of the interrelationship between communities like Carroll Gardens and Gowanus, I share the concern of others in these neighborhoods that the draft plan would divide this longstanding community of interest.

The proposed map would strip the core from the 52<sup>nd</sup> District – more than half of Carroll Gardens and all of Gowanus on the east side of the Canal. I know this core well. In 1981, I moved to 533 Clinton Street in Carroll Gardens, which was in AD52, but under the proposed plan, would no longer. It is important for the Commission to understand that these communities have been joined together electorally since at least as far back as Assemblyman Michael Pesce (1973-1980). The district offices of his successor, the late Hon. Eileen C. Dugan (1981-1996) maintained her district offices at 343 Smith Street. My predecessor Hon. Joan L. Millman's (1997-2014) office was at 341 Smith Street where my District Office remains. The length of Smith Street from 9th Street to Atlantic Avenue is co-named for Assemblymember Dugan. But inexplicably, the proposed map (the red-shaded area) removes much of this area from the 52<sup>nd</sup> AD to the detriment of the remainder of the District.



Jo Anne Simon Assemblymember 52<sup>nd</sup> District Dividing these communities would undermine the community of interest around the planning for the future of Gowanus and Carroll Gardens and the safe and comprehensive clean-up of the Gowanus Canal, one of the most polluted waterways in the country, and its uplands where there are 47 Brownfield sites. This draft plan would ill-serve the community's goals by dividing the neighborhoods. The people in Carroll Gardens and Gowanus do not see them as separate communities of interest, but rather as two halves of a whole. Regardless of varying opinions on the original Superfund designation, everyone in the area wants it cleaned up safely. Being represented by one member with deep experience on the issues is consistent with that goal.

AD 52 is rich in American history. In 1776, General George Washington's troops were defeated at the Old Stone House, allowing Washington to escape across the Gowanus Creek to safety so he could go on to lead the Revolutionary War. Fulton's first steam-powered boat left from Fulton Ferry Landing in AD52. From the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, workers along the East River piers and Gowanus Creek, labored as longshoremen, boatmen, drivers, clerks, and U.S. Customs Inspectors on the ships and piers, in warehouses and factories that lined the waterfronts. Together the East River pier workers along with those working along the Gowanus Canal (completed in late 1860's and becoming a key location of the heavy industry that fueled and supported the industrial revolution) created community ties that bind. Brownstones quarried upstate and New Jersey were shipped up the Gowanus Canal to create the Brownstone Brooklyn communities that exist today.

From all this history grew tight knit communities of interest interconnected through the spine of the district, whose lumbar region the Commission proposes to sever.

There is no compelling demographic rationale for separating Gowanus and half of Carroll Gardens from the 52<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District. To do so would make achieving today's broad community goals that much more complicated and more time consuming for community leaders, who serve as volunteers.

By the same token, the proposed map would cut off part of Ft Greene from the rest of its neighborhood within Assembly District 57. There is no compelling demographic rationale for that decision, nor is there one for including all of Prospect Heights in AD52, while simultaneously cutting off the northern half of Park Slope from AD 52, much of which is naturally aligned with and part of the overall Gowanus canal area community of interest. In fact, since 2002, two-thirds of Park Slope was in AD52, reduced in 2022 due to population growth to roughly half of Park Slope.

I urge that the final plan reunite the community of interests that have been the hallmark of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District. The current map does so well.

From:	Joan Callender
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 12:19:22 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Sent from my iPad

From:	Joan Gaber
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:42:50 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	<u>Joan Millman</u>
To:	<u>Submissions</u>
Subject:	Proposed map for the 52nd Assembly District
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 2:09:52 PM

My name is Joan Millman and from 1982-2014 I represented the 52nd Assembly District, first as the District Leader and then in 1997 as Assembly Member. The heart and soul of this Assembly district has always been Carroll Gardens. For decades Carroll Gardens has shared institutions, civil, cultural and religious with their neighbors inCobble Hill and Brooklyn Heights. These neighborhoods have worked closely with their elected officials as well. Beginning in 1972 the district office for the Assemblymember has always been located in Carroll Gardens, first on Court Street in zip code 11231 and then on Smith Street in the same zip code. Today Assemblywoman JoAnne Simon's office is located on Smith Street in zip code 11231. And for decades these above mentioned neighborhoods have shared the same elected officials representing all levels of government. This continuity has been extremely important for these neighborhoods and several long term projects as they make their way through the various levels of government. As an example I would point out the clean up of the Gowanus Canal, a superfund site, and the surrounding development possibilities.

Because of recent Redistricting both the Congressional and Senate lines have changed and Carroll Gardens is now represented by two legislators who have not dealt with this complex project. Only Assemblywoman Simon has dealt with all the stakeholders, including City, State, Federal agencies as well as the citizens living near this project and who will be most impacted by decisions made by government. This institutional memory is of extreme importance as a project of this magnitude moves forward. And I submit this project is just one of many examples which strengthen this argument to keep the neighborhood of Carroll Gardens in the 52nd Assembly District.

Thank you, Joan Millman 215 Adams Street B'klyn. N.Y.,11201

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Joan Rodriguez <jblue406@aol.com> Date: February 28, 2023 at 10:02:11 AM EST To: Karen Blatt <blattk@nyirc.gov> Subject: New Assembly District lines Reply-To: Joan Rodriguez <jblue406@aol.com>

Are comments still welcome? I do not understand why the area west of the Gowanus Canal has been split in half, with some being part of Carroll Gardens & Brooklyn Heights, the other half being in line with Park Slope and Kensington. Honestly, those of us west of the canal should be considered part of Carroll Gardens and Brooklyn Heights. We cannot even get a bus up to the Slope anymore. We have little to do with the Slope and nothing to do with Kensington. This is about splitting a voting block and simply getting the Gowanus area split in voting power.

Joan V. Salome-Rodriguez 406 President St Brooklyn, NY 11231
From:	JOANNA-CARL PALUMBO
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:54:28 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Sent from my iPad

### Kings County Public Hearing on Redistricting-February 15, 2023- Medgar Evers College

#### Good day, members of the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission.

My name is JoAnne Challenger, and I am a homeowner residing in the 56th Assembly District. I have lived in my home at 341 Halsey Street for approximately 4 decades. I value the advocacy, legislation and the continuous struggle to ensure residents in my community have decent healthcare, affordable housing and respectable police relationships, by the past and current assemblypersons who have represented my interests in this community of plurality .

I am here in support of the current 56th assembly redistricting map, and I implore you to maintain the current lines so that the Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights communities of interest, can maintain a voting strength. I support the current lines that contain the following borders: Nostrand Avenue, Flushing Avenue, Broadway, Howard Avenue, to Putnam Avenue, Ralph Avenue to Bergen Street to Utica, Utica to Prospect Place, Prospect to Troy, Troy to St. Marks, St. Marks to Kingston, Kingston to Bergen, Bergen Street to Nostrand Avenue. These lines prevent our community from being unnaturally divided.

In the last 10 years, many long-term homeowners have sold their homes and relocated elsewhere, leaving a plethora of housing stock for purchase. Some homeowners were victims of wrongful sales of their properties. These two factors determine some of the causes of gentrification in Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights; and it is germane for the current residents to continue to work with elected officials to create a cease-and-desist zone to protect homeowners from predatory realtors.

**I oppose the proposed map created by the IRC**, because it will reduce the already depleted Black population from 52% to 46%. In addition, we will lose longstanding allies in Crown Heights in small business development, arts and culture. Lastly, we will lose our relationship with Community Board 8 who we have common interests and share purpose for community development.

Thank you for your attention and the opportunity to bear witness. It is my hope that you will use my testimony towards your decision in this critical issue of redistricting.

From:	Jodi Fiordaliso
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 4:03:26 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Jodi

### Joel Rosenfeld 1449 41<sup>st</sup> Street Brooklyn, NY 11218 (917)- 373-4369

February 26, 2023

Dear Members of the New York Independent Redistricting Commission,

I am writing to you in my capacity as a lifelong resident, an active member of the Borough Park community, and the Executive Director of "Together We Are," a social service organization that caters to the Borough Park community. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thoughts and concerns regarding our neighborhood.

Borough Park is predominantly inhabited by the Chasidic-Orthodox Jewish community, and our community is characterized by our unique values and customs. As you walk the streets of our neighborhood, you can witness a vibrant and thriving community that takes pride in its cultural heritage.

Our neighborhood boasts numerous synagogues, yeshivas, kosher eateries, and shops selling religious items. Charitable organizations that serve the community are abundant, and we are proud to say that we are a close-knit "community of interest."

In light of our distinct identity and needs, we firmly believe that it is crucial for our representative in the New York State Assembly to share our common interests and serve as a voice for us. Despite being a small minority in the city, we want to be appropriately represented in the legislative process. This can only be achieved if the entire Borough Park community remains united in one district with representation that caters to our specific needs.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Joel Rosenfeld

Hi, my name is John Heyer II.

I have lived in the South Brooklyn/Carroll Gardens neighborhood of Brooklyn for all 40 years of my life. My wife and I are currently raising our three children here and also run our business, Scotto Funeral Home, here.

I'd like you to keep my neighborhood together and want you to know that the proposed NYS Assembly district lines will not only fragment this cohesive community but also prevent me and my neighbors from being able to advocate for the needs of our neighborhood. Our neighborhood, which was historically called South Brooklyn since we were south of the official City of Brooklyn which ended at Atlantic Avenue, has very pronounced borders created by the waterfront, Gowanus Expressway and the Gowanus Canal. These boundaries in particular have formed the community in a very cohesive way for generations, uniting us in our common experiences and common desire to better this part of Brooklyn for the betterment of all. Ignoring these natural boundaries when drawing district lines is to ignore the impact that they have on the people and dilutes our community's voice when advocating for their betterment. In the coming future it will be important that our community and its elect officials be able to speak with as much consensus as possible to the concerns the Gowanus Canal Development on the west bank of the Canal, the reconstruction of the Gowanus Expressway and BQE trench and development of the Brooklyn Container Terminal.

As a life-long member of the community whose family has lived here for 5 generations, I can also tell you that names like Gowanus, Columbia Street District and Carroll Gardens are all modern names used by real estate companies to market property. For those of us who live and work in this community, the area from the west bank of the Gowanus Canal, Hamilton Avenue, the Brooklyn Container Terminal and Douglass Street from Court Street to the Canal and DeGraw Street from Court Street to the water front are now and have always been one neighborhood. Weather inhabited by early Irish, then Italian immigrants or Puerto Rican families seeking an opportunity in New York or the young professionals who now come from across the country, throughout Europe, such as France, or Latin America, this community has been able to retain its small town charm due to the uniqueness of its low-rise housing, central commercial strips and active community, political, ethnic and religious organizations.

As an example, the purposed lines for our neighborhood would split one of our oldest religious communities, the Roman Catholic Community founded in the 1851 currently lead by Rev. Msgr. Guy Massie, in two by diving its parish boundaries in half between two different elected officials for the first time. This will also divide our main commercial avenue, Court Street, which is where many of our parades, religious processions and street fairs occur.

We are also proud to be home of one of the oldest public parks in what was the City of Brooklyn, Carroll Park. This is un-official town square of our entire neighborhood and not just half as these lines would suggest. Furthermore, the proposed lines also exclude all public schools from one half of the purposed divided Carroll Gardens which will hurt those who will be in the boundaries of a school which their elected official does not represent.

As someone who is the fifth generation continuously living in this community, who has his business here and is part of countless community organizations and groups, I strongly urge you to listen to the community and history and ensure that our neighborhood will not be fragmented. The best way to do this is to keep together the area bound by Hamilton Avenue, the Gowanus Canal, the waterfront and at least Douglass Street if not Atlantic Avenue.

John Heyer II 95 Summit Street Brooklyn, NY 11231

From:	JOHN LANDERS
То:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:57:38 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Sent from the all new AOL app for Android

From:	John McCrory
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:45:10 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

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Sent from my iPhone

From:	John Mckay
To:	<u>Submissions</u>
Subject:	I oppose Greenpoint Redistricting
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 5:00:40 PM

As a 22 year resident of Greenpoint Brooklyn, I strongly oppose the proposed redistricting that would separate our neighborhood from the rest of Greenpoint and combine our fortunes with those of Queens residents.

In recent years Greenpoint has begun to make important strides in addressing the environmental issues that have plagued our neighborhood for decades, as well as in pushing for greater safety on McGuinness Blvd., both the result of a united community pushing for its shared interest.

To split the neighborhood in two would undermine those efforts and limit the potential for future progress, and as a result I strongly oppose this change.

John McKay

John McKay 586 Humboldt Street Brooklyn, NY 11222

From:	Jonathan V. Yedin
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:38:21 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

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Greenpoint is in Brooklyn, right? So why does our state think some of us should represented by a mostly Queens district? **Tell them why our neighborhood should be kept whole.** 

# Testify at the Brooklyn Public Hearing

Wednesday, Feb. 15 @ Medgar Evers College Sign up at bit.ly/ad50testify Submit written testimony nyirc.gov/participate

From:	Joseph Domante
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:00:29 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

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From:	joseph tortora
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 1:02:50 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

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Sent from my iPhone



My name is Josh Skaller, and I've been a resident of Park Slope for nearly 25 years. In addition, I've served as the Democratic State Committee member and the District Leader of the 52nd Assembly District for over 10 years (I resigned in 2022 when I was redistricted out of the district), been a member of Community Board 6 for many years, and been a member of the Gowanus CAG (the community engagement portion of the Gowanus superfund cleanup project). I have also served in various capacities with a number of neighborhood and citywide civic and political organizations.

The close ties I have established over the years with people and organizations across these neighborhoods leads me to testify today in opposition to the removal of much of Windsor Terrace and Kensington from the proposed IRC map of the 44th assembly district. These are communities of common interest with neighboring Park Slope, sharing a great history of overlapping civic and political institutions, elected leaders, etc. They are contiguous and compact. Moving them into the 51st assembly district would in effect create a second, much smaller community inside the 51st with divergent needs and likely create issues of civic under-representation across many aspects of life, including policing, emergency services, community board representation, school participation, and so forth. The historical precedent of combining these neighborhoods into the existing 44th Assembly District as a compact and contiguous district continues to make geographical sense.

Additionally, it was in my opinion a mistake to include portions of Carroll Gardens and Gowanus into the IRC's 2022 44th Assembly District map. These neighborhoods have an historically long membership in the 52nd Assembly District. Together with Cobble Hill, Borum Heights, Brooklyn Heights, and the neighborhoods adjacent, they form the heart of one of the most civically engaged assembly districts in the state.

The IRC was correct to remove sections of Prospect Heights currently included in the 2022 assembly district map. They are in fact separated by the Brooklyn Botanical Garden from the rest of the district. They are not truly contiguous with the rest of the district, nor do they share communities of interest; there is precious little, if any, overlap of community boards, school districts, BIDs, other elected officials, etc. I believe they should be included in a contiguous Prospect Heights district, be spared unnecessary division, and not be included in new maps of the 44th.

I do feel the IRC was correct to expand the Park Slope footprint in the current proposed map. Historically, Park Slope has shared civic, cultural, commercial, and political resources, architectural traits, schools, transportation, and recreational opportunities. It is in fact a glowing example of a vibrant Brooklyn neighborhood, best facilitated with a single shared political representative in the assembly district where possible.

I feel the included map as proposed by Assemblymember Carroll and endorsed by former Assemblymember Brennan, best exemplifies the logical lines of the 44th AD, and I urge the IRC to use it in place of the currently proposed solution.

Josh Skaller

From:	<u>Judy</u>
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Redistricting
Date:	Monday, February 13, 2023 9:07:01 AM

Hello,

I do not believe the proposed new map for district 44 in Brooklyn serves a good cause and will in fact be detrimental to our community. I ask that we return to the current map we have been successfully using for 30 years now. Thanks Judy Kamilar

East 7 Street

From:	<u>McLoughlin</u>
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:20:46 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Get Outlook for Android

From:	Junie June
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Thursday, February 16, 2023 12:06:29 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Junie Dominique

From:	Justin Brannan
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:13:44 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

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From:	Justin Bugarin
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:01:50 AM

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Sent from my iPhone

From:	Kanchan Katapadi
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:55:07 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Anjan Rau Kanchanmala Katapadi **Cooper Park Residents Council Inc.,** 

275 Jackson Street Brooklyn, NY 11211 Tel. # 347-987-3099 E-mail: <u>Cooperparkresidentcouncil@gmail.com</u>

President – Debra Benders Vice President – Elisha Fye Treasurer – Geraldine Lawrence Secretary – Karen Leader Sergeant-at-Arms – Tina Mangum

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

As a resident of Cooper Park Houses, a New York City Housing Authority development (NYCHA) in East Williamsburg, I strongly oppose the proposed change in the New York State Assembly lines to create District 38 which would combine the East part of Williamsburg with neighborhoods in Queens.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Cooper Park Houses has 700 housing units with a population of 1,738 residents. The households in our development consist of 97% people of color with 46.7% of the households being Non-Hispanic Black (807 people), 46.4% Hispanic (807 people) and only 2.2% Non-Hispanic White residents (38 people). On the contrary, the proposed 38<sup>th</sup> Assembly District consist of more than 50% Non-Hispanic White and less than 3% Black. The proposed district is dominated by neighborhoods of homeowners and small properties with little in common with NYCHA's multifamily low-income rental properties. Additionally, those neighborhoods are separated from us physically by Newtown Creek as well as demographically, economically and in many other ways.

Our community consist of low-income renters who shop, are educated, attend religious institutions and travel through Williamsburg and Greenpoint, Brooklyn. We are definitely a standing Community of Interest and the proposed 38<sup>th</sup> Assembly District will split our community from a voice in what happens to the vital services that impact us. We do not share services with Glendale, Long Island City, Maspeth or Rego Park neighborhoods therefore, I am requesting that we remain part of the historic Greenpoint areas of the 50<sup>th</sup> District. Certainly, either Northern Brooklyn District (50<sup>th</sup> or 53<sup>td</sup>) are the correct districts that our development must be included and/or remain in.

It is imperative that the commission keep our area of Brooklyn whole and not create a negative impact for the minority voters of this community by diluting our electoral voices. Thank you for a positive response.

Date: Signature Print Name: Address:

From:	Karen C
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:53:50 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Thank you, Karen Clifton Mahoney

#### To: New York State Independent Redistricting Committee

#### Re: Proposed Changes to 50th New York State Assembly District Map (Brooklyn)

#### Date: 2/13/23

My name is Karrie Witkin. I've been a resident of Greenpoint for 15 years and currently live in the southeastern portion of the neighborhood. I am strongly against the proposed revision of the 50th District Map, which cuts Greenpoint in half and reassigns my New York State Assembly representation to District 38. I am in favor of keeping the current 50th District Map.

Admittedly, I have never been to Glendale, Woodhaven, or Ozone Park. But I cross McGuinness Blvd—the newly proposed district border—to the west side of Greenpoint every day.

Greenpoint is defined by distinct borders: the East river, Newtown Creek, and the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway. By the end of February this year, I will have attended information sessions for initiatives directly connected to the future of this surrounding infrastructure: a BQE visioning session, a town hall regarding the Army Corps of Engineers flood remediation proposal for the East River and Newtown Creek, and a Q&A with the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the Meeker Avenue Plume Superfund Site, which I happen to live within.

In an electoral landscape where district maps are weirdly and arbitrarily shaped, it means so much to me that the 50th District of New York State Assembly actually represents my community and its significant concerns holistically. Please leave it as is.

I'm also an advocate for Make McGuinness Safe, a campaign to transform McGuinness Blvd from a multi-lane Moses-era throughway into a safe local street. It hits very hard that McGuinness Blvd was chosen by the Redistricting Committee as the proposed boundary for our district. McGuinness Blvd was widened in the 1950s to create a shortcut from the BQE to the Long Island Expressway and the Midtown Tunnel.

The boulevard served to connect highways, but it immediately proved to be a dangerous speedway, cleaving Greenpoint into two parts. My entry point into the Make McGuinness Safe campaign comes after several decades of advocacy within the community for piecemeal safety improvements to this street.

McGuinness Blvd is just one area of Greenpoint where generations of activists have made incremental and steady progress to remedy the sacrifice zones of the neighborhood. You've heard from several of these activists today.

I'm deeply concerned that this redistricting will hobble the collective power of the community and prove to be a giant setback just when large-scale solutions involving federal and state funding are being explored.

I also want to note that prior to the pandemic, I wasn't tuned into local politics or activism. I didn't know who my NY State Assembly member was. Working from home and being grounded in my neighborhood has given me the opportunity to see what is going on and how to get involved. If my side of Greenpoint was lumped into a Queens-dominated district, I'm not sure that I'd have found the voice that I'm using today.

Thank you for taking my feedback into account.

Karrie

February 14, 2023

Dear Independent Redistricting Commission,

I have lived in Greenpoint since 1996, raised 3 children and have been an active member of the community. In 1991, I helped found, along with my husband and other neighborhood parents, the Greenpoint/ Williamsburg Youth Soccer League and was assistant commissioner for 12 years. Since 2015 I have been the Co-chair of the Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park and, since 2020, been an active member of the No NBK Pipeline Alliance.

Today I am submitting testimony in opposition of the proposed redrawing of Assembly District 50.

To be a resident of Greenpoint means you have to get involved with community issues because our health, humanity and future depends on civic engagement and activism. We have SO many issues to contend with- superfund sites and the largest oil spill on the East Coast, a 110 acre fossil fuel storage production and distribution facility, and the legacy of heavy industrial manufacturing which has left us with a toxic brew of of carcinogenic chemicals, poisoning our neighbors and children causing asthma, cancer & autoimmune disorders. The neighborhoods of Greenpoint, North and South Williamsburg were divided by decades of red-lining and disenfranchisement. This includes the fact that Williamsburg was physically bifurcated by the BQE (Brooklyn Queens Expressway) which has cut off access for the Latin communities to the waterfront neighborhoods and put them in harm's way by exposing them to poisonous levels of particulate matter from the highway which has caused unprecedented asthma rates . After the 2005 Greenpoint/ Williamsburg Waterfront rezoning plan we have rampant over development, displacement and a perpetual lack of public open space. The promised 27 acre Bushwick Inlet Park is still <sup>3</sup>/<sub>3</sub> undeveloped, un-remediated and remains off limits to the public and for this public amenity we must fight for continuously,

The impact of toxic environmental pollution does not follow drawn district lines- The polluted contamination flows underground, it blows over fences and roofs with the wind. For generations now, our Greenpoint/Williamsburg community has fought together alongside our elected officials for environmental and social justice. It is imperative that our community born from our rich history of activism remains intact as we continue to fight to remedy past injustices and face new challenges brought forth by the climate emergency. We share the past and we want to share the future together. Cutting off the industrial portion of Greenpoint would redefine and deeply undermine our identity. Geographically, our neighborhood is connected and defined by the loop of Newtown Creek superfund site, the Brooklyn "G" train, McGuiness Blvd, the East River waterfront and the industrial IBZ. Splitting our neighborhood apart does not make any practical sense and, beyond that, it would deny us our history, our shared battles and victories.

Sincerely,

Katherine Conkling Thompson



**KINGS COUNTY** 

BROOKLYN

SUNSET PARK

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 51



South Brooklyn Marine Terminal 36th St 20 AN 36th St ertes 1 Greenwoo ANNA Cemeter e sha RICH SISTST 37th St Se Sunset Park Ste DON'T DO this, Sx S. which is in the shout are Q, proposed map 39th 20 Stores Are or A Pe D. ATST ST

Head

My name is Katherine Walsh; I am born/raised here in Sunset Park. I am also on my local Community Board 7 Brooklyn and serve as the Transportation Chair. I am very active in my community and have extensive civic and political engagement including participating in local County Committee. I testified to the New York State Redistricting Commission virtually on Feb 15th. You can go to the website and choose "Part 3" <u>1:58</u> to view the recording of the testimony.

I submit testimony today on behalf of myself and my community. I request that you keep us in Assembly District 51 (Sunset Park) specifically the streets between 56<sup>th</sup> street and 54<sup>th</sup> street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> avenue in Sunset Park, Brooklyn together in the existing 2022 Assembly District Map. . The proposed map cuts out this section and moves into a new Assembly District 49<sup>th</sup>. *Do not move us in Assembly District 49<sup>th</sup>*. I ask you to please respond to what community members are asking for. Keep us in Assembly District 51.

I spoke with residents that live around on these blocks about this issue when it was first proposed in 2021. More than 35 neighbors already signed that they want to stay together in the 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly District. This is the second time I have come to testify about keeping us together. It was the same issue at that time that it was proposed we were removed but in the final maps we stayed in. We would like to stay in and I ask you to preserve the lines on 6<sup>th</sup> avenue.

Here in Sunset Park, we have experienced high rates of gentrification, and developments from all sides, we have high air pollution and lung cancer rates, we are dealing deluge of different challenges. It is important that we are unified in our elected representation to keep us together to work on these, and this needs to be reflected in the Assembly District Maps. I ask you to rise to your goals to keep neighborhoods, like Sunset Park, together, and specifically to keep these blocks under one unit in representation for the same assembly district in Sunset Park

Please keep 56<sup>th</sup> to 54<sup>th</sup> street between 4<sup>th</sup> avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> avenue in existing 2022 assembly plan map for Assembly District 51 – don't move us into the 49<sup>th</sup>.

## KEEP SUNSET PARK TOGETHER! New York State Redistricting Commission

New York is finalizing new district maps to change the Assembly district for the next ten years. Purple shows the proposed new district. Grey is our current map. The commission wants to move us into the Assembly District further east, associated with Borough Park and Bensonhurst. Our elected leaders can serve us better if Sunset Park stays in one district! Sign the petition to keep our Sunset Park community together.

First	Last	Address
Cesar	Zuniga	434 55th street

#### THESE RESIDENTS SIGNED // ORIGINAL NAMES-SIGNATURES BELOW

Petra	Pena	430 56th street
John	Cucci	451 55th street
Mary and John	Murphy	449 55th street
Strat	Muh	435 55th street
Laura	Olin	424 55th street
Yasko	Yoshida	422 55th street
Angela	Aleman	424 54th street
Jhodessa	Reimer	428 54th street
Helene	Onserud	428 54th street
Erik	Steyn	428 54th street
Marun	Aleman	424 54th street
Alice	Walsh	452 54th street
Katherine	Walsh	452 54th street
Viviane	Hays	424 56th street
John	Milisenda	424 56th street
Natalie	Reubens	424 56th street
Joseph and Lisa	Estrella	432 56th street

Josiah	Estrella	432 56th street
Michael	Sierra	559 56th street
Jessica	Sierra	559 56th street
Wanda	Sierra	559 56th street
Tanya	Varges	563 52nd street
Judith	Rosario	563 52nd street
Gladys	Cruz	234 54th street
Damarys	Villaneuva	563 52nd street
Nancy	Acevedo	563 52nd street
Karen	Moore	563 52nd street
Madison	Moore	563 52nd street
Matthew	Sierra	559 56th street
Samuel	Sierra Jr.	559 56th street
Samuel	Sierra Sr.	559 56th street
David	Santiago	559 56th street
Victor	Perez	479 56th street



### KEEP SUNSET PARK TOGETHER! New York State Redistricting Commission

New York is finalizing new district maps to change the Assembly district for the next ten years. Purple shows the proposed new district. Grey is our current map.

The commission wants to move us into the Assembly District further east, associated with Borough Park and Bensonheimt. Our elected leaders can serve us better if Sunset Park stays in one district! Sign the petition to keep our Sunset Park community together. This will be included as testimony for the NYS independent Redistricting Commission on Tuesday, November 16th for Kings County (Brooklyn)

First	Last	Address
Cess Hunda	Zunisa	czuniga v Egnart con
Petia 1	Ring	430 36 Steel A
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Mary+ John	marpy	449 55 pt 455 55 A
	Much	
Lowins	DUN	474 56 16 66
Yasko	Yoshida	422 44Th ST.
MASU I	Parma	428 54 5F
Thodeson	Kermer	
delut	migeria	428-54 85
Tym	1.1001	428 45
Marin	4/ Aleman	124-54thst
A100	walsh	75 2 34 4 1220
Kathen	Wan	452 St Sheet
Viviane	Hays	424 56 St.
JOHN	MIUSaupa	4/24 5671 51.
Klappill	Reibers	424 510th St.
Joseph+LisA	Estiella	432 56th st
1		

MAPS SUBMITTED AS PART OF THE TESTIMONY

Dear New York Independent Redistricting Commission,

As a resident and small business owner in the Greenpoint district to be impacted by redrawing AD50, I would like to submit my opposition to this proposal. Greenpoint is a tight-knit community and needs to be represented as a whole. A few blocks being severed by an already controversial avenue, McGuiness, is not fair to the east side of Greenpoint. We are a part of Brooklyn and do not want to be represented as an adjunct to a Queens district. I fear that the small, detached portion of Greenpoint directly affected by this measure will not be adequately represented in a predominantly Queens district. My business, home and child's school deserve to remain a part of Brooklyn and should be represented as such. We love Brooklyn and we vote in Brooklyn and our interests remain here.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Covey

The Screen Door LLC

From:	Kathleen Longo
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 12:54:25 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge. Kathleen Longo

#### Keep Greenpoint Whole!

I vehemently oppose any attempt to redraw the district lines in Greenpoint and to lump the portion of the neighborhood east of McGuinness into a Queens district. Greenpoint is and always will be Brooklyn. To redistrict a portion of the neighborhood would mean splitting up a vibrant community that is incredibly proud to be based in Greenpoint, **BROOKLYN**...

I currently live east of McGuinness Blvd. on Newel Street. Below are just a few of the places in Williamsburg and Greenpoint, **BROOKLYN** that I can walk to and the time it takes me to get there:

McCarren Park (heart & soul of Williamsburg) – 6 minutes G Train Nassau/Manhattan Ave station – 6 minutes L Train Bedford Ave station – 15 minutes Transmitter Park – 20 minutes Peter Pan Donut – 10 minutes BROOKLYN Bowl – 16 minutes Nura (one of Greenpoint's best new restaurants) – 11 minutes https://www.theinfatuation.com/new-york/reviews/nura

It would take me 35-45 minutes just to walk to Long Island City, but I would, obviously, not walk there or anywhere else in Queens because it's too far away and I take public transportation when I leave my **BROOKLYN** community.

Stop with this nonsense. Greenpoint is in Brooklyn. Please start spending your time doing something more productive like testing our soil in McGolrick for toxins or cleaning up the Superfund sites.

Sincerely,

Katherine Harris

15 Newel Street, Apt. 3R Brooklyn, NY 11222

Katuptans
## Testimony to the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Keep Greenpoint Whole

The draft redistricting of Assembly District 50 undermines a resilient Greenpoint community that has been unfairly divided for generations. The Robert Moses-era McGuinness Boulevard has divided the Greenpoint community since it was first constructed to send cars and pollution through a previously quiet and closely-knit neighborhood. This infamous and dangerous road is now taking on an egregious new meaning by splitting the representative might of a community and dismantling our representative democracy.

As the IRC mulls over the map, they must consider the communities that are comprised of the districts. The current Assembly District 50 is comprised of Williamsburg and Greenpoint. The community has historical industrial roots and in recent decades has become an environmental justice advocacy community. Williamsburg's and Greenpoint's industrial pasts have united the community, bonded by immigrant communities of Polish, Italian, Jewish laborers.

The Williamsburg and Greenpoint communities, despite the massive Brooklyn-Queens Expressway and its arteries that bisect the neighborhood, stand united—united by traffic violence, noise pollution, asthma, and toxicity. Very fortunately, our community, is represented by trailblazers that live in the same neighborhood and breathe the same air. It is imperative that this stay the case.

Greenpoint is Queens, it is not Glendale, and it certainly is not Rego Park. Greenpoint is Brooklyn, it is not used-to-be-Brooklyn Ridgewood. Keep Greenpoint Whole please.

Thank you, Kevin Costa



442 Lorimer St Ste D PMB 5064 Brooklyn, NY 11206

Personal home address of Kim Fraczek: 250 Moore St. #410 Brooklyn, NY 11206

February 10, 2023

My name is Kim Fraczek, Director of Sane Energy Project. We represent over 20,000 people in New York State, and nearly 1,200 of our active members are in the affected Assembly Districts 50 and 53 for which I am presenting testimony. I am also a resident and voter for two decades in Assembly District 53.

I urge The Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) of New York State to commit to the health of New Yorkers and our climate and <u>not</u> approve a redistricting plan that would cut Assembly District 50 in half and AD 53 from neighboring AD50. These two districts have harmoniously acted in the past several years to protect constituents from the historic industrial harms for generations from North America's largest terrestrial oil spill on Newtown Creek by ExxonMobil, and currently support residents' opposition to National Grid's massive fracked gas expansion, when our laws tell us we must reduce gas expansion. National Grid, is a UK-based corporation with a CEO, John Pettigrew, that makes a salary of \$4,300 PER HOUR based on a 40-hour work week, 8-hour work day. The current district representatives deeply understand and live in the districts where these hazards are, and we MUST not allow this district to be handed over to an Assemblymember who does not live in the area and understand the deep and personal history and issues to us as residents.

We are very concerned about representation if the redistricting is allowed to go forth in Assembly Districts 50 and 53 that this will be a mistake for environmental justice, and our climate law.

As New York representatives, the IRC must abide by the mandates of the Climate Leadership Community Protection Act (CLCPA) passed in 2019, particularly sections 7-2 and 7-3 — and work to decrease the state's fossil fuels, and be our partners in building not just a renewable future but an energy future based on racial and economic justice, which it is not right now.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Fraczek, Sane Energy Project

From:	<u>kira belin</u>
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:38:12 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

Thank you,

Kira Belin

## Kristen Bellomo

765 Meeker Ave Brooklyn, NY 11222 (727) 742-5908 kristenbellomo@gmail.com

9th February, 2023

## New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

Public hearing 02/15/23

Written Testimony Re: the opposition of removing a large section of Greenpoint from current Assembly District 50 and allocating it to District 38

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of the northeast Greenpoint section which would be reassigned to AD 38 if the redistricting proposal is implemented. I live and work in the Greenpoint community at a small fabrication shop near Transmitter Park while living over near McGolrick Park. I am involved in the culture and sustainability initiatives both at work and in my community. My walk to work from home is less than 25 minutes. Dividing this neighborhood would mean dividing the environmental and safety focuses our Brooklyn district has been focused on for countless years. Whether this be an improved safety of McGuiness Blvd or the environmental action of the Newtown Creek among other superfund site initiatives to address the air quality or flooding concerns, or something as simple and straightforward as composting within a singular community may be jeopardized if the community is divided and the focuses are split - our united voices will be lost. Please do not split our community and allow us to remain focused and heard as one.

Sincerely,

Allomo

**Kristen Bellomo** 

From:	larry pitilli
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:50:57 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

From:	Laura Colatrella
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:03:17 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

From:	Laura Grimm
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:52:01 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

From:	Laura Runco
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Thursday, February 16, 2023 1:27:40 AM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

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From:	Lauren Mumau
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 5:49:15 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

I am asking the Commission to go back to the current maps but use some common sense and fairness when it comes to any tweaks within Bay Ridge.

410 Atlantic Ave Brooklyn, NY 11217 (718) 875-5200 Phone

www.lincolnrestler.nyc district33@council.nyc.gov



Committees Criminal Justice | Education | Environmental Protection | General Welfare | Governmental Operations | Parks and Recreations | Public Housing | Transportation and Infrastructure

February 21, 2023

Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, NY 10007

To: Ken Jenkins, Chair Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair

Re: 50th Assembly District, IRC Draft Maps

My name is Lincoln Restler and I am the Council Member for the 33rd District in Brooklyn, New York, which includes the neighborhoods of Greenpoint and Williamsburg and other communities. I am also a resident of Greenpoint in the 50th Assembly District.

The Draft Maps released by the Independent Redistricting Commission are seriously alarming. The proposal from the Independent Redistricting Commission would randomly dissect the Greenpoint neighborhood. We are a single neighborhood with common socioeconomic, environmental, and public health challenges and priorities. To divide the Greenpoint neighborhood in the Assembly, in contrast to Council, State Senate and Congressional lines that protect this neighborhood in single districts, would weaken the voice and interests of our community.

The Greenpoint community has no connection to Middle Village or Glendale. We are culturally, ideologically, and even geographically worlds apart. It is not in the interest of communities to have elected officials with electoral districts that are lacking in geographic cohesion and have such disparate values. Furthermore, this map randomly cuts through Greenpoint. It would split everything from the Meeker Avenue Plumes EPA Superfund site catchment area to the families zoned for PS 110 to the users of McGolrick Park – one of our neighborhood's primary gathering spaces.

This proposed map also pushes the historically Latino/a community in the Southside of Williamsburg into District 50. This area was the primary gateway into Brooklyn for generations of Puerto RIcan, Dominican, and other Latino communities.

Greenpoint is one neighborhood. We are one community. We deserve a strong voice in the Assembly concentrated in a single district. We very much hope that the IRC will heed the unanimous concerns from Greenpoint residents to keep our neighborhood unified in the 50th Assembly District – as it has been for many, many decades.

Thank you for your consideration,

[ whe first

Lincoln Restler New York City Council Member District 33

From:	Linda Kilcommons
To:	Submissions
Subject:	Bay Ridge should be in one Assembly District, not four!
Date:	Wednesday, February 15, 2023 12:29:59 PM

For decades, Bay Ridge has been connected to Coney Island on the Assembly level. This historic connection, especially now that it is mirrored with a new shared City Council District, should be preserved. Bay Ridge is a community of interest with clear defining characteristics including a high number of local-owned small businesses, common public transit needs, large immigrant communities, and relatively steady voting trends.

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